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**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

**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 28, 2020

#### Leading Worship

Dan Smith, Senior Minister  
Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts  
Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate  
Peter Sykes, Music Director  
Joe Welker, technology support

Artwork of the Creation Story is by Hilary Hopkins

*The photograph on the bulletin cover is of Waffles, sitting in the pew next to James Blanc.*

## GATHERING

## VOLUNTARY

Rejoice Greatly, My Soul

Georg Böhm

## \*HYMN 51

All Creatures of our God Now Sing (Verses 1, 4 and 5)

*(see page 4)*

## \*GREETING

Dan Smith

L: All you stars of heavens, bless the Lord.

All you waters above the Firmament, bless the Lord:

**C: Praise and magnify God for ever!**

L: Sun and Moon, bless the Lord.

Winter and Summer, bless the Lord.

**C: Praise and magnify God for ever!**

L: All you Nights and Days, bless the Lord.

Let the Earth bless the Lord:

**C: Praise and magnify God for ever!**

L: All you Mountains and Hills, bless the Lord.

All you Green Things upon the Earth, bless the Lord:

**C: Praise and magnify God for ever!**

L: All you Whales, and all that move in the Waters, bless the Lord.

All you Fowls of the Air, bless the Lord:

**C: Praise and magnify God for ever!**

L: All you Beasts and Cattle, bless the Lord.

All Sons, Daughters and Siblings, bless the Lord:

**C: Praise and magnify God for ever!**

## WORDS OF WELCOME

Sarah Higginbotham

## ANTHEM

All Things Bright & Beautiful  
*First Church Choir, 2016*

Arr. P. Sykes

## CONFESSING

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Lexi Boudreaux

## SILENCE

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**C: O God, your fertile earth is slowly being stripped of its riches.**

**Open our eyes to see.**

**O God, your living waters are slowly being choked with chemicals.**

**Open our eyes to see.**

**O God, your creatures are slowly dying  
and your people are suffering.**

**Open our eyes to see.**

**God our maker, so move us by the wonder of creation,  
that we repent and care more deeply.**

**So move us to grieve the loss of life,  
that we learn to cherish and protect your world. Amen.**

## DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

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

### OPENING THE WORD

## PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING Genesis 1:1-31 and 2:1-4

## REFLECTION

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

*Our slideshow of pets and other animals is accompanied by Peter Sykes playing excerpts from "The Carnival of the Animals" by Camille Saint-Saëns.*

## 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

**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-9

Psalm 148 (verses 1, 4 and 5)

*(see page 5)*

## \*BENEDICTION

## \*CHORAL RESPONSE

Thuma Mina

1. (Send me, Lord.)

**Send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus,  
send me, Jesus, send me, Lord.**

3. (Fill me, Lord.)

**Fill me, Jesus....**

2. (Lead me, Lord.)

**Lead me, Jesus...**

4. (Thuma mina.)

**Thuma mina, thuma mina  
thuma mina, somandla.**

## VOLUNTARY

Rejoice Greatly, My Soul

Georg Böhm

OPENING HYMN

All Creatures of Our God, Now Sing 51

Unison

verses 1, 4, and 5

1. All crea-tures of our God, now sing; lift up your voic-es, let them  
 2. O rush-ing wind with voice so strong, O clouds that sail in heaven a-  
 3. O flow-ing wa-ter, pure and clear, make mu-sic for your God to  
 4. Now we who are of ten-der heart, for-giv-ing oth-ers, take our  
 5. Let all things their cre-a-tor bless, and wor-ship God in hum-ble-

ring, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia! O burn-ing sun with  
 long, sing your prais-es Al-le-lu-ia! O ris-ing morn, in  
 hear, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia! O fire so mas-ter-  
 part sing-ing prais-es, Al-le-lu-ia! To God we lift our  
 ness, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia! O praise the One who

gold-en beam, O sil-ver moon with soft-er gleam,  
 praise re-joice, O lights of eve-ning, find a voice,  
 ful and bright, that gives to all both warmth and light, O sing prais-es,  
 pain and care, the bur-den-ed sor-rows that we bear,  
 gives us birth, re-deem-ing, giv-ing life its worth,

O sing prais-es, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

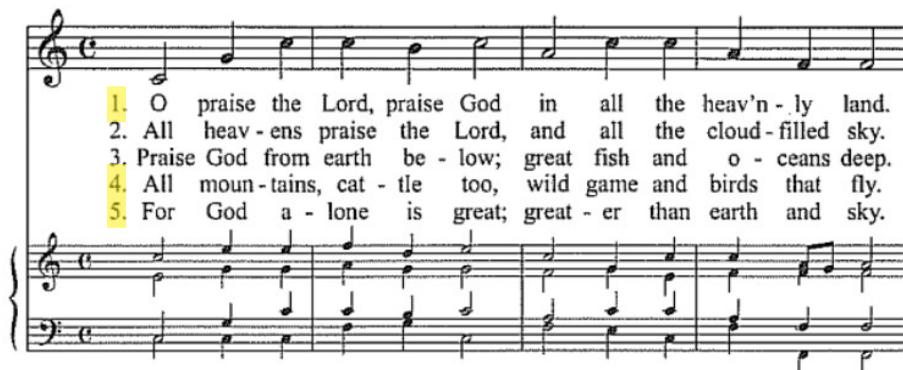
WORDS: St. Francis of Assisi, 1225; tr. William H. Draper, 1925, alt.  
 MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Cologne, 1623;  
 harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, *The English Hymnal*, 1906

LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
 88.44.88 w. alleluias

# CLOSING HYMN

## Psalm 148

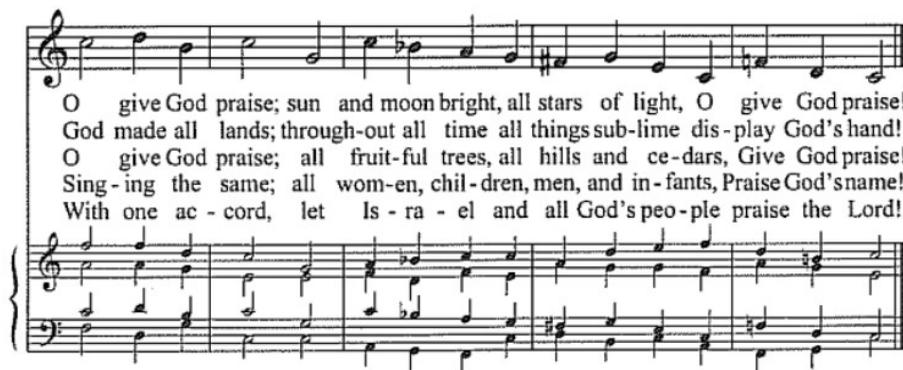
verses 1, 4, and 5



1. O praise the Lord, praise God in all the heav'n - ly land.  
2. All heav - ens praise the Lord, and all the cloud - filled sky.  
3. Praise God from earth be - low; great fish and o - ceans deep.  
4. All moun - tains, cat - tle too, wild game and birds that fly.  
5. For God a - lone is great; great - er than earth and sky.



All an - gels praise our God, and all the sa - cred band.  
O let them praise the Lord, for God has set them high.  
Fire and hail, frost and snow, strong winds God makes to sweep.  
All lead - ers of the earth, judg - es that rule on high.  
God prais - es all the saints and strength - ens Is - rael's cry.



O give God praise; sun and moon bright, all stars of light, O give God praise!  
God made all lands; through-out all time all things sub-lime dis-play God's hand!  
O give God praise; all fruit-ful trees, all hills and ce-dars, Give God praise!  
Sing - ing the same; all wom-en, chil-dren, men, and in-fants, Praise God's name!  
With one ac - cord, let Is - ra - el and all God's peo-ple praise the Lord!

WORDS: New translation by Denise Karuth

MUSIC: New England Psalter, 1698

PROPER TUNE for PSALM 148

## YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For Andrea Fiorillo and her family, who are mourning the loss of Andrea's father, Dante Fiorillo, who died last Thursday.
- In celebration with Katie Omberg, who was joyfully affirmed for ordination at her Ecclesiastical Council this past Tuesday.
- For Colin McCarty, who suffered a seizure recently and is undergoing tests.
- For Jessalyn Jarest's father Jake Jarest, Pèpère to Nathan and Hazel James, who has received good news regarding his prognosis. Jessalyn and her family are grateful for all the prayers, as well as for modern medical science!
- For Rich Goode's mother, Donna Goode, who is receiving palliative care due to her declining health.
- For former long-time First Church member Nancy Sanders, who was hospitalized recently and hopes to return home soon.
- In celebration for the Supreme Court's recent decisions upholding Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) immigration policy and upholding laws against discrimination of LGBTQ persons in the workplace.
- For our cities and our nation during this time of reckoning with historic and ongoing violence against Black and Indigenous persons and persons of color. We pray for all protesting and for a new birth of justice and healing throughout our land. We pray also for all who are continuing to grieve the recent killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks, and so many others.
- 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 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.
- 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; Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters; and Katie, Moana Bentin's sister.

## 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.

## FIRST CHURCH NEWS

**SUMMER SCHEDULE** Sunday Morning Worship will begin at 10:00 a.m. starting on July 5. During the months of July and August, there will be a mix a livestream and pre-recorded worship. We are excited to continue experimenting with the possibilities surrounding virtual services, and we hope you will continue to worship with us online until we can all be together again in the sanctuary. The church building continues to be locked but is staffed by sextons during limited hours Monday - Friday. We may expand these hours as the summer progresses, but for now, sextons are working from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. If you need to access the building, please contact Director of Operations Kirsten Manville and give prior notice of the day and time you would like to enter. This is both for contact tracing purposes and also to let the sextons know to expect you. Office Assistant Bruce Dillenbeck will be in either the church office or finance office for a few hours every Tuesday and Friday afternoon throughout the summer. When in the church office, he will answer the phone, sort the mail, and do other tasks that cannot be done from home. If you need access to the office, please contact Kirsten and she can help set up a time for you to come to the building. As Massachusetts and Cambridge continue to update their reopening plans, we will continue to closely monitor their guidelines and recommendations. Any change to the above information will be communicated in a timely manner, both here in the bulletin and via the First Glance E-newsletter. Please email Kirsten if you have any questions: [parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org).

**DAY SHELTER AND FOOD DISTRIBUTION UPDATE** The City of Cambridge intends to continue food and funding so that the meal distribution program currently being carried out from the Tower Room here at First Church can continue through this summer. Since many community meal programs were shut down due to the pandemic, as many as 120 meals (prepared by local restaurants) are distributed, 5 days a week, from First Church. The city also has committed to continue funding to allow the First Church Shelter to remain open on a 24-hour basis through the summer. First Church's Shelter staff, Oversight Committee, Director of Operations, and Facilities Manager are already working together to identify ways to ensure that this essential service is able to continue without disrupting return of Newtowne School and others who make use of the building in the weeks and months ahead.

## 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 Wednesday, July 15, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Email Peggy Stevens (peggy@kids4peaceboston.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

**ZOOM COFFEE HOUR Today after worship** Catch up with First Church friends at Zoom Coffee Hour. [Click here to join](#) or use the following information:

Meeting ID: 876 6474 8993

Password: coffee

**ONLINE WORSHIP AND COMMUNITY SURVEY FOR FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE** We have been live-streaming worship for more than 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/vyjifGit5S15cmbH>

**JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH** Before the global pandemic hit, we had planned to offer programming and worship 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!

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAYING CONNECTED

**NEW TUESDAY EVENING ZOOM COMPLINE PRAYER SERVICE Tuesdays, 8:30 - 8:45 p.m., via Zoom, beginning July 7** Are you feeling the need to switch up the way you connect with worship this summer? Are you craving some time before bed to center yourself in sacred stillness and the comfort of community? We will be offering a new participatory evening prayer service this summer. Join us on Zoom for a short evening prayer service on Tuesdays at 8:30 p.m., beginning July 7. The Zoom invitation will be provided next week.

**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](mailto:lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org)) this morning to have today's email forwarded to you.

- **Tuesdays** Street Outreach Call with Kate Layzer, 4:00 p.m.;  
FCC Professional Caregivers' Call, 4:00 p.m.
- **Thursdays** 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

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAYING CONNECTED

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

**YOUNG ADULTS ZOOM GATHERING** The Young Adults of First Church (mostly 20- and 30-some-things) gather regularly on Zoom for a casual catch up and discussion of faith journeys, with questioning encouraged! Our Gentle Blasphemy group meets casually, as able, usually on Wednesdays. Get more info from Phil Jones: [p.robbennolt.jones@gmail.com](mailto:p.robbennolt.jones@gmail.com)

**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

**SUMMER FAITH & LIFE GROUPS** Register now for a Summer Faith & Life Group! Descriptions are below. [Click here to complete the registration form.](#) Please register ASAP so facilitators can plan accordingly. Questions? Contact Pastoral Associate Lexi Boudreaux: [lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org).

### **HOW TO BE AN ANTI-RACIST READING GROUP**

We will explore Dr. Ibrim X. Kendi's analysis of how racism affects all of us, white and black, and how we can change the narrative of race in the United States. (Note: Dr. Kendi will be joining the faculty at Boston University next month to launch a new Center for Antiracist Research). *How to Be an Anti-Racist* is at once a perceptive analysis of systemic racism in the US and a riveting story of Kendi's life and growing awareness of his own racism and of the structures that perpetuate white supremacy in our society. We'll discuss our reactions to Dr. Kendi's take on anti-racism and talk about what lessons his story may offer us as individuals and as members of First Church. Registrants will receive an outline and questions for discussion. *How to Be an Anti-Racist* is available from Amazon (hard cover: \$16.26; Kindle: \$14.99).

**Facilitators:** Beth Loomis and Dave Kidder

**Meetings:** Wednesdays, July 22, and 29  
7:00 - 8:30 p.m., via Zoom

### **EXPLORING A PRACTICE OF REPARATIONS**

We will explore motivations for giving reparations, recount current and future plans for individual giving, foster accountability, promote interracial relationship-building as a precursor for reparations, and discuss the Biblical and theological bases for reparations. We will share articles about reparations and also discuss the Fellowship of

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Reconciliation's "Truth and Reparations" pledge form. All are welcome, whether you are just starting to wonder about reparations or are already involved in an individual or collective practice.

**Facilitators:** Dan Smith and Alice Kidder

**Meetings:** Mondays, July 27, August 31, September 14 and 28  
5:00 - 6:00 p.m., via Zoom

### **ME AND WHITE SUPREMACY REFLECTION GROUP**

We will embark on a 6-week journey to examine our own privilege, unpack our biases, reduce the number of times we unconsciously inflict damage on people of color, and take action to help other white people do better, too. Each week, we'll undertake individual reflections found in Layla Saad's bestselling book, *Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor*. In weekly Zoom meetings, we'll work with a partner and also in small groups to share our struggles and our learning. Peggy Stevens and Dan Smith shared this material as prayer partners during Lent of 2019 and both found the 28 daily reflections to be profoundly challenging, provocative and enriching despite their own work on these issues in recent years. People at all levels of experience and background with the topic are invited to participate.

**Facilitators:** Peggy Stevens and other Road To Freedom participants

**Meetings:** Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 a.m.  
July 23 & 30, August 6, 13, 20, 27, via Zoom

### **DIVERSIFYING YOUR BOOKSHELF: THE BLUEST EYE BOOK GROUP**

Women are invited to gather to discuss *The Bluest Eye*, the first novel written by Toni Morrison and the winner of the 1993 Nobel Prize in Literature. Over three sessions, we will discuss themes such as racial identity, concepts of beauty, and how race, gender, and economic status determine power. Time will be granted to connect these themes with our lives and our society today.

**Facilitators:** Alex Steinert-Evoy and Susan Reynolds

**Meetings:** Tuesdays, July 28, August 4 and 11  
5:00 - 6:15 p.m., via Zoom

### **BIBLE STUDY: THE BOOK OF EXODUS**

Exodus chronicles how Israel was forged out of slavery, and thus forms part of the charter for the liberation of oppressed peoples everywhere. The drama of Israel's escape from Egypt, supported by an amazing series of divine interventions, makes Exodus one of the Bible's most riveting stories. Themes that will arise include: encountering God, the trials of leadership, divine signs and wonders and mighty acts, covenant and the

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Ten Commandments, national identity, and the courage of faith. We will read the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV, our pew bibles) and draw upon the guidance of Walter Wink's "Transforming Bible Study."

**Facilitator:** Rev. Carter West

**Meetings:** TBD

### **AN INTRODUCTION TO PAUL TILlich'S THEOLOGY**

Join with others to discuss Paul Tillich's sermon "You are Accepted" in a two-session introduction to Paul Tillich's theology.

**Facilitator:** Adam Weiss

**Meetings:** TBD

### **GENEALOGY: FINDING OUR FAMILY HISTORIES**

Interested in genealogy? Just starting on your family tree? Or have you been working on it for years? We can gain an understanding of our history through the lens of our own families. We'll look at immigration, migration, race, religion and economics, and anything else that people are interested in exploring. The group will start out by gathering bi-weekly three times this summer, and then decide from there how and when people would like to connect as we explore our family stories.

**Facilitator:** Karen McArthur

**Meetings:** TBD

**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.

**MISTAKES AND MIRACLES CONVERSATION 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

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

out about some of the predictable challenges other churches have faced on the journey and learn how to avoid them. The next opportunity to discuss will happen on Wednesday, July 15. Please let Peggy Stevens know if you'd like to join us for the discussion so she can send you the link: [peggy@kids4peaceboston.org](mailto:peggy@kids4peaceboston.org)

*Mistakes and Miracles* is available online 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](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](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](mailto:peggy@kids4peaceboston.org).

### **ONLINE CLASS ON THE SANCTUARY MOVEMENT LED BY CISC FRIEND Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m.,**

**July 7 - August 11** Hebrew College student and member of the Cambridge Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition Ryan Leszner is offering an online class entitled "Living Sanctuaries: Immigration and Jewish Tradition." The course explores the sanctuary movement in the United States of America through the lens of our ancient texts. Together we'll dive deep into our ancient texts to examine what it says about immigrants, as well as deliberate how our tradition impacts our world today. We'll ask questions about responsibility, activism, and showing up for those who need it. Active volunteers in the sanctuary movement are welcome, as are those who are curious to learn more. Come to class with an open mind and an open heart, as we explore together how we can best support those seeking sanctuary. Cost: \$96; Register here: <https://hec-web.scansoftware.com/cafeweb/tapestry?page=CommunityEducation&cnum=CIRCL-C10&csec=12&sem=202100>

*Have an announcement for the bulletin?*

*Please send information about church or wider community events to Sarah Higginbotham ([shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org)) by 10:00 a.m. on Tuesdays to be considered for the following Sunday's bulletin.*

## 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!

**THANK YOU FROM THE SHELTER** The Shelter guests, Jim Stewart and his staff, and Shelter Oversight Committee members want to extend their heartfelt gratitude to all who have made money donations and dropped off meals, masks, and other supplies. The guests feel well-cared for, and are grateful that you are thinking of them.

**FIRST CHURCH SHELTER LUNCH HELP** Would you be able to make lunch for the guests living in the First Church Shelter? For the last several months, many generous members of our church and wider community have provided meals for the daytime shelter hours. Since the First Church Shelter will continue a 24/7 operation through the summer, now is the time to expand the circle of helpers! Sandwiches or simple entrees would be very appreciated. [Sign up here](#) to save your date.

**NEEDED: NEW OR GENTLY USED T-SHIRTS FOR FRIDAY CAFÉ GUESTS** Now that summer is really here, the Friday Café has been receiving many requests for t-shirts! If you have extras taking up space in your drawer, consider dropping them off at church on a Friday between 12:00 and 3:00. You will find our crew at the door to the Tower Room, next to the church parking area on Mason St. Shirts should be washed, individually bagged, and labeled by size. Men's sizes are especially needed. Thank you for donating!

**THE FRIDAY CAFÉ BAGGED LUNCH SIGNUP HAS OPENINGS!** As the Café extends into July and August for the first time ever, our weekly bagged lunch signup finally has some gaps! If you have been trying to get into the schedule, now is your chance. Sign up to prepare 10 bagged lunches for hungry neighbors some upcoming Friday by visiting: [www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d45aaa628ab9-friday](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d45aaa628ab9-friday) to claim your spot. Many thanks!

**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!

## 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:



#### **St. John Cantius, Chicago: Latin High Mass, Sunday June 21**

In some places Catholics still offer the Tridentine Mass, high mass in Latin with Gregorian chant propers for the day (Introit, Gradual, Offertory and Communion) and in this recording the ordinary also in Gregorian chant (Kyrie, Gloria in excelsis, Creed, Sanctus, Agnus Dei). In Boston, such a mass is offered regularly in the lower church at the Holy Cross Cathedral in the South End. In this live streamed mass from St. John Cantius a small schola of men sings the propers and ordinary of the mass. At times the congregation joins in some of the simple versicles and responses that occur throughout the mass and the amens for prayers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-9U4sepQX8>

#### **Graduel D'Alienor De Bretagne - Plainchant et polyphonies des XIII & XIV siecles**

Most of the singing in this recording of 13th and 14th century plainchant and polyphony is by trebles, a good contrast to the recording above. I noted in the comments section that a Hindu listened and found the music beautiful. That affirms one of our premises for Night Song at First Church: that, although Christian in nature, people of other faiths can and have appreciated and benefited from attending. Another listener comments about the music bringing peace and focus. A third says she feels the music in her soul, and that it's beautiful and spiritual.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kn6eUemXtyA>

## LOOKING AHEAD

### **Sunday, June 28**

- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Blessing of the Animals, via live-stream
- 12:10 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour

### **Monday, June 29**

- 5:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Church School Visioning Meeting, via Zoom

### **Tuesday, June 30**

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

### **Wednesday, July 1**

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

### **Thursday, July 2**

- 12:00 p.m. FCC Kids' Prayer & Connection Call with Sarah Higginbotham
- 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, July 3 - Church Office & Building Closed for Independence Day Holiday**

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

### **Saturday, July 4**

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

### **Sunday, July 5**

- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Multigenerational Communion, via YouTube premiere

***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

### 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

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



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



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE  
CONGREGATIONAL, 1633-1636  
United Church of Christ  
11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138  
www.firstchurchcambridge.org