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LENT

**FIRST CHURCH  
IN CAMBRIDGE**

Congregational 1633-1636  
United Church of Christ  
Garden and Mason Streets  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

FIRST CHURCH  
IN CAMBRIDGE  
CONGREGATIONAL  
**384 YEARS**  
ON THE WAY  
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 0

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...

Grounded in God • Growing in Community • Acting in Love

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, we are thankful that you are with us today, and we hope that you will stay for a bit after worship for refreshments and conversation. First Church is an Open and Affirming, Just Peace congregation of the United Church of Christ. If you'd like to know more about us, please introduce yourself to one of the ministers after church and explore our website at:  
[www.firstchurchcambridge.org](http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org).

Children of all ages are welcome in our worship. Picture books, children's Bibles, and activity packets can be found in the Children's Book Corner located by the door to the parish building (to the right of the chancel). Children may visit the Book Corner at any point during worship. Nursery care for infants and toddlers is located through that door, up the ramp, and through the fire door. Fussy babies and their caregivers are invited to use Hastings Common, through the same door.

Large-print bulletins and assistive listening devices are available.

## WORSHIP LEADERS

March 15, 2020

### Leading Worship

Dan Smith, Senior Minister  
Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate  
Carlyle Stewart, Pastoral Associate  
Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts  
Issa Bibbins, Guest Musician

*The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.*

**MAKING A WAY FOR GOD'S WELCOME**

**VOLUNTARY**

**\*HYMN 471** I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

**\*GREETING** Sarah Higginbotham

L: Friends, grace and peace to you, and welcome!  
*(Silence)*

L: In every sound and silence,

**C: in every heart and hurt,**

L: in quiet kindness, in bold witness,

**C: in word and song and breath,**

L: God's presence meets us here.

**C: We open our hearts to listen for it now.**

*(Silence)*

L: Come and worship! For God's love surrounds and enfolds us here.  
God is making a way towards us in the midst of it all.

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**MAKING A WAY FOR GOD'S MERCY**

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

**SILENCE**

**CONFESSION HYMN** Lead Me, Lord *(see page 4)*

**DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

**\*GREETING OF PEACE**

*We encourage you to offer eye contact, a sign language greeting, or hands brought together at your heart to share the peace.*

**\*HYMN 281** Spirit of the Living God

*\*You are invited to stand. Hymns preceded by a "C" are found in the beginning section of the hymnal. This section contains hymns written and composed by current and past members of First Church in Cambridge.*

## MAKING A WAY FOR GOD'S WORD

SILENCE

READING

John 4:5-42

Lexi Boudreaux

INTRODUCTION

Dan Smith

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Issa Bibbins

Jesus, Be a Fence  
Made a Way

Fred Hammond  
Travis Greene

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Carlyle Stewart

L: God be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: In the silence, O God,

**C: hear our prayer....** (*silence, intercessions, and the Lord's Prayer*)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*(Please pray this prayer in words most meaningful to your heart.)*

**All: Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## MAKING A WAY FOR GOD IN COMMUNITY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Love Lifted Me

James Rowe

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine  
Demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen.

**MAKING A WAY IN GOD'S WORLD**

**\*HYMN**

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

**\*BENEDICTION**

**VOLUNTARY**

*Please remain in the sanctuary for a brief meeting to discuss  
the church's response to the COVID-19 virus and our way forward.*

# OPENING HYMN

## I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

1. I want Je - sus to walk with me; (walk with me)  
2. In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
3. When I'm trou - bled, Lord, walk with me;  
4. When I'm dy - ing, Lord, walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me; (walk with me)  
In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
When I'm trou - bled, Lord, walk with me;  
When I'm dy - ing, Lord, walk with me;

all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
when my head is bowed in an - guish,  
when I'm on my bed of sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. (with me)

WORDS: African-American spiritual  
MUSIC: African-American spiritual; harm. *The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms and Spiritual Songs*, 1990

SOJOURNER  
88.89

This spiritual affirms the presence of Jesus throughout the long journey of trials and troubles which African-Americans experienced as slaves.

Harm. © 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press

CONFESSION HYMN

# Lead Me, Lord

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy right-ous-ness, make thy way plain be - fore my face. For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord, on - ly, that mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.'

WORDS: Psalms 5:8, 4:8

MUSIC: Samuel S. Wesley, 1861

LEAD ME, LORD

378.548

This music is from a Samuel S. Wesley anthem of the same name. Samuel Wesley was the grandson of Charles Wesley.

PEACE HYMN

# Spirit of the Living God

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me; Spir - it of the

The first system of music consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line is in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The piano accompaniment is in a bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me; Spir - it of the".

liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me,

The second system of music continues the vocal and piano lines. The lyrics are: "liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me,".

use me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

The third system of music concludes the piece. The lyrics are: "use me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.".

WORDS and MUSIC: Daniel Iverson, 1926

Daniel Iverson was a North Carolina Presbyterian minister who was moved to create this response while attending a revival service.

IVERSON  
75.75.875

© 1935 Birdwing Music, admin. EMI  
Christian Music Publishing

# CLOSING HYMN

## Leaning on the Everlasting Arms 133

1. What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev - er -  
 2. O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev - er -  
 3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev - er -

last - ing arms; what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,  
 last - ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,  
 last - ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,

*Refrain*

lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing,  
 Lean-ing on Je - sus,

lean - ing,  
 lean-ing on Je - sus, safe and se-cure from all a-larms; lean -  
 lean-ing on

ing, lean - ing,  
 Je - sus, lean-ing on Je - sus, lean-ing on the ev - er - last-ing arms.

WORDS: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887 (Dt. 33:27)  
 MUSIC: Anthony J. Showalter, 1887

SHOWALTER  
 10 9.10 9 with Refrain

## YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For all those affected by the Coronavirus, locally and abroad, for those living in isolation and for an increasingly wary world. We pray also for frontline medical staff; for researchers; and for public health officials and leaders, who are working hard to contain the spread.
- For the 14 men who are finding care and residence in our First Church Shelter and for the guests of the Friday Cafe. In this time of disruption caused by the Coronavirus, may they know warmth, compassion, and companionship.
- For all those affected by the devastating tornadoes that touched down in Nashville last week. We pray especially for those dealing with insurmountable loss.
- We pray for those who seek sanctuary in houses of worship around the country, including our partner University Lutheran Church in Harvard Square. We pray for tranquility for immigrants who live in constant fear and anxiety. We pray for all those affected by the recent change in the public charge rule as it pertains to immigration status. And we pray for all who are working for a just and compassionate future for immigrants and asylum seekers.
- We offer up our fears and grief, and we pray for God's strength as we combat the realities of the climate crisis. May God empower us and our leaders to take bold steps, personally and politically, to care for God's creation and for the poor around the world who are most affected by our inaction.

Portions of the YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED section of the bulletin are omitted in the online version to protect the privacy of those mentioned. To find out who we are praying for this week, please contact the church offices at [parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org) or by calling 617-547-2724.

*If you would like us to include a prayer request in the bulletin, please contact Dan Smith by Tuesday morning, or fill out a prayer request card found in your pew.*

## FIRST CHURCH'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

*God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear...*

- Psalm 46

Dear Friends,

This week has brought home to all of us the vital importance of working together to slow and limit the spread of Coronavirus. Behind the scenes, church leaders have been meeting to consider how best to find our way forward. We know we are called to be a community of faith, not fear. We also know we are called to care for the most vulnerable in our midst, to be good stewards of our staff and resources, and to be good citizens of the wider community.

Under normal circumstances, people of faith would care for each other by drawing close together. It's what we do. It's who we are. In times of loss or threat, we respond by coming together to pray and to sing, to hug and hold each other tight.

Pandemics are different. During an outbreak such as the one we are facing now, we are called to care for each other by moving farther apart, creating a holy buffer of social distance. We do this not only for our own safety and the safety of the people around us, but in loving stewardship to our wider world.

**For the next three weeks, at least, from March 16 to April 5 (Palm Sunday), all First Church-sponsored worship, meetings, and events will be postponed, cancelled, or shifted to online formats. All wider community events that are hosted at First Church will also be postponed, cancelled, or shifted to online formats during this time period. We will be revisiting this plan regularly, revising as needed, and communicating updates weekly.**

While the risk of infection is still low, we have developed these precautionary steps as an act of social responsibility aimed at limiting the spread of the virus and ensuring that hospitals are not stretched beyond capacity. Our decisions are consistent with bold measures taken recently by Harvard, MIT, and other local organizations and businesses. Many are cancelling, postponing or shifting to online platforms for both large and small group gatherings as well as all classes. Efforts taken now to limit person-to-person transmission could have long term implications on the trajectory of the virus in the weeks to come.

In addition, our approach has been informed by recent conversations with experienced public health experts, including a First Church member who is a former CDC executive. We've been advised to:

- be proactive and avoid a "wait and see" mentality.
- be clear with our directives and timeframes to help reduce anxiety and confusion.
- work in concert with other faith communities for broader social impact

## FIRST CHURCH'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

For at least the coming three weeks, we will be shifting exclusively to online worship. We are grateful that our services are easily available via live-stream from our website. Worship leaders will convene as usual and conduct worship in the chancel. We will do our best to identify and make special arrangements for those members who may not have internet access or devices. We will also work hard to make the experience of worship as rich and meaningful as possible, given these unusual circumstances. We will communicate this plan via email and on our church doors.

All in-person church meetings and events held at the church will be suspended through at least April 5. We strongly encourage House Church gatherings and meetings planned at members' homes to meet remotely via Zoom or other online platforms. Our March Deacons and Executive Council meetings will be held on Zoom. Other committees are encouraged to follow suit. Please contact a staff member if you need help setting up Zoom calls or have suggestions for other meeting platforms.

The Friday Café leadership team has already decided to close the Friday Café, effective immediately and until further notice.

The First Church Shelter will remain open to guests and staff unless events dictate otherwise. The Newtowne School plans to remain open until receiving other guidance from the Cambridge Public School District. Other building tenants will continue to have access to their offices during adjusted building hours and will not have access to additional spaces for meetings or events. The building will close daily at 6 pm starting on March 16.

Outside groups currently scheduled to use our space will be notified that we can not accommodate groups of any size. Some may be able to postpone and reschedule. Others planning to use the sanctuary may be able to take advantage of live-streaming capabilities for a sharply reduced rate. Adjustments to regular building will be made accordingly, and we may experience some savings in utilities as a result.

Note: these changes will mean a hit to our building income. Director of Operations, Kirsten Manville estimated that cancelling events through the end of April could cost us up to \$10,000. We will need to address how to cover this loss.

Even when apart, we are not alone. God is with us, in every heartbeat, every breath: strengthening, comforting, and upholding us. Christ is with us, walking beside us, sharing our trials, speaking peace to our fears. The Spirit is with us, uniting us one to another across the barrier of physical distance. In the words of the old hymn:

*When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain;  
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.*

## FIRST CHURCH'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

In that spirit, we invite you to pick up the phone and call each other often in the coming weeks. Let's be especially mindful of those at greatest risk of isolation. Check in on each other. Pray by phone together. E-mail, send cards, set up video chats, and schedule meetings on Zoom. We will be offering regular opportunities to participate in a conference call led by Dan. This will be a time to share connection and prayer - stay tuned for more about that!

First Church staff, especially those with pre-existing conditions, will be encouraged to work from home as much as possible and to conduct business meetings via Zoom. First Church sextons and childcare staff will be encouraged to "clock in" as they usually would despite whatever temporary changes to building hours and having no infants or toddlers in worship. First Church Shelter may have requests for added personnel costs to cover potential gaps in coverage. Pastoral appointments and visitation will be considered on a case by case basis.

Here are some of the ideas we are considering for keeping us connected as a community:

- Extending our Lenten Prayer Partners and House Churches
- Extending our Pastoral Care Team outreach via cards and calls
- Developing an outreach/call list of members and friends who may be particularly affected by social isolation
- Offering online formation sessions and/or Bible study via Zoom
- Organizing weekly circles/calls with time for soulful check-in, prayer, or scripture readings
- Gathering in small groups in homes, as people feel comfortable and safe
- Offering grocery and errand runs for those who are particularly compromised.
- What others do you have that you are willing to put time and energy into making happen?

These are temporary measures only. They won't last forever. We will rejoice and celebrate all the more when we are able to come back together, to share stories of what it was like, to laugh, to cry, and to share hugs and handshakes again. Until then, day by day, let's hold one another in prayer.

In faith and gratitude,

Dan Smith, the Staff, and the Executive Council of First Church in Cambridge

## TODAY'S HAPPENINGS AT FIRST CHURCH

**WORSHIP ONLY TODAY** The Adult Formation Hour, and the Soup and Bread Luncheon are cancelled this morning. and the Nursery and Church School are closed. After worship, Dan and Sarah will lead a “meeting” in the sanctuary, where online viewers will be invited to email Dan comments and questions. Dan and Sarah will read them out loud and respond in real-time. We invite your ideas about the implications of these decisions and opportunities for connection moving forward.

**NIGHT SONG** has suspended their service for now. We look forward to their return.

**PLEASE PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE!** Good hygiene helps prevent the spread not only of coronavirus but also of colds and flu!

- Wash your hands frequently – with soap and water and for at least 20 seconds.
- Sneeze or cough into the crook of your elbow or a tissue, not your hand. Wash immediately after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.
- Avoid touching your face, especially your mouth, nose and eyes, with unwashed hands.
- Regularly disinfect surfaces frequently touched including keyboards, desktops, elevator buttons and door knobs.
- Use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid close contact with someone who is sick.
- Stay home if you are sick.

By following these practices, we can all work together to minimize the chance of spreading

## FUTURE HAPPENINGS AT FIRST CHURCH

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

***Due to fast-changing developments related to COVID-19, previously scheduled events from March 16 to April 5 have been cancelled or postponed.***

***Please check our website and weekly First Glance email for updates.***

**MEMORIAL FLOWERS FOR EASTER Order Today Through April 5** If you wish to donate memorial flowers for loved ones this Easter, please send the names of those to be remembered to Kirsten Manville in the First Church office (parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org) by April 5. Contributions of \$20 to help defray the cost of flowers can be made online (check off the Flower Fund category) or can be included in the offering plate (checks payable to: First Church in Cambridge), with a memo line of “Easter Flowers.” On Easter Sunday, the congregation is invited to take a plant to a homebound parishioner to spread the joy of Easter

## LOOKING AHEAD

### **Sunday, March 15 - Third Sunday in Lent**

- 11:00 a.m. Multigenerational Morning Worship, Issa Bibbins, leading
- 12:15 p.m. All-Church COVID-19 Discussion, Sanctuary and via live-stream

### **Monday, March 16**

- 7:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting via Zoom

### **Tuesday, March 17**

- 7:00 p.m. Shelter Oversight Committee via Zoom

### **Wednesday, March 18**

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room or via Zoom
- 6:30 p.m. Missions and Social Justice Committee, via Zoom

### **Thursday, March 19**

- 7:30 a.m. Praying the Psalms via Zoom

### **Sunday, March 22 - Fourth Sunday in Lent**

- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship via live-stream, Carlyle Stewart, preaching

## THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

### Senior Minister

Rev. Dan Smith  
617-547-2724 ext.23  
dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Minister of Stewardship & Finance

Rev. Karen McArthur  
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karenmc@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Minister of Street Outreach

Rev. Kate Layzer  
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kate@thefriday.cafe

### Pastoral Associate

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### Pastoral Associate

Carlyle Stewart  
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### Director of Music

Peter Sykes  
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### Director, Creative Worship & Arts

Sarah Higginbotham  
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### Staff Composer

Patricia Van Ness  
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### Poet-in-Residence

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### Shelter Director

Jim Stewart  
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### Director of Operations

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### Sextons

Douglas Casey, Rebecca LaFrance,  
George Williams, Kimel Williams  
617-642-3980

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First Church in Cambridge?  
Here are easy ways to do it:



Text \$ \_\_ to 1-844-996-0982



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE  
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