



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

These past few weeks have brought home to all of us the vital importance of working together to slow and limit the spread of Coronavirus. 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.

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.

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.

WORSHIP LEADERS

March 22, 2020

Preaching Today

Carlyle Stewart

Leading Worship

Dan Smith, Senior Minister

Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate

Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.

MAKING A WAY FOR GOD’S WELCOME

VOLUNTARY

***GREETING**

Dan Smith

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 wherever we are.

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

(Silence)

L: Come and worship! For God’s love surrounds and enfolds us.

God is making a way towards us in the midst of it all.

WORDS OF WELCOME

ABOUT TODAY’S MUSIC

Lexi Boudreaux

***HYMN C-3**

Psalm 23

(see page 4)

MAKING A WAY FOR GOD’S MERCY

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Sarah Higginbotham

SILENCE

CONFESSION HYMN

Lead Me, Lord

(see page 5)

DECLARATION OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

***GREETING OF PEACE**

SHARED CHECK-IN

**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

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

Sarah Higginbotham

SILENCE

READING

Romans 8:18-27

HOMILY

Carlyle Stewart

SILENCE

MUSICAL RESPONSE OF FAITH

Peter Sykes

MAKING A WAY FOR GOD IN COMMUNITY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Dan Smith

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.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

*You may give online from your bank account at www.firstchurchcambridge.org
(click on the word "Give" at the top of the landing page)*

or by text from your debit/credit card by texting the amount to 844-996-0982.

***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 368**

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

(see page 7)

A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

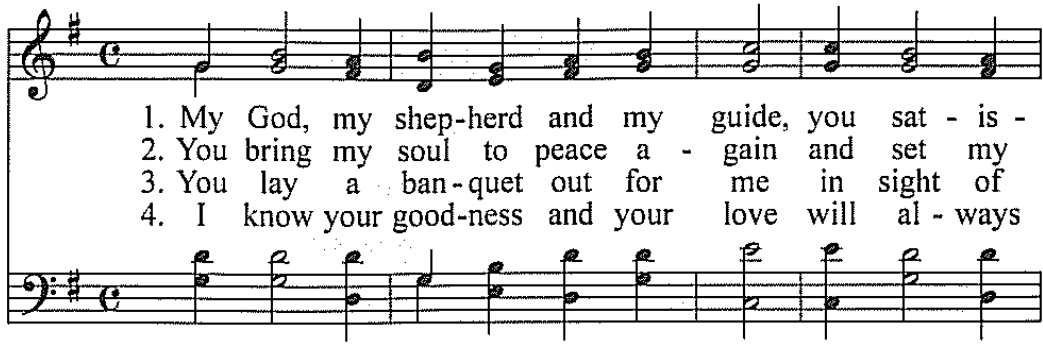
***BENEDICTION**

VOLUNTARY

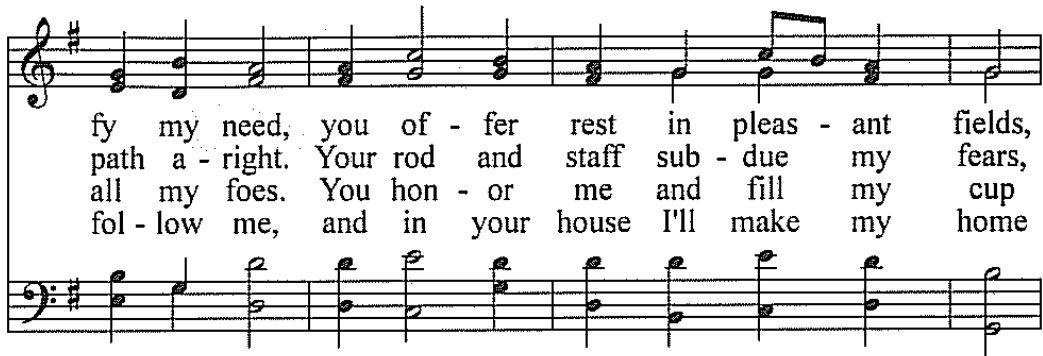
OPENING HYMN

Psalm 23

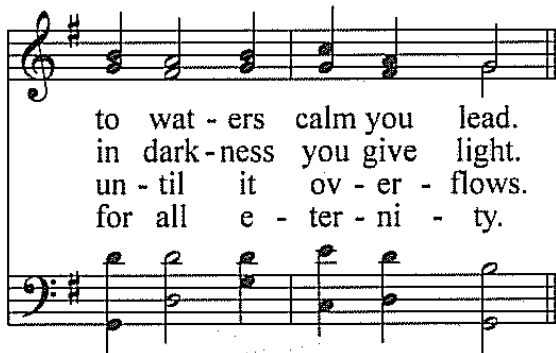
C-3



1. My God, my shep-herd and my guide, you sat - is -
 2. You bring my soul to peace a - gain and set my
 3. You lay a ban-quet out for me in sight of
 4. I know your good-ness and your love will al - ways



fy my need, you of - fer rest in pleas - ant fields,
 path a - right. Your rod and staff sub - due my fears,
 all my foes. You hon - or me and fill my cup
 fol - low me, and in your house I'll make my home



to wat - ers calm you lead.
 in dark-ness you give light.
 un - til it ov - er - flows.
 for all e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: New translation by Denise Karuth

MUSIC: New England Psalter, 1698

LOW DUTCH

CONFESSION HYMN

Lead Me, Lord

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. 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

Peace Before Us



1. Peace be-fore us, peace be-hind us, peace be-neath our feet.
2. Love be-fore us, love be-hind us, love be-neath our feet.
3. Light be-fore us, light be-hind us, light be-neath our feet.
4. Christ be-fore us, Christ be-hind us, Christ be-neath our feet.

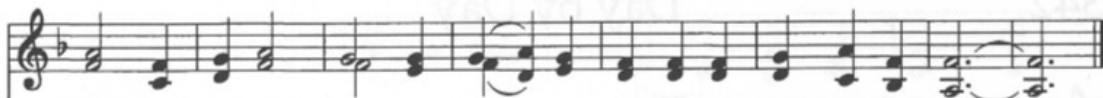


Additional verses: joy, truth, hope.

WORDS: David Haas, (b.1957), alt., based on a Navaho prayer
MUSIC: David Haas, (b.1957); harm. FCC, 1997

PRAYER FOR PEACE
445.447

Words, music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.
Harm. © 1998 FCC Houston TX



- Peace with-in us, peace a-bove us, let all a-round us be peace.
- Love with-in us, love a-bove us, let all a-round us be love.
- Light with-in us, light a-bove us, let all a-round us be light.
- Christ with-in us, Christ a-bove us, let all a-round us be Christ.

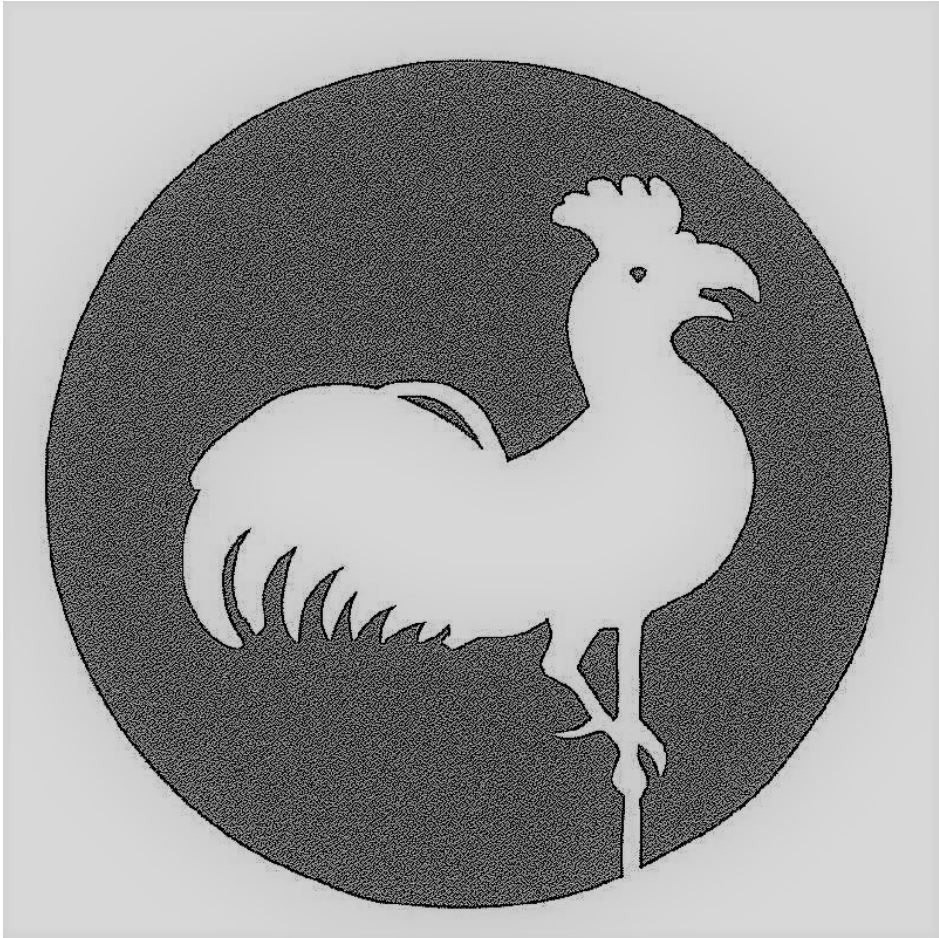


CLOSING HYMN

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2. Be - fore God's gra - cious throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3. We share each oth - er's woes, each oth - er's bur - dens bear,
4. When we must keep a - part, it gives us in - ward pain,
the fel - low-ship of kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
but we shall still be joined in heart, un - til we meet a - gain.

Fourth verse words were altered by P. Sykes to reflect our current situation.



YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For Staff Composer Patricia Van Ness and her family as she mourns the loss of her husband Peter Marks. Peter died this week after a long battle with cancer.
- For Rachel Wilson, who is recovering from a recent appendectomy.
- In joyful celebration with Ally Palmer and her parents Julie Palmer and Becky Moyer. Ally, a 7th grader, placed first in her age group on uneven bars in the Massachusetts state gymnastics competition, making her a state champion!
- For Sally O'Brien and her family as they mourn the loss of her brother, David M. Campbell, who died last week in New Jersey at the age of 68.
- For Linda Ziebell, who is recovering from a recent hip surgery.
- For ongoing strength for 12-year-old Ada Grace LaMaster and the LaMaster family. Ada is making progress in her therapy for transverse myelitis and has transitioned to an accessible apartment with her family.
- 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 all who are in treatment for cancer: Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn's mother; Mark Deck, Sarah Fujiwara's brother-in-law; Amy Golodet, Jonathan New's sister-in-law; Becky Collet, Karen Anne Zee's daughter; Stewart Bailey, Karen Anne Zee's son-in-law; and Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters.
- 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 recently. 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.

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.

STAYING CONNECTED TO FIRST CHURCH

As we live into this new way of “being the church” together, we want to share the following opportunities to stay connected, to help each other, and to practice our faith together. You can find each event on a page of our website entitled “Staying Connected Through Online Programming” (<https://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/worship-music-spiritual-life/staying-connected-through-online-programming>). The links to join via Zoom are listed under every event.

New to Zoom? For a tutorial on how to join a meeting, go to:
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-How-Do-I-Join-A-Meeting->

In addition to these online events, First Church Staff and Deacons are reaching out to all our members and friends by phone to do individual and family check-ins. We are asking if you have specific needs at this time and/or if you are able to help meet the needs of people in our community.

FCC CONNECTION & PRAYER CALLS

Every weekday, First Church Staff will offer a noontime Zoom call for connection and prayer. Join these thirty-minute (or so) virtual meet-ups to share a brief check-in, make prayer requests, and pray together.

- Mondays at noon with Dan Smith
- Tuesdays at noon with Carlyle Stewart
- Wednesdays at noon with Dan Smith
- Thursdays at noon with Sarah Higginbotham
(This is an all-ages call; children are especially invited to zoom in!)
- Fridays at noon with Lexi Boudreaux

How to connect to weekday FCC Connection & Prayer Calls via Zoom:

Go to the following url on any upcoming weekday starting at noon:

<https://zoom.us/j/154016453>

Or call this number: 1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 154 016 453

PROGRAM OFFERINGS

PRAYING THE PSALMS The group will meet **every Thursday morning at 7:30 a.m. via Zoom**, beginning with a time of soulful check-in, followed by a dive into some reflection about the Psalms of the week, sharing what we are learning about maintaining a daily spiritual practice, alone and together. Feel free to drop in virtually when you can, or plan to make it a regular part of your week.

How to connect to weekly Praying the Psalms meetings via Zoom:

Go to the following url on any upcoming Thursday starting at 7:15 am:

<https://zoom.us/j/361730234>

Or call this number: 1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 361 730 234

STAYING CONNECTED TO FIRST CHURCH

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY WITH CARLYLE This group will be led by Pastoral Associate Carlyle Stewart and will meet **every Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom**, continuing with a focus on the Gospel of John. What is the significance of Jesus' humanity and divinity in his earthly ministry? We study not merely as an academic discipline, but with the desire to know God more intimately.

How to connect to weekly Bible Study with Carlyle via Zoom:

Got to the following url on any upcoming Thursday starting at 6:00 pm:

<https://zoom.us/j/486781715>

Or call this number: 1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 486 781 715

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES WITH LEXI Join Pastoral Associate Lexi Boudreaux **every Friday morning at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom** for a place to connect, check-in, and engage in spiritual practices together. We will be reading scripture and practicing different ways of interacting with the prayer practices of our Christian tradition. Offerings will vary weekly, but will include some form of Lectio Divina or reflection practice about the reading for the week. Looking forward to centering ourselves together!

How to connect to weekly Spiritual Practices with Lexi via Zoom:

Go to the following url on any upcoming Friday starting at 8:00 am:

<https://zoom.us/j/835197538>

Or call this number: 1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 835 197 538

STREET OUTREACH CHECK-IN Join a Zoom call with Kate Layzer **every Tuesday at 4:00 p.m.** for an update about how our homeless neighbors are doing in the current crisis, and how the city is responding to needs.

How to connect to a weekly Street Outreach Check-in with Kate via Zoom:

Go to the following url on any upcoming Tuesday starting at 4:00 pm:

<https://zoom.us/j/744777502>

Or call this number: 1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 744 777 502

FIRST CHURCH CHOIR ZOOM CALL Join Peter Sykes **every Thursday evening at 7:45 p.m. via Zoom** for a virtual check-in.

How to connect to weekly First Church Choir Call via Zoom:

Go to the following url on any upcoming Thursday starting at 7:45 pm:

<https://zoom.us/j/105960814>

Or call this number: 1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 105 960 814

STAYING CONNECTED TO FIRST CHURCH

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION

VIRTUAL HOUSE CHURCHES Would you like to virtually connect with a smaller group at First Church for conversation, worship, and reflection through a conference call or video chat platforms such as Zoom? Please sign up to be matched with a group here: <https://forms.gle/BGGtdNbYrdsTU1dZA>
Email Lexi Boudreaux if you have any questions about this new virtual format.

VIRTUAL PRAYER PARTNERS A prayer partner is someone that you can connect with on a regular basis to support you in your spiritual journey and daily life. You can talk about how your spiritual practices have been going or have not been going, share what might be on your minds and hearts during this season, and commit to praying for each other throughout the week. If you didn't sign up for a prayer partner for Lent and still want to be matched with another person in the congregation for one-on-one check-ins please sign up at this link: <https://forms.gle/MFxzQuLzhdnbd5um9>
Matches will be notified of their partner on a rolling basis. Email Lexi Boudreaux if you have any questions.

HELP WITH HOMELESS MINISTRIES

ASSISTANCE NEEDED IN THE SHELTER The Shelter would welcome help at this time from First Church volunteers who are not part of an at-risk group for serious illness. The first need is for **supplies and cleaning help**. We are running through a lot of cleaning products and rags, trying to keep the shelter safe and hygienic. We could use large containers of powerful disinfecting products, as well as paper towels. Volunteers are also needed to help Shelter staff prepare the space after guests leave in the morning. As always, the Shelter welcomes help with **providing food for guests**. If you can drop off an entree (lasagna for 15?) or a dessert, let Jim know. We'll try to make it as convenient as possible. Please contact Shelter Director Jim Stewart: jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org or 617-694-7894.

MAKE BAG LUNCHES FOR THE FRIDAY CAFE The Friday Café is closed for indoor gatherings for at least the next few weeks, but we will be keeping the supply of nutritious food flowing by handing out bag lunches on Fridays (along with socks and basic hygiene supplies). **We would love your help making bag lunches at home and dropping them off at the curb on Friday afternoons from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.** You don't even have to get out of your car: Just call or text Kate Layzer at (617) 851-5074, and hand her your lunches through the car window. This is a terrific activity to do with kids (handmade notes and artwork optional!). Sign up at the link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d45aaa628ab9-friday>

OTHER OFFERS TO VOLUNTEER

If you are willing to help others in need, please fill out this survey for potential volunteers: <https://tinyurl.com/wufnnjg>. We will do our best to match you with needs as we learn about them.

STAY CONNECTED TO FIRST CHURCH

FOOD PANTRY CLIENTS NEED YOU and your generous donations now more than ever! Leave items in the box on Hilary's front porch at 30 Winslow St. , Cambridge, any time between now and April 10. We are .75 mile from First Church, just off Sherman St. where it diverges from Garden St. We will see that your donations are delivered when the pantry is open. Needed: cereal, canned fruit and veggies, proteins, pasta and sauce, also feminine products, and, maybe, even some cookies. Thank you.

MORE COMING - STAY TUNED

The Staff and Deacons will continue to assess the needs of our community, and we will be in regular communication with you via email about other ways to "make a way" together.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, March 22 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship via live-stream

Monday, March 23

12:00 p.m. FCC Connection & Prayer Call with Dan Smith
7:30 p.m. Executive Council via Zoom

Tuesday, March 24

12:00 p.m. FCC Connection & Prayer Call with Carlyle Stewart

Wednesday, March 25

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom
12:00 p.m. FCC Connection & Prayer Call with Dan Smith
7:00 p.m. Christian Formation Committee via Zoom

Thursday, March 26

7:30 a.m. Praying the Psalms, via Zoom (7:15 a.m. gathering time)
12:00 p.m. FCC Connection & Prayer Call for All Ages with Sarah Higginbotham
6:00 p.m. Bible Study, via Zoom
7:45 p.m. Choir Call, via Zoom

Friday, March 27

8:00 a.m. Spiritual Practices with Lexi Boudreaux via Zoom
12:00 p.m. FCC Connection & Prayer Call with Lexi Boudreaux
1:00 p.m. Friday Café lunch bag pickup, Front Lawn

Sunday, March 29 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship via live-stream

THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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Pastoral Associate

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

Would you like to give to
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Here are easy ways to do it:



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



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