



SUMMER WORSHIP

**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 months 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

August 30, 2020

Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach
Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate
Jaz Buchanan, Pastoral Associate
Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts
Peter Sykes, Director of Music
Joe Welker, Technical Support

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Prelude and Impromptu

Craig Phillips

*HYMN 7

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (verses 1, 3, and 4)

(see page 4)

*GREETING

Sarah Higginbotham

L: Siblings in the Spirit, God is good!

C: All the time!

L: All the time!

C: God is good!

L: Then, come if you are weary,

C: for God will give you rest!

L: Come if you are hungry for connection,

C: for God will fill your heart with blessing!

L: Come if you are looking for transformation in this new normal,

C: for God's love, truth, and justice are real!**All: For God's presence is here in this sacred time and space.**

WORDS OF WELCOME

Jaz Buchanan and Kate Layzer

ANTHEM

JLM (Jesus Loves Me)
First Church Choir, 2019

Bradley Phillips

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

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 the lives of others,
on our own lives, and on the life of the world.****Forgive us, we pray, for what we have done****and what we have left undone,****and for what we have left unlearned.****Lead us toward wholeness, teaching us, renewing us,****and enabling us to grow in love and in faith.****In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GREETING OF PEACE

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING Psalm 26:1–8

READING Matthew 16:21–28

SERMON Kate Layzer

*HYMN Once in a Garden Newly Planted *(see page 5)*

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH & WORLD Lexi Boudreaux

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**

***HYMN 352**

Go Forth for God

(see page 6)

***BENEDICTION**

VOLUNTARY

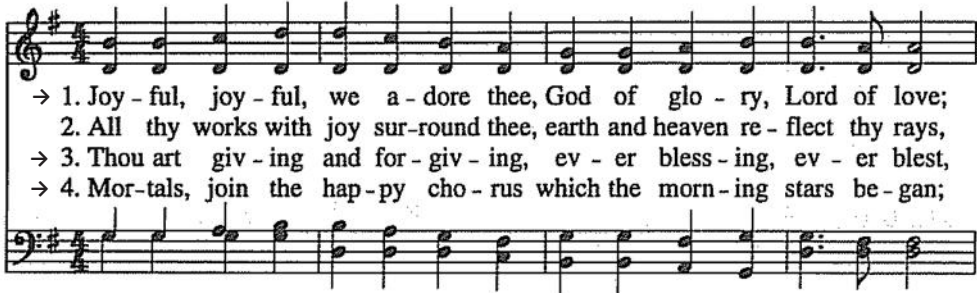
Epilogue

Craig Phillips

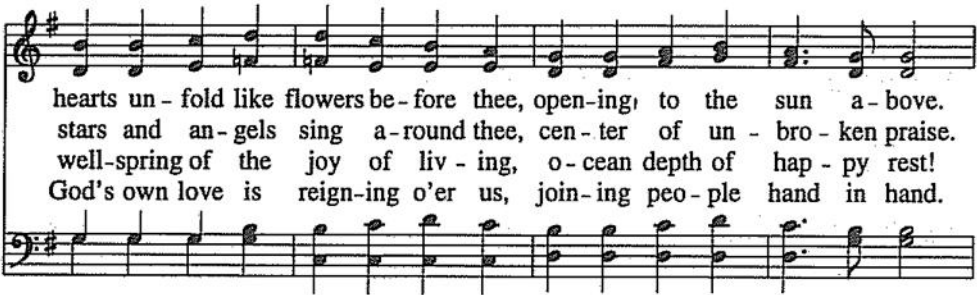
OPENING HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

verses 1, 3, and 4



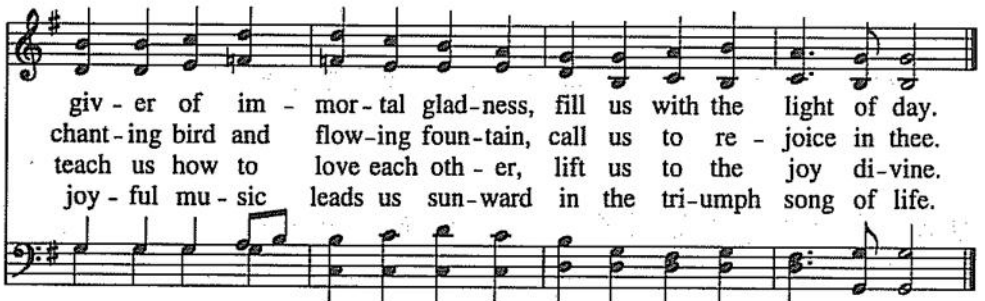
→ 1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
→ 2. All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
→ 3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
→ 4. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, open - ing, to the sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
God's own love is reign - ing o'er us, join - ing peo - ple hand in hand.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Source of grace and fount of bless - ing, all who live in love are thine;
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife,



giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine.
joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward in the tri - umph song of life.

WORDS: Henry van Dyke, 1907, alt.
MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1864

HYMN TO JOY
87.87D

SERMON HYMN

Once in a garden newly planted

Kate Layzer

Peter Sykes

Once in a gar - den new - ly plan - ted,
 "Lord," smiled the Wind, "I know You bet - ter -
 Out of the moun - tain Fire spoke fierce - ly:
 "All of the rich - es of cre - a - tion,"
 Love bent and breathed where we lay sleep - ing,

In - fi - nite Love reached down to Earth; Stooped in the dust and
 stron - ger than ty - phoon, frost, or tide; You are not like this
 "What does Dust know of truth so bright?" Love said, "For truth this
 Thun - dered the Sea, "Come from A - bove. What can this beg - gar
 In - to our hearts most ten - der - ly. Plan - ted in earth's sweet,

shaped a per - son: "Love looks like this," Love said to Earth.
 help - less crea - ture!" "Love's strength is weak - ness," Love re - plied.
 Dust is burn - ing; It will be - hold a glo - rious light."
 hope to of - fer?" "Some will pour out their all," said Love.
 fra - grant gar - den Seeds of Love's bright e - ter - ni - ty.

CLOSING HYMN

Go Forth for God

1. Go forth for God, go to the world in peace; be of good
 2. Go forth for God, go to the world in love; strength - en the
 3. Go forth for God, go to the world in strength; hold fast the
 4. Go forth for God, go to the world in joy, to serve God's

cour - age, armed with heaven - ly grace, in God's good Spir - it
 faint, give cour - age to the weak; help the af - flict - ed;
 good, be ur - gent for the right; ren - der to no one
 peo - ple ev - ery day and hour, and serv - ing Christ, our

dai - ly to in - crease, till in the king - dom we be - hold God's
 rich - ly from a - bove God's love sup - plies the grace and power we
 e - vil; Christ at length shall o - ver - come all dark - ness with his
 ev - 'ry gift em - ploy, re - joic - ing in the Ho - ly Spir - it's

face. Go forth for God, go to the world in peace;
 seek. Go forth for God, go to the world in love;
 light. Go forth for God, go to the world in strength;
 power. Go forth for God, go to the world in joy,

WORDS: John Raphael Peacey, 1975
 MUSIC: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

OLD 124th
 10 10.10 10.10

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- In celebration with Sam Menapace, who recently took the position of Director of Christian Education at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Westborough. Sam is on the journey toward ordination in the ELCA.
- For Mary Martha Thiel, who will be having knee replacement surgery on Monday, August 31.
- For Taj Smith and his mother, who lives in Vacaville, CA, and who is facing the threat of evacuation due to wildfires in the region. For communities throughout California that are being devastated by the more than 500 wildfires currently burning there.
- For Susie Neubauer, who is being treated for severe and, at times, immobilizing knee pain.
- For the homeless community as they grieve the death of “Pikachu,” who was killed on his bike by a tractor trailer in Harvard Square on August 18; for his niece and others who witnessed the tragedy; and for the Boston area bicycle community as they mourn yet another fatal bicycle accident.
- For all students, parents, teachers, administrators, and support staff trying to navigate the seemingly impossible terrain of school re-opening decisions and plans; may they have strength and wisdom to balance competing demands for ongoing education, caregiving, and safety.
- For Jacob Blake, a Black man shot by police in Kenosha, WI, as he struggles to recover from his injuries, and for his family, who witnessed the shooting. We pray for Kenosha, as protestors have been killed and injured, and for all who experience extreme policing measures. We pray for those rallying for reform and for a new birth of racial justice and healing across our land.
- For all impacted by Hurricane Laura and all those in Southern and Gulf Coast communities living through what is expected to be a particularly unrelenting hurricane and tropical storm season.
- 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 who are in treatment for cancer: Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn’s mother; 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; Katie, Moana Bentin’s sister; and former First Church member Nancy Sanders.
- 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 they may know warmth, compassion, and companionship.
- 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.
- 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.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR Today, 11:00 a.m., via Zoom Join us for a time of fellowship and connection after the service.

[Click here to join](#) or use the following information:

Meeting ID: 876 6474 8993 Password: coffee

NEW TO FIRST CHURCH? Have you just begun joining us for online worship? Please consider filling out this [“virtual visitor card”](#) so that we might reach out and connect with you about our community. Newcomers’ gatherings will take place in a breakout room at Zoom Coffee Hour on second Sundays through the fall season, starting on September 13, Regathering Sunday.

WELCOME TO JAZ BUCHANAN, PASTORAL ASSOCIATE Jaz is incredibly grateful and delighted to join the FCC community! She grew up in New Jersey and graduated from SUNY New Paltz in 2013 with a BA in Women’s Studies and English. She then started working in higher education at Columbia University and pursued a MS in Nonprofit Management. Shortly after moving to NYC, Jaz joined and volunteered at Metropolitan Community Church of New York, where she fell in love with parish ministry. She married her beautiful wife Jackie, and they moved with their cat Mr. Bumble to Somerville. In her first year as a Master of Divinity student at Harvard Divinity School, she served Metropolitan Community Church in Boston. Most recently, she served United Parish in Brookline as a seminarian. She is currently pursuing ordination in the United Church of Christ. In her spare time, Jaz enjoys ballet, long walks, and watching (and rewatching) *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.

WELCOME BACK TO CARLYLE STEWART, COMMUNITY MINISTER OF RACIAL JUSTICE

Good news, church! Our recent Pastoral Associate Carlyle Stewart will be back this fall in a new grant-funded role as our Community Minister for Racial Justice. Thanks to funding from our [BU School of Theology Creative Callings Project](#) grant, Carlyle will be with us, albeit remotely, through January 2021. The part-time role (6 hours/week) will allow Carlyle to plan and lead three First Church online ‘town-hall’ style meetings in September, November and January, with some involving partners from the wider community. He will also be leading weekly theological reflection sessions on Biblical and spiritual themes related to our work of becoming an anti-racist church. We celebrate the work of the Spirit in our midst in our ongoing partnership with Carlyle, whose gifts are perfectly suited for this needed work of spiritual and theological grounding.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAYING CONNECTED

TUESDAY EVENING ZOOM COMPLINE PRAYER SERVICE Tuesdays, 8:30 - 8:45 p.m., via Zoom

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 are offering a participatory evening prayer service this summer on Tuesdays at 8:30 p.m.

[Click here to join](#) or use the following information:

Meeting ID: 890 9172 4810

Password: summer

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.

- **Tuesdays** FCC Professional Caregivers' Call, 4:00 p.m.
(Note change: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays only)
- **Thursdays** Shared Reflections on Richard Rohr Daily Devotionals, 5:00 p.m.
(Note change: 2nd and 4th Thursdays only);
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.
(On hiatus until September.)

FALL FAITH AND LIFE GROUPS: CALL FOR GROUP LEADERS We had over 70 people participate in our lay led small groups this summer! We had so much fun that we plan to do more of them this Fall. Are you interested in leading a small group over Zoom this Fall? Contact Pastoral Associate Lexi Boudreaux to discuss your idea for a Fall Faith & Life Group. 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 interests. We need each other now more than ever. If you are looking for a great way to dip your toes into the life of our church and stay connected outside of Sunday Worship this is for you! Questions? Please contact Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAYING CONNECTED

BIPOC SPACE, TIME, AND COMMUNITY If you are a Black, Indigenous or Person of Color (BIPOC) member of First Church, please consider joining an upcoming Zoom meeting designed as an active listening session to reflect, heal, support one another, and build community. Please contact Moana Bentin (moana.bentin@gmail.com) with questions or to receive an Zoom invitation to participate. This group is by BIPOC for BIPOC.

ONLINE WORSHIP LITURGISTS If you would like to participate as a leader in worship via video, this is your chance to sign up! ALL are welcome to contribute; [click here to access the signup sheet](#). Put your name and contact information next to the piece of the service you want to lead, and you will receive an email with instructions on how to contribute! We will be sending more of these out as we get closer to other Sunday dates. Thank you all so much for making online church feel like church! Questions? Contact Lexi Boudreaux: lexi@firstchurchcambridge.or

NEW COMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVE Covid-19 has changed our lives in fundamental ways, including how we do ministry together. We have been worshipping and doing the work of the church online for months, and still we are learning new ways to live into the “new normal” of digital ministry. It is becoming more and more vital that we find ways to do ministry not just on Sunday mornings, but in our daily lives together, whether that be on a Zoom call, by reading a Facebook post, by watching a YouTube video, or by contributing to our blog. This ministry is made possible through effective ways of communicating the good news that we and our world dearly need in this time. In the midst of it all, we are also in the middle of a new website project, imagining our new website as a virtual hub for our life together. ***We are forming a new team of First Church folks to think about how we are doing virtual ministry and to help with creating content for these platforms.*** Do you love Twitter or Instagram? Have you always wanted to start a podcast? Or perhaps you don’t know what your specific interest is yet, but all of this sounds really new and interesting to you? Please contact Pastoral Associate Lexi Boudreaux if you’d like to join this team.

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, including our pre-recorded services. The link to the channel is: <https://tinyurl.com/ryac3av>

LOOKING AHEAD AT FIRST CHURCH

WORSHIP RETURNS TO 11:00 A.M. NEXT SUNDAY As we turn the calendar to September, don't forget to tune in to worship at 11:00 a.m. next Sunday, September 6, as we return to the later worship hour for the new program year.

PLANNING FOR THE FALL Living through a pandemic is not something most of us could have predicted, or even thought of as a possibility. We have all been learning as we go—adjusting to this new way of interacting, doing, and being. One thing has become clear over these last months: this pandemic will be with us for a long time yet. In recognition of this, First Church staff are homing in on a structure for our Sunday schedule that provides remote programming, worship, and fellowship/connection. If at some point this fall, we find that limited in-person gatherings seem feasible, we will plan to “add on” in-person components, but not alter the remote access. Remote will be our default; in-person will be an added bonus. We are working to ensure that, even though we need to remain physically distanced, our connection as a congregation remains strong and is felt deeply by each of you. Please read the [Fall edition of EVENT](#) for more details.

REGATHERING SUNDAY, September 13! Join us on Sunday, September 13, as we “regather” the First Church community from near and far for a morning of online programming and a special live-stream service! From 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. or so, plan to join a Zoom call for an orientation to our fall programming for all ages. Learn about how we can all stay connected through this extended season of social distance. Then take a break for a walk or a cup of coffee and come back at 11 for worship from our sanctuary, with greetings from a host of First Church members! After church, connect with old friends and meet new ones via Zoom coffee hour with break-out rooms. We may not be able to gather in person yet, but we can surely gather and re-gather in Spirit, giving thanks to God for our community that connects us even when we are apart.

SNEUCC CENTERING PRAYER: A SPIRITUAL RESOURCE FOR THESE TIMES Wednesdays, September 9 & 16, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. The Health & Wellness Team of the Southern New England Conference UCC (SNEUCC) is pleased to offer Centering Prayer in our series of webinars to promote resilience in the SNEUCC. Terry Shaughnessy, Centering Prayer Retreat Leader and Spiritual Director, will introduce participants to the meditation/prayer practice known as Centering Prayer, which has deep Christian roots, is easy to learn, and provides a tremendous resource for navigating these times of pandemic. In this two-part webinar, we will learn about the “prayer of quiet” and how some measure of silence, outside and within us, is necessary for spiritual growth as well as for strengthening the spiritual immune system. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.sneucc.org/#events/> Questions? Contact Debbie Ringen ringend@sneucc.org

LOOKING AHEAD AT FIRST CHURCH

THE CALL TO RETURN: SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS ON RACIAL JUSTICE with Carlyle Stewart
Town Hall meetings beginning on Sunday, September 27 at 12:30 p.m. and weekly small group sessions. At First Church, we have spent a lot of time talking about remembrance, repentance, and reparations, and about how all of these are a part of our work of Racial Justice. As we seek to sustain and grow this work, we need an ever deeper reliance on God and on the hoped-filled resources of faith tradition. We are pleased to announce that Carlyle Stewart will be joining us in the coming season to lead a series of sessions and town hall meetings around the theme of The Call to Return: Spiritual Reflections on Racial Justice.

How can we return to God in our daily walks and in our daily work for racial justice? How can we return to our truest and fullest selves in ways that can celebrate and manifest diversity in our relationships and community? We will explore together how our scriptural and theological tradition shows us that returning towards God involves turning towards a place of harmony, inclusion, and the abolition of structural racism in our communities. This shared journey will require humility and vulnerability that will allow us to strengthen our faith and our bonds with others while restoring our common hope and joy.

In the coming months, we will be hosting a series of town hall meetings starting on Sunday, September 27 at 12:30 p.m. We will also be having weekly sessions, beginning in September, where those interested can gather and discuss assigned texts and engage in deeper reflection around the topics presented. If you are interested in participating in the regular reflection sessions, please email Carlyle at cfstewartiv94@gmail.com or carlyle@firstchurchcambridge.org. The specific dates of those sessions will be finalized soon.

REPORT ON GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION'S (GBIO) RACIAL JUSTICE CAMPAIGN Congrats to the 2000+ leaders in GBIO member institutions and beyond who "put feet to their faith." They acted in this critical moment to push forward a holistic racial justice agenda, and our collective work has helped move key legislation into joint conference committees where final bills are being negotiated between the House and Senate. You can find details on the bills in the [Fall edition of EVENT](#). We will monitor as the bills in conference committee proceed, and we will send action alerts as needed. Please see [THIS LINK](#) for a full report and summary of the GBIO's 2020 Racial Justice Campaign. IDM teams and congregational core teams are following up with their members for relational meetings and evaluation. Please save the date and [RSVP HERE](#) for our **September 10 virtual meeting at 6:00 p.m.** to celebrate, reflect and look forward. We will send out reminders as the date approaches. Special thanks to First Church GBIO core team leaders, Casey Marsh, Seth Pate, Will Erickson (GBIO Liaison Team) and Phil Jones (GBIO Racial Justice Campaign Team).

BECOMING AN ANTI-RACIST CHURCH

Prayer, Reflection, and Action

Summer 2020

White silence is violence.
Black Lives Matter



The following statement expresses First Church's intentions and commitments for the summer of 2020. This statement builds on several years of concerted efforts to raise our self-awareness, build relationships, and act towards racial justice and healing.

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.

We invite you to commit serious energy and sacrificial love to at least two of these levels of work.

SOUL LEVEL

☪ Say Their Names. North Carolina Laureate Jaki Shelton Green mourns George Floyd and other lives that were taken with [Oh My Brother, a work of spoken word and images](#).

☪ Learn more about how to act on your belief that [Black Lives Matter](#).

CONGREGATIONAL LEVEL

☪ By the end of August, over 50 First Church people will have engaged in Faith & Life groups looking at issues of race. There will be further opportunities for congregational-level work in the fall.

COMMUNITY LEVEL

☪ Follow the [Greater Boston Interfaith Organization](#) on social media to follow the progress of our efforts with legislators on Beacon Hill. Re-post and re-tweet GBIO to amplify the message.

☪ Consider following FCC member Alice Kidder's suggestion to begin your work on police accountability in your town by creating a list of questions about your town's police force. Then find out if grassroots organizations working on the issue already exist and get connected. Can't find a citizens' organization in your town? Consider starting one!

NATIONAL LEVEL

☪ Learn more to further understand policing as injustice. Alex Vitale, author and professor of sociology at Brooklyn College, makes a compelling argument for ending policing and replacing it with alternatives for public safety. [Watch Professor Vitale's recent presentation to The World Fellowship Center](#), based on his book *The End of Policing*, that looks at ending modern policing and its role in upholding inequalities.

FIRST CHURCH IN THE NEWS AND IN THE WORLD

UCC MENTAL HEALTH BLOG FEATURES JENNY STUART Rev. Jenny Stuart is a Community Minister at First Church, a clinical social worker specializing in psychological trauma, and a psychotherapist at the Danielsen Institute at Boston University. Jenny recently contributed to the UCC Mental Health Network Blog. Don't miss her piece about Covid, young people, mental health and faith: <https://www.mhn-ucc.org/2020/08/24/damage-by-jennifer-stuart/>

FIRST CHURCH FEATURED IN DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL'S FAITH AND LEADERSHIP ARTICLE
['400 years of tears' -- how three churches in the present are beginning to atone for the past.](#)
Thanks to Duke Divinity School Leadership Education program and online Faith and Leadership magazine for featuring First Church in a recent article about congregations that are wrestling with their slaveholding past. Dave Kidder, Peggy Stevens, and Dan Smith are each quoted in the long-form piece. To read it, click on the link above.

DAN SMITH JOINS PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE ON HARVARD AND THE LEGACY OF SLAVERY
In November 2019, Harvard President Lawrence Bacow announced the multi-year Presidential Initiative on Harvard and the Legacy of Slavery. Senior Minister Dan Smith was honored to be invited by Bacow to serve on the Presidential Committee, guiding the Initiative's work. Given First Church's historic ties to Harvard and our recent work examining the legacy of slavery at First Church, Dan is currently co-chairing the "Campus and Community" sub-committee which is focused on sharing Harvard's slaveholding history and examining its ongoing impact at Harvard and in the wider communities of Cambridge and Boston. To learn more, you can visit the [Initiative website](#). First Church is welcome to attend Initiative programming and events; please stay tuned for updates from Dan as the Committee's work unfolds.

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

COVID-19 HOUSING STABILIZATION PROGRAM The City of Cambridge has announced the creation of a COVID-19 Housing Stabilization Program to provide short-term financial assistance to individuals and families in Cambridge who are experiencing housing instability due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Residents are encouraged to apply for the COVID-19 Housing Stabilization Program online at www.cambridgema.gov/housingfund.

THE FRIDAY CAFÉ BAGGED LUNCH SIGNUP HAS MOVED! Please note the new web address—and thank you for signing up to prepare 10 bagged lunches for hungry neighbors some upcoming Friday! <https://signup.com/go/rfHdKHr>

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!

SUPPORT FOR LEBANON An explosion in Beirut injured over 4,000 Lebanese people with at least 100 fatalities. Prayers and aid are needed to help recovery, and to begin rebuilding destroyed sections of downtown. The Red Cross of Lebanon is accepting donations at: redcross.org.lb

TAKE TWO MINUTES TO ACT FOR POLICE REFORM The policing reform omnibus bill, still in legislative committee, diverts away from what Black and Latinx people most impacted by incarceration are calling for. It is not good enough! [Read Families for Justice as Healing's statement on their website](#). You will see suggestions for action, including support for No Cost Calls from prisons. Sheriffs are exerting pressure to oppose this humanitarian bill. A script for e-mailing or calling your legislators is provided on the website.

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:

Washington National Cathedral Morning Service, August 23, 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plAW9GUkGdc>

I listen to this Sunday service weekly not because they sing chant, but because they often use music I'm not familiar with, plus they have made a commitment to using traditional as well as "contemporary" music, which they have elevated. If that's of interest to you, listen to the entire service to see how they blend it. The real reason I'm bringing this to your attention is the piece "Kaddisch" by Maurice Ravel; it is chant-like, stunning, and powerful in a performance by baritone Matthew Goinz and organist Thomas Sheehan. It comes 18 minutes into the service, after the organ prelude and the welcome by the presider, the Rev. Canon Cope.

St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle, Compline Men's Compline Choir, August 16, 2020

<https://complinepodcast.org/?p=1852>

As you know, I greatly admire the office of compline from St. Mark's Cathedral. This service contains the hymn "God That Madest Earth and Heaven" (Tune: Ar hyd y nos), a hymn I love but haven't thought of or used in some time. The first verse is in traditional four part harmony. In the second verse, the melody is sung by the baritones. You can go to the Compline Underground site (<https://complineunderground.wordpress.com>) to see the program and texts for this service. Scroll down past the August 23 listing (that podcast hasn't been posted yet) to August 16. In addition, you can explore to learn more about Compline Underground.

Voices of Tranquility Gregorian Chants Canto Gregoriano

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wcCcUEYzGyo&t=1956s>

You will hear solo voices, as well as groups of men and groups of women, singing chant in this meditative recording.

Have an announcement for the bulletin?

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

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, August 30

- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship via Live-Stream, Kate Layzer, preaching
- 11:00 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Monday, August 31

- 5:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 5:00 p.m. Reparations Faith & Life Group, via Zoom

Tuesday, September 1

- 4:00 p.m. FCC Caregivers Call, via Zoom
- 8:30 p.m. Compline Prayer Service, via Zoom

Wednesday, September 2

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

Thursday, September 3

- 6:00 p.m. Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Call, via Zoom

Friday, September 4

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café lunch bag pickup, Tower Room

Saturday, September 5

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

Sunday, September 6 — 14th Sunday after Pentecost

(Note: Morning Worship returns to 11:00 a.m. today!)

- 11:00 a.m. YouTube Premiere Morning Worship, Multigenerational Holy Communion
Dan Smith and Jaz Buchanan, leading
- 12:15 pm Zoom Coffee Hour with conversation on becoming an anti-racist church

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
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

Jaz Buchanan
jaz@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

Technical Support

Joe Welker

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