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EASTERTIDE

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 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

May 17, 2020

Dan Smith, Senior Minister  
Jean-Dany Joachim, Poet in Residence  
Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate  
Carlyle Stewart, Pastoral Associate  
Peter Sykes, Music Director

Bertrand Laurence  
Dave McCann  
Nancy Kilburn  
Toni Bee  
Fred Brown  
Alan Soto Smith  
Rhina Espailat

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

## GATHERING

## VOLUNTARY

Pastorale

Domenico Zipoli

## \*HYMN 400

There is a Balm Gilead (verses 1 &amp; 2)

*(see page 4)*

## \*GREETING

Jean-Dany Joachim

L: Sisters, brothers, siblings in the Spirit, grace and peace to you from God!

C: **From God our Creator, whose breath gives life, peace to you!**

L: Welcome! Be at home in the presence of Love,

C: **Love divine, stronger than death!**

L: Welcome! Be at home in the companionship of Jesus our brother:

C: **The Risen Christ who knows all that is written in our hearts  
and loves us through and through.**

L: Be at home in God and in this time of worship. And lift up your hearts in praise!

## WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan Smith

## ANTHEM

Gloria (first movement)  
*First Church Choir, 2018*

Antonio Vivaldi

## CONFESSING

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

## SILENCE

## SUNG PRAYER

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,  
pure and holy, tried and true.  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.  
*(Sing through twice.)***

## DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

## \*GREETING OF PEACE AND SHARED CHECK-IN

## OPENING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Lexi Boudreaux

### READING

Proverbs 16:20-24

### READING

John 1:1-5

Carlyle Stewart

### POEMS, MEDITATION, SILENCE, AND SONG

*The congregation is invited to sing verses of Amazing Grace (see page 5)  
between the offerings of poetry.*

“The Ways of God” by Jean Dany Joachim

Verse 1:       **Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved and set me free!  
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see**

“Keeping Quiet” by Pablo Neruda, read by Nancy Kilburn

“God Vibrations” by Toni Bee

Verse 2:       **‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious does that grace appear the hour I first believed!**

“Partimos (We Proceed)” by Alan Soto Smith

A Song by Bertrand Laurence

“At the Martin Luther King Memorial” by David McCann

Verse 3:       **Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come;  
‘tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**

“Whisper to the Lord” and “Haikus of Faith and Meditation” by Fred Brown

“Settling” and “Woolworth” by Rhina Espaillat

Verse 4:       **My God has promised good to me, whose word my hope secures;  
God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.**

“Whisper to the Lord” and “Lapriyè /Prayer” by Jean Dany Joachim

Verse 5:       **When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’d first begun.**

# SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

L: God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray....(*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 our website](#)  
or by text from your debit/credit card by texting the amount to 844-996-0982.*

### \*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**O Jesus, risen now to bless,  
do thou thyself our hearts possess;  
that we may give thee all our days  
the willing tribute of our praise! Amen.**

### GOING FORTH

#### \*HYMN 415

When We Are Living (verses 1, 3, and 5)

*(see page 6)*

#### \*BENEDICTION

#### VOLUNTARY

Toccata All'Offertorio

Domenico Zipoli

#### CONGREGATIONAL CHECK-IN

At this time, you are invited to email Dan  
with your prayer concerns or check-ins, to be shared via the live-stream.

Dan's email: [dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org)

# OPENING HYMN

## There Is a Balm in Gilead

verses 1 and 2

*Refrain* %

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul. *Fine*

1. Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged, and  
2. Don't ev - er feel dis - cour - aged, for  
3. If you can't preach like Pe - ter, if

think my work's in vain. But then the Ho - ly  
Je - sus is your friend, and if you look for  
you can't pray like Paul, just tell the love of

*D.S.*  
Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.  
knowl - edge he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend. There is a  
Je - sus, and say he died for all.

WORDS and MUSIC: African-American spiritual  
Here is a positive response to the question asked in  
Jeremiah 8:22: 'Is there no balm in Gilead?' Hope

BALM IN GILEAD  
76.76 w. refrain

SERMON HYMN

# Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound

1. A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound that  
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils and snares I  
 4. My God has prom - ised good to me, whose  
 5. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved and set me free! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

WORDS: St. 1-4, John Newton, 1779, alt.; St. 5, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790  
 MUSIC: Shaw and Spilman's *Columbian Harmony*, Cincinnati, 1829; harm. FCC, 1997

NEW BRITAIN  
 CM

John Newton, an English Anglican pastor, had been a captain of a slave ship until he experienced an 'awakening' in a storm at sea. At age forty he was ordained into the ministry of the Church of England.

Harm. © 1998 FCC Houston TX

# CLOSING HYMN

## When We Are Living

verses 1, 3, and 5

(Pues Si Vivimos)

1. When we are liv - ing, it is in Christ Je - sus,  
 2. Through all our liv - ing, we our fruits must give.  
 3. 'Mid times of sor - row, and in times of pain,  
 4. A - cross this wide world, we shall al - ways find  
 \*5. Sha - lom to you now, sha - lom, my friends.  
 (1.) *Pues si vi - vi - mos,* *pa - ra Él vi - vi - mos*

and when we're dy - ing, it is in the Lord.  
 Good works of ser - vice are for of - fer - ing.  
 when sens - ing beau - ty or in love's em - brace,  
 those who are cry - ing with no peace of mind,  
 May God's full mer - cies bless you, my friends,  
*y si mo - ri - mos pa - ra Él mo - ri - mos.*

Both in our liv - ing and in our dy - ing,  
 When we are giv - ing, or when re - ceiv - ing,  
 wheth - er we suf - fer, or sing re - joic - ing,  
 but when we help them, or when we feed them,  
 in all your liv - ing, and through your lov - ing,  
*Sea que vi - va - mos o que mu - ra - mos,*

*Refrain*

(1-4.) we be - long to God, we be - long to God.  
 (5.) Christ be your sha - lom, Christ be your sha - lom.  
 (1.) *so - mos del Se - ñor,* *so - mos del Se - ñor.*

## POETRY

### Keeping Quiet by Pablo Neruda

Now we will count to twelve  
and we will all keep still  
for once on the face of the earth,  
let's not speak in any language;  
let's stop for a second,  
and not move our arms so much.

It would be an exotic moment  
without rush, without engines;  
we would all be together  
in a sudden strangeness.

Fishermen in the cold sea  
would not harm whales  
and the woman gathering salt  
would not look at her hurt hands.

Those who prepare green wars,  
wars with gas, wars with fire,  
victories with no survivors,  
would put on clean clothes  
and walk about with their brothers  
in the shade, doing nothing.

What I want should not be confused  
with total inactivity.

Life is what it is about...

If we were not so single-minded  
about keeping our lives moving,  
and for once could do nothing,  
perhaps a huge silence  
might interrupt this sadness  
of never understanding ourselves  
and of threatening ourselves with  
death.

Now I'll count up to twelve  
and you keep quiet and I will go.

### The Ways of God by Jean Dany Joachim

*In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.*  
John 1:1

Poets too are preachers  
Along their truth-telling words  
God's ways are revealed

### God Vibrations.... (for Selena Yard) by Toni Bee

Bead purse jiggles under the pot of my arm like boiling water  
I hear / it sings / and it sings:  
*I know the books I know the books I know the books of the books  
of books*

Phone alarm of baby's bible verses reminding me there is a God  
and he alarms us  
*Matthew Mark Luke John Acts of Apostles Roman Corin Corin  
Galatians*

Always wanted to know it by heart / like those souls saved a bit  
mor'n me - Always wondered how they remembered His books /  
always knew my concentration was an artist stubbed and born of  
its own will – refused to commit the salve to memory  
*Ephesians Philippians Colossians Thessalonians Thessalonians  
Timothy Timothy*

Purse of beads yells out a Word for me to remember for me to  
know some unseen got the back and front as I roll upon this caked  
river of tar/ as I toddle over graves of those forgotten on a street  
full of / prospects near a broad way of burning lies  
*Titan Philemon Hebrews James Peter Peter Paul John John Jude  
Revelation of John*

Backing up to the basics this daughter's song vibrates / the Lord  
in me reminds there's no need to smack whispering wenches who  
cause destruction / reminds me of the waste of violence/ reminds  
me to keep peace-ing cause...

*I know the books I know the books I know the Book of the Book of  
Books*

## POETRY

### **Partimos (We Proceed)** **by Alan Soto Smith**

A este paso  
la tierra llegará  
al horizonte.  
Olvidémonos ahora  
de la estrella  
de agua,  
y la tela  
soltera en la arena,  
es decir,  
después del bosque  
oscuro,  
donde  
nació el mar  
partimos del principio  
de que la noche  
se ahoga,  
partimos sin estaciones.

At this rate  
earth will arrive  
at the horizon.  
Let's forget then  
of the star  
of water,  
and the lonely  
cloth in the sand,  
that is to say,  
after the dark  
forest,  
where  
the sea was born,  
we proceed from the principle  
that the night  
is drowning,  
we proceed without pause.

*English translation*  
*by Jonathan Bennett Bonilla*

### **At the Martin Luther King Memorial** **by David McCann**

We are but beggars seated on the ground;  
outside, the temples of business and government all around.  
The Capitol stands behind us  
as we hold out our hands, palms up

Until the moment  
when he draws near,  
reaches out and tells us Rise, and enter  
through this other door to another place

Where we join hands and sing out our thanks,  
lift our prayers for forgiveness, guidance,  
and we step, uncertain and afraid,  
on the path home, a way.

### **A Whisper to the Lord** **by Fred Brown**

O protective Creator and Giver of unending  
love, may we always show You respect and  
love.

May your love always be present throughout  
our earthly lives to the same degree You share  
it with us.

Let us feel your love and show it ourselves,  
and when we fail to do so, help us to recognize  
our shortcomings and make amends to those  
from whom we've withheld love.

Guide us in our journey to live our lives with  
love, never rejecting this precious gift You give us.

## POETRY

### Haikus of Faith and Meditation by Fred Brown

#### *Faith*

My Creator lives  
Within my heart and my soul.  
I see Him daily.

#### *Power*

Love is above all;  
No command has more power.  
This is His message.

#### **Settling** by Rhina Espaillat

When Silence  
invites each thing to  
speak its own name

When darkness  
opens every door  
where no doors are

I listen  
to quiet breakage  
the house sighing

lapsing from  
plumb lines earthward to  
some deeper me

#### **Woolworth** by Rhina Espaillat

The music is in the colors  
that leap free of these  
unchosen things

as the soul leaps free  
of our dying,  
or as poems gather their skirts

to step lightly—  
looking backward, half regretful—  
out of living.

Magic surrounds  
These things because they are unclamped  
by our possessing.

Each is, or may be,  
the untried door  
beyond which everything is right:

cheap and bright, they  
center a globe of light not their  
own, like holy bread,

or like Voyager,  
lifting away  
and clear of us its magical

silver needles,  
coded colors, ribbons of talk,  
voices of children.



## YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For Jenn Marshall, her partner Claire, and daughter Simone as they grieve the loss of Jenn's mother, Sharon Marshall, who died recently from complications following a stroke at the age of 76.
- For Pam Pacelli and Rob Cooper as they grieve the loss of Pam's mother, who died of COVID-19 on May 7.
- For Don Johnson and Kate Layzer and Don's family as they grieve the loss of Don's mother, Jan, at the age of 92. She died recently from complications of COVID-19.
- For Sue Reynolds and her family as they grieve the loss of Sue's father-in-law Don Reynolds at the age of 96.
- For Cynthia Shoemaker, who has been diagnosed with Covid-19, but has thus far been relatively symptom-free. We pray for her health and that of the staff and other residents at Courtyard Nursing Care Center in Medford.
- For Dorian Hardwick and Gail Buschman as they grieve the losses of their mothers. Dorian's mother, Anna Mae, turned 99 on April 19 and died on April 30 of a heart attack. She was an active member of the Middlebury CT Congregational Church for decades, serving in many capacities. Gail's mother, Ruth Buschmann, died at the age of 96 on April 11.
- For all who are grieving the loss of loved ones due to Covid-19; for all those who are ill with COVID-19 and their families; and for all of us who are learning to navigate this strange new world, that we may receive God's comfort, strength, and peace.
- For all essential workers, who continue to put themselves at risk to care for the sick and most vulnerable, maintain our food supply, deliver supplies, keep our public services running, and lead us through this crisis.
- For African Americans and communities of color around the country that are facing disproportionately high rates of coronavirus death and infection, revealing entrenched inequalities in resources and access to healthcare.
- For all who are experiencing unemployment or underemployment during this crisis, including undocumented workers who cannot find a safety net in our government's response.
- For the families of Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor, whose recent killings show the appalling effects of racial prejudice and hatred that continue to exist in this country. We mourn these killings and others like them, and our prayers are with all communities that have been targeted.
- 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.

## YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For the 14 men who are finding care and residence in our First Church Shelter and for the guests of the Friday Café, who are experiencing worsening deprivation and hardship in this time of disruption; that may they know warmth, compassion, and companionship.
- 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. 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 or Sarah Higginbotham by Tuesday morning,*

### LINKS TO CHANT WORKS PROVIDED BY NIGHT SONG

Looking for meditative chant music during your time at home?  
Night Song Director Daryl Bichel offers the following suggestions:

#### **May 10, 2020: Mass (Extraordinary Form), St. John Cantius Parish, Chicago**

This traditional Latin mass of the Catholic church contains a great deal of chant. You can skip over the lessons and sermon, which are the only spoken portions of this mass. Everything else is sung in Latin. There is some organ music in this mass, too.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=6brKna1NTiY>

#### **May 10, 2020: Compline Liturgy, St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle**

Compline has been sung weekly at this cathedral since 1958. Normally the compline choir is larger, but during the coronavirus pandemic they've been singing one on a part and maintaining social distancing while they sing, as you will observe.

<https://saintmarks.org/category/live-streams/>

#### **Canto Gregoriano - Santa Hildegarda de Bingen**

Hildegard of Bingen (1098 – 17 September 1179) was a German Benedictine abbess, writer, composer, philosopher, Christian mystic, visionary, and polymath. She is one of the best-known composers of sacred monophony, as well as the most-recorded in modern history.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qa6bWFzvl\\_w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qa6bWFzvl_w)

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

**(ALMOST) EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CHURCH YEAR Today 10:00 a.m., via Zoom** What is All Saints Day about anyway? Why don't we sing Christmas carols during the first few Sundays of Advent? Where did Maundy Thursday get its name? Beginning Sunday, April 19, and running through Sunday, May 17, Beth Spaulding, Deacon and liturgical year enthusiast, will lead a journey through the church year. We'll meet via Zoom from 10:00 a.m. to 10:50 a.m., giving us time for a stretch break before worship. ***The Zoom Meeting ID and Password may be found in the all-church email sent on April 13.***

**THE WAYS OF GOD: A SPECIAL SERVICE OF POETRY AND MUSIC, Today, 11:00 a.m., via live-stream** Join Jean Dany Joachim, our Poet in Residence, musician Bertrand Laurence, Nancy Kilburn, David McCann, and invited guests Fred Brown, Alan Soto Smith, Toni Bee, and Rhina Espallat for a special live-streamed morning service with words, hymns and music. Jean Dany has offered to join First Church staff in the sanctuary, while others guests will be joining online.

**HOW TO MAKE A BETTER FUTURE: PERSPECTIVES AMIDST A PANDEMIC Today, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom** (*see page 14 for more information*) Join us for a series of hour-long Zoom sessions led by First Church members, who will share stories and reflections about finding hope amidst the Covid-19 crisis and about how we can work together toward building a better society. Following a short presentation each week, there will be a brief follow-up conversation. Today's presentation will be "On Public Health and Leadership" led by Ed Baker, former Assistant Surgeon General in the US Public Health Service and former Director of CDC's Public Health Practice Program Office. ***The Zoom Meeting ID and Password may be found in the all-church email sent on Tuesday, May 12.***

**CONFIRMATION CLASS Today, 4:00 p.m., via Zoom** First Church's Confirmands will gather today for their final class before Confirmation Sunday on May 31.

**WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY WRITING GROUP Today, 4:00 p.m., via Zoom** Are you interested in exploring your relationship to writing as a spiritual practice? Are you looking to connect to a group of women to support you in maintaining a writing practice? Would you like to explore devotional writing as a part of your prayer life? Join us for today's monthly meeting via Zoom for accountability, feedback, and fellowship. ***The Zoom Meeting ID and Password may be found in the all-church email sent on Tuesday, May 12.***

**PLEASE BE CAREFUL OF EMAIL SCAMS** Once again, someone has set up several Gmail addresses that appear to be Dan Smith soliciting help. Sadly, this is happening to various clergy across the country. This is a scam. Please do not respond. Dan or other First Church staff would never ask for any kind of donations to be sent directly to him (or directly to others). Any such

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

donations would be channeled through First Church. Please note that if the sender is using an email address other than an @firstchurchcambridge.org address, it is most likely a scam. The scammers have been able to pull enough information from church websites to make the email sound legitimate. Scams have become more and more sophisticated! If you are still wondering, please be sure to speak directly with Dan or to the staff person involved before responding.

## NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAYING CONNECTED

**DAILY MEDITATIONS FROM RICHARD ROHR** Several of us at First Church have been following the writings of the Franciscan priest Richard Rohr. His teachings are as accessible as they are profound. If you would like to receive a daily reading to help you learn about and ground yourself more deeply in Christian tradition, especially through these trying times, you can sign up here: <https://cac.org/category/daily-meditations>. Dan Smith and Alex Steinert-Evoy will soon be offering a weekly drop-in call in which we can share brief reflections on the daily devotions for a given week. If you are interested in participating, please contact Alex Steinert-Evoy (alex@steinert-evoy.org) or Dan Smith **by tomorrow, May 18**, to request access to a doodle poll to find a time that works for as many as possible!

**SUPPORT CALL FOR FIRST CHURCH CAREGIVERS** Hospital workers, homecare workers, therapists, chaplains, doctors, nurses, caregivers and essential workers of all kinds — would it help to talk and share your experience with others at First Church? If you've been flat out and barely able to come up for air, let's schedule a time to listen, share, pray, and process. Dan Smith has sent out an email invite to many of you in the hopes of finding a good time for a call later this month. If it helps, it can be a regular thing. If you are a caregiver and haven't received the email, please contact Dan **by tomorrow, May 18**.

**NEW PRAYER MINISTRY** In these times, we all have so many prayers on our hearts, whether they be for family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, or the world at large. As a congregation, while we can't physically be together, we can still hold one another's concerns in prayer collectively. If you are interested in receiving a weekly email with prayer requests from our church community to pray for throughout the week, [please complete this google form](#). Please send prayer requests to Pastoral Associate Lexi Boudreaux (lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org).

## ONGOING PROGRAM OFFERINGS

- **Mondays** FCC Kids' Prayer & Connection Call with Sarah Higginbotham, 12:00 p.m.
- **Tuesdays** Street Outreach Check-in with Kate Layzer, 4:00 p.m.
- **Wednesdays** Midweek FCC Prayer & Connection Call, 12:00 p.m.
- **Thursdays** Praying the Psalms with Dan Smith & Brent Coffin, 7:15 a.m.;

## NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAYING CONNECTED

FCC Kids' Prayer & Connection Call with Sarah Higginbotham, 12:00 p.m.

Weekly Bible Study with Carlyle Stewart, 6:00 p.m.;

First Church Choir Call with Peter Sykes, 7:45 p.m

• **Fridays** Spiritual Practices with Lexi Boudreaux, 8:00 a.m.

**FIRST CHURCH YOUTUBE CHANNEL** Continue to tune into our First Church YouTube channel as we offer pre-recorded reflections and devotions, led by Pastoral Associate Carlyle Stewart. The recorded uploads consist of scripture lessons, devotions, and reflections that explore how our faith tradition can inform us about current events, and strengthen us throughout this challenging time. The link to the channel is: <https://tinyurl.com/ryac3av>

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**SERVICE OF LAMENTATION AND HEALING Sunday, May 24, 11:00 a.m., via livestream**

Throughout this time, many of us in the First Church community and beyond have endured intense loss. We acknowledge this loss of life due to the pandemic and other circumstances. Next Sunday's worship will be a time to hold those losses together as a community. In a spirit of expression for our lamentations and prayer for the desired healing, we invite you to join us and hold this space. Carlyle will be leading the service and offering a Word. We also invite people to send prayers and names of loved ones or others to Dan, who will lift those prayers up during a final ritual of prayer and healing.

**POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN WEBINAR Tuesday, May 26, 6:00-7:00 p.m., via Zoom** Pastoral Associate Carlyle Stewart will host an informational session about the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. The campaign will be hosting the largest digital gathering of poor, dispossessed and impacted people, faith leaders, and people of conscience on June 20, 2020. The campaign addresses the interlocking injustices of poverty, militarism and the war economy, ecological devastation, and the false moral narrative of religious nationalism. As our ranks grow in the coming months due to COVID-19 and the ongoing crisis of poverty, building a platform for the plight, fight, and insight of the poor is more urgent than ever before. Tune in to find out more about the campaign and how to get involved!

**SPECIAL FORMATION HOUR ON PENTECOST Sunday, May 31, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom** We will each be making "Tongues of Fire" at 10 O'Clock Hour Zoom workshop and will share them virtually! Look around your house to see what materials you might use. [Red, orange, and yellow construction paper or sticky notes? Pipe cleaners? Tissue or wrapping paper? Legos? Building blocks? The sky's (and your home-based collection of things) the limit!] Plan how you

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

will make your Tongues of Fire. Maybe you could practice a bit before Pentecost, so that it will only take you about half an hour to make your Tongues of Fire when we gather in our workshop. Then collect everything you will need for the workshop on Sunday morning, May 31, so you will be ready to get right to work. The Pentecost story (Acts 2:1-21) also tells us how the Apostles spoke in many languages. Do you know a language other than English? Practice a greeting in another language to share at the Pentecost 10:00 hour, and we will all hear each other together! Note: Adults and kids alike are warmly invited to share this 10:00 time.

**PENTECOST SUNDAY and CONFIRMATION SUNDAY and JOINING SUNDAY, Sunday, May 31, via livestream worship** Pentecost will be a special celebration with the Rite of Confirmation, as well as the joining of new members. Tune in to honor the spiritual journeys of our seven Confirmands and to welcome many of them into membership by covenant. We will also welcome several adults who have discerned that First Church has become their spiritual home. Be prepared for the Holy Spirit to descend upon us as we worship together, even from our separate locations. And don't forget to Zoom in to an interactive 10 O'Clock Hour with Christian Formation Committee members Hilary Hopkins and Ariel Ackermann, where you can hear the Pentecost story and participate in a craft workshop to make your own "tongues of fire!"

**CONSIDER JOINING FIRST CHURCH, Sunday, May 31, during livestream worship** Is First Church tugging at your heart? Does it feel like home to you, or like the sanctuary you need? Is your spirit fed by our music, worship and study? Is First Church a place where you are challenged, engaged, and growing? Do you find it an anchor for your activism and community involvement? Is it a place where you can ask the questions that really matter or pour out your heart? We hope so! If you're experiencing any of these things, we invite you to consider membership in First Church. New members will be welcomed during worship on Sunday, May 31. Carlyle Stewart ([carlyle@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:carlyle@firstchurchcambridge.org)) is happy to reflect with you, answer questions, or provide more information.

**FAREWELL SUNDAY FOR CARLYLE STEWART Sunday, June 7, via livestream worship with reception to follow via Zoom** Over the past two years, Carlyle's deep spirit, inspired preaching, faithful teaching, and welcoming ministry have moved us all and transformed our community. Amidst the grief of goodbye, there is much to celebrate. We will send him off with our blessings, confident in whatever God may have in store for him and us next! There will be a Zoom coffee after the service where we will celebrate Carlyle's gifts (and share some with him, too)!

**BLESSING OF ALL GRADUATES OF THE CLASS OF 2020 Sunday, June 14, during livestream worship** A blessing of our graduates will take place during morning worship on June 14. Please send photos of yourself or your graduate that we can share with the congregation.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID FOR COVID-19 TRAINING, OPEN TO ALL ONLINE** Sometime during the month of May, Mental Health Awareness month, claim an hour or so of time to engage in this free, hour-long online Mental Health First Aid training from the American Red Cross: <https://tinyurl.com/ya3xvnxt>. Here's a little about what to expect in the training:

***Mental health first aid is the practice of recognizing and responding to people experiencing crisis-related stress and can be performed by anyone. The uncertainty associated with a global health crisis like COVID-19 challenges everyone's ability to cope. This course will help you to build resilience and support yourself and others through this crisis by reviewing basic principles of providing psychological first aid, including how to recognize and manage stress in yourself and in others and how to lend support to family members, friends and coworkers during and following the COVID-19 outbreak.***

And aside from the particularity of the pandemic, this training is just generally helpful in preparing to be a good caregiver to your loved ones and peers and to care for yourself in the process! The American Red Cross training is text-based. So if you'd prefer text and video and someone talking you through a training (in a Kiwi accent!), you are encouraged to access the "Psychological First Aid during COVID-19" training offered on YouTube through the New Zealand Red Cross.

**We will offer a Zoom call on June 1 at 4:00 p.m. to discuss your experience with the training and any questions or concerns that came up for you.** These trainings offer us an opportunity to use our time of physical distance from one another to prepare ourselves to become more skillful and compassionate caregivers.

**SPRING/SUMMER FAITH & LIFE GROUPS** We are almost (but not quite) ready to announce a new Spring/Summer line-up of Faith & Life groups. Led by First Church members, Faith & Life Groups are designed to encourage meaningful connections through shared interests, whether exploring a spiritual practice, opening our eyes to the beauty around us, delving into a challenging social issue, or attending to significant life stages (parenting, ageing, job transitions, etc.) Faith & Life Groups involve making a short-term commitment (a single session to several weeks, depending on the group) to something that might be delightful, deep, or even transformational. At the same time, you can get to know First Church friends who share your interest. Information about topics, leaders, scheduling and sign-ups will be available soon! Questions? Looking to lead a group? Please contact Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate. Stay tuned!

## HOW TO MAKE A BETTER FUTURE: PERSPECTIVES AMIDST A PANDEMIC

Sundays, May 17, May 31, and June 14, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom

Join us for a series of hour-long Zoom sessions led by First Church members Ed Baker, Laurie Burt and Bill Hsiao. They will share stories and reflections about finding hope amidst the Covid-19 crisis and about how we can work together towards building a better society. Following a short presentation each week, there will be a brief follow-up conversation amongst Ed, Laurie and Bill, as well as a time for questions from participants on the call.



### **Sunday, May 17: On Public Health and Leadership**

Ed Baker, former Assistant Surgeon General in the US Public Health Service and former Director of CDC's Public Health Practice Program Office, currently serves as Adjunct Professor in Health Policy and Management at UNC and Adjunct Professor of Environmental Health at Harvard Chan School. Ed is a board-certified physician and was trained in epidemiology in the CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) and at Harvard School of Public Health.



### **Sunday, May 31: On Climate Change**

Laurie Burt, former commissioner of the MA Department of Environmental Protection and vice chair of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), currently offers independent strategic advice on clean energy, climate and environmental policies to foundations, non-profits, businesses and government throughout the country. Laurie has practiced environmental law for over 30 years and serves on many boards including the Union for Concerned Scientists, CERES, and the American Repertory Theater.



### **Sunday, June 14: On Fixing Health Care**

Bill Hsiao is an economist who teaches at Harvard School of Public Health and has studied health care systems for more than forty years. Besides the State of Vermont, he designed reforms of national health care systems for nine countries. Presently he serves on the Governor's Commission on Healthy Californians for All at the invitation of California Governor Gavin Newsom. He wrote an article in the January/February 2020 Foreign Affairs called *How to Fix American Health Care: What Other Countries Can—and Can't—Teach the United States*.

## WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

**STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE** On March 27, the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs, acting on an order from the Secretary of the Interior, David Bernhardt, informed the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe that its 321-acre reservation would be “disestablished” and its land taken out of federal trust. This reverses a 2015 decision by the Department of the Interior under the Obama Administration to approve land-in-trust status for the Mashpee lands. Land “held in trust” gives a tribe the right to self-govern, including the right to tax, develop, and manage their land, to have tribal judges and police, and to receive federal benefits and funding. Tribe Chairman Cedric Cromwell has called the action, which occurred in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, “cruel and unnecessary.” Eighteen members of the House of Representatives have sent a letter to the Senate questioning the DOI’s decision and saying it “serves as a reminder of the history of unfair treatment by the federal government with respect to this Tribe.” The Southern New England Conference of the UCC has issued [a statement on the disestablishment](#). Please visit the SNECUCC website for the latest updates on this developing issue.

**FOOD INSECURITY IS RISING** Leave your food pantry donations in the box on Hilary’s front porch at 30 Winslow St., Cambridge, any time between now and June 12. Hilary is .75 mile from First Church, just off Sherman St. where it diverges from Garden St. She will see that your donations are delivered on the second Saturday of the month, which is when the pantry is open. NEEDED: cereal, canned fruit and veggies, proteins, pasta and sauce; also feminine products (pads, tampons). No fresh food. Please be sure your contributions are unopened, unexpired, and not in glass containers. Thank you for your generous donations!

**VOLUNTEER TO BAKE SOME GOODIES OR DISTRIBUTE PRE-PACKAGED MEALS TO HUNGRY CAMBRIDGE RESIDENTS** First Church is partnering with the City and local restaurants to distribute free evening meals on Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. If you would like to volunteer to set up, bag, and serve meals from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. on one of those days, or if you would like to make a few dozen sweet treats to hand out on one of these evenings, please visit <https://signup.com/go/DCsUUei>. Thank you!

**FURNITURE DONATIONS NEEDED** First Church Shelter is trying to secure a single bed set, kitchen table, and chairs for a guest expecting to move into housing fairly soon. The usual sources of furniture are still “locked down” because of the pandemic. If you have something available, please contact Shelter Director, Jim Stewart ([jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org) or 617-694-7894).

## WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

**OUR NEIGHBOR CITY OF CHELSEA** is in high need of funding for food programs and support for the city in this time of Pandemic. Consider making a donation to **The One Chelsea Fund** set up by the United Way. This fund is distributed by the Chelsea Collaborative and other organizations that have been tirelessly sewing face masks and delivering food. If you have funds to spare, please give as you are able: <https://unitedwaymassbay.org/covid-19/the-one-chelsea-fund/>

**RIP MEDICAL DEBT DONATIONS** The Metropolitan Boston Association is welcoming donations to the UCC Medical Debt Relief Program. Every \$100 in donations brings about forgiveness of \$10,000 in medical debt for people facing insolvency or whose medical debt is 5% or more of their annual income. You can learn more and find the link to donate by going to: <https://www.sneucc.org/RIP-medical-debt>. You can also give by check to the Southern New England Conference - UCC, (Notation: RIP Campaign), 1 Badger Road, Framingham, MA 01702. ***The deadline for contributions to this fund is tomorrow, May 18.*** If you have questions, please call Sally O'Brien, Chair of Missions & Social Justice, at 617-538-2183.

### **SUGGESTED WAYS TO DONATE FROM THE MISSIONS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

Looking for ways to support our community during this unprecedented time of need? The Missions and Social Justice Committee has compiled and vetted a short list of organizations looking for assistance to aid in their work in the COVID-19 response - locally, regionally, and internationally. Please go to: <https://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/news/ways-to-help>.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### **Sunday, May 17**

- 10:00 a.m. Adult Formation: The Liturgical Year with Beth Spaulding, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, via live-stream
- 12:30 p.m. "How to Make a Better Future," via Zoom
- 2:00 p.m. Youth Group, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Women's Spirituality Writing Group, via Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

### **Monday, May 18**

- 12:00 p.m. FCC Kids' Prayer & Connection Call with Sarah Higginbotham
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, via Zoom

### **Tuesday, May 19**

- 4:00 p.m. Street Outreach Call with Kate Layzer
- 5:30 p.m. Bible 101 Church School Class, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Shelter Oversight Committee, via Zoom

### **Wednesday, May 20**

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom
- 12:00 p.m. Midweek Prayer & Connection Call
- 4:00 p.m. Gifts Discernment Committee, via Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 6:30 p.m. Missions & Social Justice Committee, via Zoom

### **Thursday, May 21**

- 7:30 a.m. Praying the Psalms, via Zoom
- 12:00 p.m. FCC Kids' Prayer & Connection Call with Sarah Higginbotham
- 6:00 p.m. Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Call, via Zoom

### **Friday, May 22**

- 8:00 a.m. Spiritual Practices with Lexi Boudreaux, via Zoom
- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café lunch bag pickup, Tower Room
- 3:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds Committee, via Zoom

### **Saturday, May 23**

- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

### **Sunday, May 24**

- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Service of Lamentation and Healing, via live-stream
- 4:00 p.m. Middler Church School Class, via Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

## THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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### Minister of Street Outreach

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### Pastoral Associate

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Would you like to give to  
First Church in Cambridge?  
Here are easy ways to do it:



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



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