



SEASON OF PENTECOST

**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

June 14, 2020

Dan Smith, Senior Minister
Sarah Higginbotham,
Director of Creative Worship & Arts
Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate
Peter Sykes, Music Director
Sam Menapace, Middler Class Teacher

Middler Liturgists

Callum Pelton-Cairns
Rose Whaley
Imme Goode
Milly Clark

Bible 101 Class

Hannah Erickson
Owen Jones
Ada LaMaster
Willem Spek
Erik Stauffer
Savyon Stewart

Bible 101 Teachers

Cathy Garnett
Nate Jones
Samantha Riley

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

God's Gift on Pentecost
First Church Choir and Children's Choir, 1992
 (text on page 5)

J. Maclure Howland

*HYMN 218

Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us (verses 1 & 3)

(see pages 4-5)

*GREETING

Callum Pelton-Cairns

L: Come, Holy Spirit, gather us in,
 people of all ages- children, teens, grown-ups and grandparents.

**C: Grant us your wisdom and vision,
 so that there may be new courage in our witness.**

L: Give us strength for the journey,
 hope for this and future generations.
 Pour out your power on us this day.

**C: Enliven our worship and witness
 in our hearts, in our homes,
 on our streets, in our world.**

L: And all God's people said:

C: Amen!

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rose Whaley

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Imme Goode

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray for healing, pardon and peace:

**All: Before you, O God, and before one another,
 we confess the harm we have brought on our lives,
 the lives of others, and the life of the world.
 Forgive us, O God.**

Renew us, and enable us to grow in love.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

OPENING THE WORD

INTRODUCTION

Sarah Higginbotham

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Sam Menapace

READING

Matthew 18:1-5

Lexi Boudreaux and Dan Smith

Mark 9:33-37

Luke 9:46-48

A GOSPEL PLAY

Bible 101 Class

*HYMN 237

How Firm a Foundation (verses 1, 2 & 5)

(see page 6)

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHER RECOGNITION

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

Milly Clark

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**

**Praise God, the source of life and birth,
Praise God, the Word who came to earth,
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame,
All glory, honor to God's name! Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING FORTH

***HYMN C-6**

Psalm 100 (verses 1, 2 & 4)

(see page 7)

***BLESSING OF 2020 GRADUATES**

***BENEDICTION**

VOLUNTARY

Allegro

Vivaldi/Bach

OPENING HYMN

Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us

verses 1 and 3

1. Come, O Spir - it, dwell a - mong us, come with Pen - te -
2. We would raise our al - le - lu - ias for the grace of
3. Come, O Spir - it, dwell a - mong us; give us words of

cos - tal power; give the church a strong - er vi - sion,
for - mer years; for to - mor - row's un - known path - way,
fire and flame. Help our strug - gling voic - es praise you,

help us face each cru - cial hour. Built up - on a firm foun - da - tion,
hear, O God, our hum - ble prayers. In the church's pil - grim jour - ney
glo - ri - fy your ho - ly name. Good Cre - a - tor, Sav - ior, Spir - it,

Je - sus Christ, the Cor - ner - stone, still the church is
you have led us all the way; still in pres - ence
Three in One: what mys - ter - y! We would sing our

OPENING HYMN



The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a bracket) in the treble staff. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

called to mis - sion that God's love shall be made known.
move be - fore us, fire by night and cloud by day.
loud ho - san - nas now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

"GOD'S GIFT ON PENTECOST"

Lord Jesus once lived on the earth; He was God's only child.
He fed the hungry, healed the sick, and calmed those who were wild.
He brought a simple message that to many folk seemed new.
He preached it by the waterside, in fields and cities, too:
Be nice to people even if you don't know them at all,
and love the Lord your God who made each creature large and small!
But Jesus' simple deeds and faith made many so afraid, they killed him on the cross!
They thought his flock of "sheep" would lack the strength to go on, unshepherded and lost.
But still the sad disciples in their grief gathered 'round on Pentecost.
Then of a sudden they were stunned to hear a mighty roar!
They started speaking languages they'd never heard before
*Ils commencerent a parler en langues qu'ils n'avaient jamais entendu/
loqui linguas quales numqu'emiserant.* [all languages sung simultaneously]
Cool flames began to dance around the air from Heaven above.
The Holy Spirit had arrived-- God's newest gift of love!
This Spirit gives out comfort wheresoever Christians dwell,
reminding us, as Jesus taught, to treat all people well.
We praise you all, O Holy Spirit, God and Christ the Son.
Be with us in our hearts always, O Holy Three in One! Amen.

SERMON HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

verses 1, 2 and 5

1. How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2. "Fear not, I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,
3. When through the deep wa - ters I call you to go,
4. "When through fier - y tri - als your path - way shall lie,
5. "The souls that on Je - sus have leaned for re - pose

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent word!
for I am your God, and will still give you aid;
the riv - ers of woe ov - er you shall not flow;
my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply;
I will not, I will not de - sert to their foes;

What more can God say than to you has been said,
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
for I will be near you, your trou - bles to bless,
the flame shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
those souls, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
up - held by my right - eous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
and sanc - ti - fy to you your deep - est dis - tress.
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.
I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake!"

CLOSING HYMN

Psalm 100

verses 1, 2, and 4

1. O make a joy - ful noise to God,
2. Know that the Lord God made us all,
3. O en - ter, then, God's gates with thanks,
4. Be - cause the Lord our God is good,

all lands and ev - 'ry liv - ing thing. O serve the Lord with
we did not make our - selves a - lone. We are God's peo - ple,
and come be - fore the Lord with praise. O lift your voice in
God's love is our se - cu - ri - ty. God's faith - ful - ness sus -

glad - ness, come be - fore the Lord our God and sing.
ev - 'ry - one, and sheep of our Cre - a - tor's home.
thank - ful - ness and bless God's name through - out your days.
tains all life both now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: New translation by Denise Karuth

MUSIC: Setting by John Dowland

OLD HUNDREDTH

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For Hilary and John Hopkins, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 13.
- For Ken Ziebell, who suffered a stroke on May 26, was hospitalized, and is now recovering at home.
- For Nancy Kilburn, whose cousin Marc Kilburn died in his sleep on June 4. We pray for Marc's son Alec and for the whole Kilburn family as they cope with this unexpected loss.
- In celebration with Jim Rissling and his partner Biss, who became fathers following the birth of Aadya Rissling Teelucksingh to a surrogate mother in North Carolina on Thursday, May 21.
- In celebration with all recent graduates, including Nellie Baxandall, Alice and Claudia Dyer, and Kate and Emma Weller, who graduated from Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School on June 11. We also celebrate with Amanda Madigan, who graduated from Brown University; Hannah Stuart, who graduated from the University of Rochester; and Paul Sawyer, who graduated from Boston University School of Theology.
- For Karen Anne Zee and her step-father Calvin as they grieve the loss of Karen Anne's mother, Anne, who died in Florida on May 25 at the age of 95.
- For Kate Judd's 4-year-old nephew Brogan, who is recovering in the hospital in Pennsylvania after falling from a second floor window.
- For George Williams who is grieving the recent losses of his grandmother Mattie Bell Williams and his aunt Clara Jean Williams, who both died of COVID-19.
- For Moana Bentin's sister Katie, who completed chemotherapy in early April and is now undergoing radiation treatments in India, which is still on lockdown.
- For Cynthia Shoemaker, who is recovering from Covid-19 and who 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 our nation in the throes of unrest following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, and especially for communities directly affected by turmoil and violence, that there may be a new birth of justice and healing throughout our land.
- For the families of George Floyd, 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 grieving the loss of loved ones due to Covid-19, especially as the US surpasses 100,000 deaths from the virus; for all those who are ill with COVID-19 and their families; and for all of us who are navigating 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.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- 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 Asian Americans as they face unwarranted discrimination and hostility during this Covid-19 pandemic and for those who have already become the victim of hate crimes, including assaults and beatings.
- 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 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 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,*

BECOMING AN ANTI-RACIST CHURCH

Prayer, Reflection, and Action

Summer 2020



The following statement expresses First Church's intentions and commitments for the summer of 2020. We join with a global outcry against recent and past events of violence against black and brown persons. This statement builds on several years of concerted efforts to raise our self-awareness, build relationships, and act towards racial justice and healing. We approach this work with hearts open to listening, learning, and change.

First Church affirms that Black Lives Matter and Indigenous Lives Matter. We celebrate the gifts, presence, and leadership of persons of color within First Church and beyond. We recognize that the problem of racism is a white person's problem and that this is white people's work. Becoming an anti-racist church means that we are determined not merely to raise our consciousness of racism, but to actively call out and intentionally work for change. We do this work because we know our individual and collective spiritual health, transformation, and liberation depend on it. We do this work relying on God's help and knowing that we cannot do it alone.

In the coming weeks and months, the Staff, Executive Council, and Deacons of First Church invite you to join us in taking on a spiritual practice aimed at disrupting our complicity with white supremacy, ending our silence about police brutality and racial inequality, and acting toward real change. We invite you to commit serious energy and sacrificial love to at least two of the following levels of work:

SOUL LEVEL

Here are several ideas to deepen our self-awareness, learning and healing:

- ☪ Join summer online Faith & Life groups or book groups related to racial justice, or lead your own. Ideas in the works:
 - Reading, Listening, or Watching Groups - Gather friends for a close read of Robin D'Angelo's *White Fragility* or Ibram X. Kendi's *How To Be An Anti-Racist*.
 - Commit to listening to or reading at least one black or indigenous voice each day. [Here](#) are some ideas. Check our website throughout the summer for updates.
 - Join a "Me and White Supremacy" Group. Follow [Layla Saad's 28-day workbook](#) with daily exercises and reflections for becoming an anti-racist.
 - Individual Reparations Accountability Group – Support for those participating in a range of local and individual [reparations pledges](#) and efforts.
- ☪ Develop a practice of saying and praying their names, George Floyd. Breonna Taylor. Ahmaud Arbery. The list goes on, and on. And on. Learn the stories of their lives, not just their deaths. Say their names.

CONGREGATIONAL LEVEL

Participate in making First Church an inclusive, anti-racist congregation:

- 🌀 Familiarize yourself with lessons learned by other churches, as described in the book *Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism* by Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin. Register to attend an upcoming Zoom discussion of chapter 3 on Thursday, June 18, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. or Wednesday, July 15, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Email Peggy Stevens (peggy@kids4peace.org) to receive the Zoom invitation.
- 🌀 Join a monthly after-church Zoom coffee hour check-in to share progress with your commitments and ideas for our shared work.

COMMUNITY LEVEL

Watch the church bulletin and Facebook page for more details on these and future options.

- 🌀 Join a First Church group to support police reform efforts and accountability in the town or city where you live.
- 🌀 Support, invest in, and follow the lead of Black, Indigenous, and Person of Color-led [businesses](#), [organizations](#), or [protests](#), as you are able.
- 🌀 Participate in the [Greater Boston Interfaith Organization](#) actions addressing systemic racism, both city and statewide.

NATIONAL LEVEL

- 🌀 Join the Poor People's Campaign, starting with a National Call for Moral Revival on June 20, 2020. Register at <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/june2020/>. Continue in these efforts and pressing for the campaign's demands throughout the summer and beyond.

As Rev Dr. Otis Moss III of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago has said, our country is facing not one, but two pandemics: Covid-19 and "confederate Covid 1619," referring to the toxic strain of racist and white supremacist ideology that has been coursing through our church, city and nation's history since its founding on stolen land. First Church tested positive for the latter in the 1630's when our forebears held captive enslaved persons of African and Indigenous descent. We have yet to develop a vaccine, and its effects are still evident to this day. We are all carriers, whether we know it or not. We all need constant vigilance, lest we share it unwittingly. We are all in need of healing. The collective treatment includes a daily regimen of prayer, action and reflection. The Spirit is upon us now, calling us each to respond.

Please check our website and click on the yellow banner link for updates and additions to these ideas and offerings.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

ADULT FORMATION HOUR: COMPASSION THAT MOVES, Sunday, June 14, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom Join Susan Redlich for a discussion of compassion. It's easier to wring our hands and feel bad than it is actually to ACT upon our compassion for those in need. Follow the link to read a couple of pages and view a short, important video, then join Susan to talk about this vital aspect of our faith: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cbp0Kx47rIfmYYEp00J54KIUVW25p7dnAP-A7hWwPKmY/edit?usp=sharing>

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY TODAY, via livestream worship First Church celebrates the end of the church school program year in a virtual way today! The 6th and 7th graders of our Bible 101 class have pre-recorded their "Gospel Play," and members of the 5th grade Middler class contribute as virtual liturgists. We recognize our 4th grade "graduates" of Godly Play with the presentation of Bibles, honor our church school teachers for their gifts of time and talent throughout the year, and celebrate the many graduates in the congregation who have completed academic programs from high school through graduate school. There is so much to be grateful for!

HOW TO MAKE A BETTER FUTURE: PERSPECTIVES AMIDST A PANDEMIC Today, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom Join us for the second session in our series of hour-long Zoom sessions led by First Church members. Today, Bill Hsiao leads the conversation on fixing health care. See page 15 for more information about the entire series.

JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH Before the global pandemic hit, we had planned to offer programming and worship in that centered our celebration of Pride. While other concerns have monopolized our current attention, First Church affirms its support and celebration of love and the many expressions of gender and love that make up our human experience. We may not be parading in the streets this year, but Pride is alive in our hearts!

FIRST CHURCH NEWS

ONLINE WORSHIP AND COMMUNITY SURVEY FOR FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE We have been live-streaming worship for almost 12 weeks during this time of global pandemic, and we want to hear from you! We would love to know more about who is joining us for worship and how our programming is meeting your needs. Please fill out this survey if you have been to worship online or have participated in online formation activities:

<https://forms.gle/vyjifGit5S15cmbH7>

STAFFING UPDATE First Church, rejoice! Pastoral Associate Lexi Boudreau will be with us, not only through the summer as planned, but through the coming program year as well! Given Covid-19-related circumstances, she will not be doing full-time chaplaincy at MGH next year. This unexpected shift has given Lexi and us an exciting opportunity to continue our work and ministry together. Her primary areas of focus will be: 1) expanding our online ministry and worship offerings, 2) adult spiritual formation, 3) pastoral care and 4) occasional preaching and worship leadership. In August, we will also welcome new Pastoral Associate Jaz Buchanan, a third-year Harvard Divinity School student. In addition, Sarah Higginbotham and Kate Layzer will be working increased hours in the coming year—all of this while staying within, and even under, our budget. God is good!

PLANS FOR A PHASED RE-OPENING Governor Baker has announced the loosening of restrictions for houses of worship in the state of Massachusetts. The opportunity to re-open is good news; however, the continuing threat of COVID-19 obliges us to re-open thoughtfully and carefully. As a community of faith that seeks to protect the health and safety of each and every member of the body of Christ, we have decided to delay any changes to our current model of live-streamed worship until at least July. In July and August, we will experiment with inviting a small number of members to attend worship in-person to participate as lay leaders in the online worship for the wider community. This will allow us to begin to get comfortable with our health and safety protocols, so that we can carefully prepare for the time when more and more of us will be able to gather. It will also provide the opportunity for you to see more people leading our worship. Any changes we make to our current practices are dependent on public health data and COVID-19 case counts in Massachusetts. Our plans might need change to assure the safety of all. We hope that this summer will bring new ways of being together as a church and provide a time of exploration and inspiration in this season of uncertainty. It may be a while before we can all see each other again on Sunday mornings, but that remains our goal. With God's help, we'll get there when the time is right.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAYING CONNECTED

ONGOING PROGRAM OFFERINGS Zoom invitations to all our week's programs are in the all-church email that was sent this morning. If you are not receiving our e-newsletter, please sign up by clicking on the E-Newsletter icon at the bottom of our homepage to receive future correspondence. Email Lexi Boudreaux (lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org) this morning to have today's email forwarded to you.

- **Mondays** FCC Kids' Prayer & Connection Call with Sarah Higginbotham, 12:00 p.m.
- **Tuesdays** Street Outreach Call with Kate Layzer, 4:00 p.m.;
FCC Professional Caregivers' Call, 4:00 p.m.
- **Thursdays** Praying the Psalms with Dan Smith & Brent Coffin, 7:15 a.m.;
FCC Kids' Prayer & Connection Call with Sarah Higginbotham, 12:00 p.m.;
Shared Reflections on Richard Rohr Daily Devotionals, 5:00 p.m.;
Weekly Bible Study, 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.

WEEKLY FCC PROFESSIONAL CAREGIVERS' CALL Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m., via Zoom 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, please drop-in when you can for a time to listen, share, pray, and process. The Zoom invitation is in the all-church email that was sent this morning. If you are not receiving our e-newsletter, please sign up by clicking on the E-Newsletter icon at the bottom of our homepage to receive future correspondence. Email Lexi Boudreaux (lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org) this morning to have today's email forwarded to you.

EMAIL 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).

FIRST CHURCH YOUTUBE CHANNEL Continue to tune into our First Church YouTube channel as we offer pre-recorded reflections and devotions. Subscribe to make sure you don't miss new videos! The link to the channel is: <https://tinyurl.com/ryac3av>

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

HOW TO MAKE A BETTER FUTURE: PERSPECTIVES AMIDST A PANDEMIC

Sundays, May 17, June 14, and June 28 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.

The first session was recorded and is available on our blog: waterinthewilderness.org.



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*.



Sunday, June 28: On Climate Change (Postponed from May 31)

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.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

SUMMER FAITH & LIFE GROUPS We are almost (but not quite) ready to announce a new 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!

MISTAKES AND MIRACLES CONVERSATIONS **June 18, 3:00 p.m. or July 15, 7:00 p.m.** What would it be like for First Church to be radically inclusive and anti-racist? To be a community where a senior-level minister of color could grow and thrive? These are visions we have set for ourselves. The Beloved Community group invites everyone to join us in the journey towards making these visions the reality of our church. We invite you to read Chapter 3 of the book, *Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism* by Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin. Let's find out about some of the predictable challenges other churches have faced on the journey and learn how to avoid them. The first of two opportunities to discuss the chapter will happen this Thursday at 3:00 p.m., and the second opportunity will happen in one month, on Wednesday, July 15. Please let Peggy Stevens know if you'd like to join us for one of these discussions so she can send you the link: peggy@kids4peaceboston.org

Mistakes and Miracles is available as an E-book on line for \$9.99 from Amazon:

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=mistakes+and+miracles&i=stripbooks&ref=nb_sb_noss_2

or as a Paperback for \$22.00 from Amazon or Unitarian Universalist bookstore:

https://www.uuabookstore.org/Mistakes-and-Miracles-P18521.aspx?utm_medium=uua.org&utm_source=body&utm_campaign=uuaorgads&utm_content=/products/mistakes-and-miracles

If you'd like to read the chapter without buying the book, please contact Peggy Stevens and we'll find a way to send you the chapter or loan you a copy of the book: peggy@kids4peaceboston.org.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

JOIN THE POOR PEOPLE’S CAMPAIGN NATIONAL CALL FOR MORAL REVIVAL Saturday, June 20, 10:00 a.m., online Be part of a virtual Moral March on Washington with the Poor People’s Campaign. Stand with the millions of poor and low-wealth people of this nation to demand responses to systemic racism, ecological devastation, militarism and the war economy, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism. Learn more and register at: <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/june2020/>

“A REQUIEM FOR AHMAUD ARBERY” Sunday, June 21, 11:00 a.m., via live-stream worship On May 17, Rev. Otis Moss III, of the 8,500-member Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, offered a powerful 25-minute multimedia sermon about the recent death of Ahmaud Arbery and about our nation’s appalling history of violence against black and brown bodies. It is a profound lamentation and testimony that speaks the truth in love to the entrenched power of white supremacy. Ahmuad Arbery. Breonna Taylor. George Floyd. These names and lives join so many others who have died in acts of racial terror on lynching trees, on streets, in parks. In lieu of a traditional sermon on June 21, we will share a recording of Rev. Moss’s reflections, bearing witness together to the daily reality of violence and terror against people of color in America. A Zoom discussion will be held after the service.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS: CALL FOR PHOTOS, Sunday, June 28, 11:00 a.m., via live-stream worship We are planning a celebration and thanksgiving for all God’s creatures great and small, especially our animal companions. Our animal friends have offered special solace to many during this time of social distancing and isolation. We also know that pet adoptions are soaring, so some may have new furry friends at home. This year we will feature photos of our pets and other animals in our online service. Please send us a photo of your pet or a favorite animal from around the world to include in a slide show. Photos should be emailed to Administrative Assistant Bruce Dillenbeck (bruce@firstchurchcambridge.org) by Monday, June, 22.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

CALL FOR IMAGES OF CREATION FOR JUNE 28 WORSHIP How would you illustrate “God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light”? Let’s illustrate the glorious story of Creation, as told in Genesis 1:1-31 and 2:1-4a. In order to be sure we illustrate the whole story, look below for your “assignment,” depending upon your name. Use whatever medium you like. Make your illustration a work of heart, not necessarily a work of art! When you have finished, label your work with the words it shows. Take a picture of your work and email it to Sarah Higginbotham. Sarah will make a slide show for us all to share. Questions? Reach out to Hilary Hopkins (hopskinsjh@verizon.net).

Last Name: Verses to illustrate (pick one or do all)

A: 1:1-3
B: 1:4-6
C, D: 1:7-9
E, F, G: 1:10-12
H: 1:13-15
I, J: 1:16-18
K, L: 1:19-21
M, N: 1:22-24
O, P: 1:25-27
Q, R: 1:28-30
S, T, U, V: 1:31, 2:1-2
W, X, Y, Z: 2:3-4a

WHAT DOES FIRST CHURCH MEAN TO YOU? Sunday, July 12, 11:30 a.m., via Zoom For many of us, this is a strange time full of uncertainty and, for some, feelings of loss and lack of connection. But this time may also encourage deeper reflection about what you want First Church to be for you and what you might want to offer First Church as we move into a new way of being community. Your Gifts Discernment Committee would like to invite you to an on-line conversation about these issues. We’re eager to hear from you if you are a relatively new member. We also want to share the perspectives of more long-time members. Stay tuned for details, including the Zoom invitation. Questions? Please contact Dave Kidder (David.e.kidder@gmail.com, 617-276-6282). We look forward to talking with you.

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

FOOD INSECURITY IS RISING Leave your food pantry donations in the box on Hilary's front porch at 30 Winslow St., Cambridge. 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 FOR OUR EVENING MEAL PROGRAM First Church is now serving 500 meals a week to help feed hungry neighbors! If you would like to make a few dozen sweet treats to hand out at one of our evening meals on Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, or Sunday, please visit <https://signup.com/go/DCsUUei> to sign up. Treats can be dropped off at the Tower Room door at 4:30 on any of those nights. Thank you!

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT TO ASSIST BIJAN The Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network (BIJAN) supports people in and coming out of immigration detention in Massachusetts by working to find legal support, bond funds and post detention support. Currently, BIJAN is keeping in touch with local families who have reached out for support as they face challenges of unemployment, bills that are difficult to pay and questions about healthcare. BIJAN is looking for more people to act as support to help connect folks to mutual aid resources given that many immigrant families in our community do not have access to recovery funds from the government. Spanish language skills are ideal but not required. If you would like to be a part of this effort, please contact Rachie Lewis (rachielew@gmail.com). Rachie is a member of Cambridge Minyan, one of the founding member congregations of the Cambridge Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition (CISC).

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>.

MEDITATIVE MUSIC FOR YOUR WEEK

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:



Compline, The Choir of Clare College, Cambridge UK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QoIGKCEaCto>

St. John Cantius Parish, Chicago, The Solemnity of the Holy Trinity: June 7, 2020

A small congregation was allowed to participate this past Sunday for the first time since early March.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1b9To2KAgk>

Chant of the Mystics: Divine Gregorian Chant, Kyrie Orbis Factor

In this contemporary recording the ninefold Kyrie Orbis Factor is repeated endlessly. The square note score for the piece will appear on the screen as you listen. If you listen to the mass from St. John Cantius Parish listed above, you will hear the same Kyrie Orbis Factor at the beginning of the liturgy, sung immediately after the first chant (the introit Benedicta sit).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=djkLm3WpUOE>

FIRST CHURCH VIRTUAL CHOIR EXPERIMENT As we continue to live through a time when we can't physically sing together, a few First Church staff members experimented with assembling a virtual choir. Given the success of our experiment, we are planning for an opportunity for more of us to participate in a virtual choir project soon. Details will be forthcoming from Music Director Peter Sykes and Pastoral Associate Lexi Boudreaux. We are so looking forward to finding new ways to make a "joyful noise unto God" together in the midst of this pandemic. Sending the First Church in Cambridge community some extra encouragement and support through this time apart with a song we all know so well:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-ST9Fny9tk>

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, June 14

- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation for Adults, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Children's Sunday, Bible 101 Gospel Play, Celebration of Graduates
- 12:30 p.m. "How to Make a Better Future" session, via Zoom

Monday, June 15

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

Tuesday, June 16

- 4:00 p.m. Street Outreach Call with Kate Layzer, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. FCC Professional Caregivers Call, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Shelter Oversight Committee, via Zoom

Wednesday, June 17

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Missions & Social Justice, via Zoom

Thursday, June 18

- 7:30 a.m. Praying the Psalms, via Zoom
- 12:00 p.m. FCC Kids' Prayer & Connection Call with Sarah Higginbotham
- 3:00 p.m. *Mistakes and Miracles* Conversation, via Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Shared Reflections on Richard Rohr Daily Devotionals, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Call, via Zoom

Friday, June 19

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

Saturday, June 20

- 10:00 a.m. Poor People's Campaign: Moral March on Washington, Virtual Mobilization
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Sunday, June 21

- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, "Requiem for Ahmaud Arbery," via live-stream
- 12:15 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour
- 6:00 p.m. Poor People's Campaign: Moral March on Washington, Virtual Mobilization replay

***Zoom invitations to all our week's programs
are in the all-church email that was sent this morning.***

If you are not receiving our e-newsletter, please sign up by clicking on the E-Newsletter icon at the bottom of our homepage to receive future correspondence. Email Lexi Boudreaux (lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org) this morning to have today's email forwarded to you.

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
617-547-2724, ext. 22
karenmc@firstchurchcambridge.org

Minister of Street Outreach

Rev. Kate Layzer
617-851-5074
kate@thefriday.cafe

Pastoral Associate

Lexi Boudreaux
lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org

Pastoral Associate

Carlyle Stewart
carlyle@firstchurchcambridge.org

Director of Music

Peter Sykes
617-645-0833
psykes@aol.com

Director, Creative Worship & Arts

Sarah Higginbotham
617-547-2724, ext. 42
shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org

Staff Composer

Patricia Van Ness
www.patriciavanness.com

Poet-in-Residence

Jean Dany Joachim
jeandany@gmail.com

Shelter Director

Jim Stewart
617-661-1873
jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org

Director of Operations

Kirsten Manville
617-547-2724, ext. 21
parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org

Facilities Manager

Kris McQuage-Loukas
617-547-2724, ext. 44
facilities@firstchurchcambridge.org

Office Assistant

Bruce Dillenbeck
617-547-2724
bruce@firstchurchcambridge.org

Sextons

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

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Here are easy ways to do it:



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



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11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138
www.firstchurchcambridge.org