



FF 2022

Lent
Hybrid Morning Worship
March 20, 2022

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**
Congregational 1633-1636
United Church of Christ
Garden and Mason Streets
Cambridge, Massachusetts

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...
Grounded in God • Growing in Community • Acting in Love

We're glad you are worshiping with us today! First Church is a vibrant, multi-generational, engaged, urban church. We care a lot about each other and what's happening in the world around us. Wherever you are on the journey of faith, you are welcome here.

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE
CONGREGATIONAL
386 YEARS
ON THE WAY
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 2

Sunday, March 20, 2022

Preaching Today Leading Worship

Jaz Buchanan, *Pastoral Associate*
Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*
Ebony West, *Ministerial Intern*
Sarah Higginbotham, *Director of Creative Worship & Arts*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*
Hanna Bliska, *liturgist*
Kevin Newell, *tech support*

Bulletin Cover Image Freddie Funck, *Youth Group member*

Today's Programs and Events

- 9:30 a.m. Contemplative Prayer, [via Zoom](#)
- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Classes for PreK-7th graders
- 12:00 p.m. [Zoom](#) Coffee Hour
- 12:15 p.m. Hybrid Adult Formation: Learn about the Miyawaki Forest in Danehy Park, MJH and [via Zoom](#)
- 1:15 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 8/9th graders, Harter Room
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)

New to First Church?

Have you just begun joining us for worship? Consider filling out this ["virtual visitor card"](#) so that we might reach out and connect with you about our community.

Give to First Church

You can give online at www.firstchurchcambridge.org/give or by texting "\$____" to: 1-844-996-0982.

Contact a Pastor or Staff Member

Find [contact information](#) for our ministerial, program, and building staff on our website. For general information and inquiries: info@firstchurchcambridge.org

Have a church program or event to promote?
Complete the [First Church Communications Request](#) form.

Have an edit or update for our website? Complete the [FCC Website Changes](#) form.

GATHERING

*For those participating at home, we invite you to have a candle at your home altar.
For those gathering in the sanctuary, please remain masked while in Morning Worship.
Masks are optional once you leave the Sanctuary.*

A TIME FOR QUIET REFLECTION AND PREPARATION

As we begin our Lenten worship, we invite you to light a candle and to pray for peace in our hearts and in Ukraine.

VOLUNTARY

Improvisation on a Ukrainian Theme

Peter Sykes

*GREETING AND CANDLE LIGHTING

Ebony West

L: Friends, grace and peace, and welcome!
(Candles are lit.)

Now is the needed time

C: to let God's love and light surround us,

L: to let Jesus be our center,

C: to let the Spirit give us courage and peace.

L: In every sound and silence,

C: in every heart and hurt,

L: in quiet kindness, in bold witness,

C: God's presence meets us here, wherever we are.

*LENTEN OPENING SONG

Jesus, Won't You Come By Here

Traditional

**Jesus, won't you come by here, Jesus, won't you come by here,
Jesus, won't you come by here?**

For now is the needed time, now is the needed time.

Jesus, won't you come by here?

WORDS OF WELCOME

Hanna Bliska

CONFESSING

ANTHEM

Kyrie Orbis Factor

Sarum chant, 9th century

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

**You are invited to stand. Hymns preceded by a "C" are found in the beginning section of the hymnal. This section contains hymns written and composed by current and past members of First Church in Cambridge.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

All: God of love and grace, show us what you would have us see when we bring Jesus near to our hearts. Teach us to surrender to his love and mercy. Release us from our self-centered longings. Transform us and recenter our lives in your love: for ourselves, our neighbors, our enemies, and our world. Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 404

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Children up through 7th grade are now invited to Church School classes. Godly Play (PreK-3rd grade) and Middler (4/5th grade) students can meet their teachers at the side door by the Children's Book Corner. Bible 101 (6/7th grade) students can meet their teachers in the Narthex. Caregivers can find the children in Hastings Common after worship.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Luke 13:1-9

SERMON

Jaz Buchanan

SILENCE

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEACHING MOMENT

Peter Sykes

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Lexi Boudreaux

L: God be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray... (*silence, intercessions, and the Lord's Prayer*)
Please join in the following response:

L: God, in your goodness,

C: hear our 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



Give by Text



Give Online



I've Given Already

*DOXOLOGY

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 410

Just as I Am

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Jesu, meine Freude

J. S. Bach



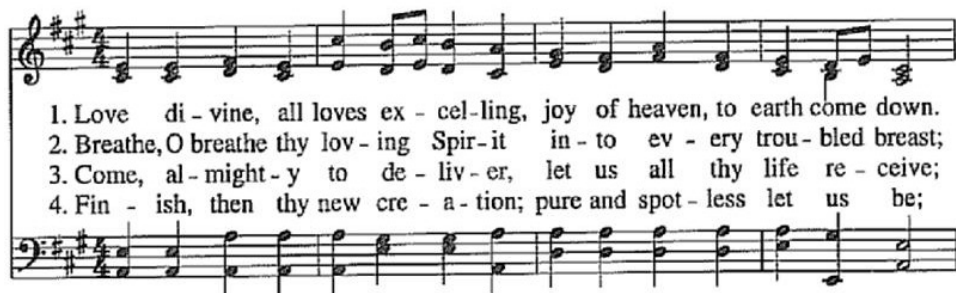
First Church Land Acknowledgment

We, gathered here, acknowledge that we are meeting on land which has been the traditional ancestral homeland of the Massachusetts people. We acknowledge that this land is unceded and remains sacred to the Massachusetts, and to their close neighbors and relatives, the Nipmuc and Wampanoag peoples.

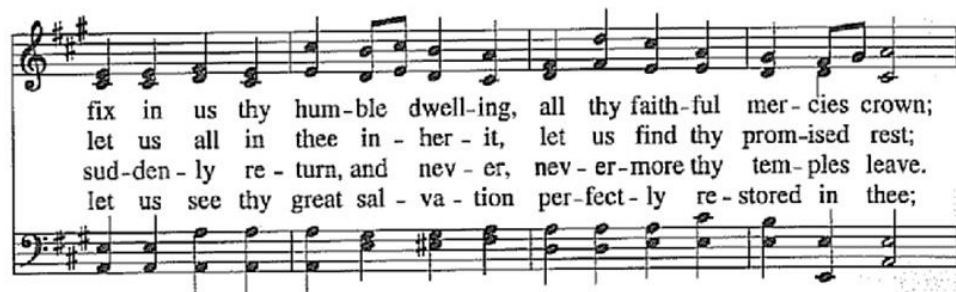
You can find a longer version of this acknowledgment [here](#) or by scanning the QR code.

404

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



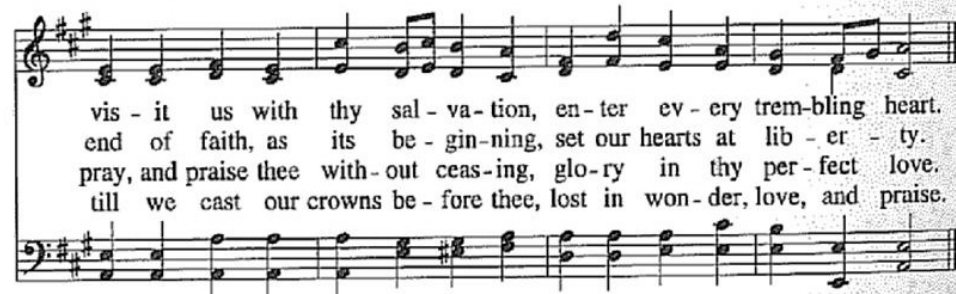
1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, joy of heaven, to earth come down.
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
 3. Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;
 4. Fin - ish, then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be;



fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown;
 let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find thy prom - ised rest;
 sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
 let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee;



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
 take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place.



vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 end of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 pray, and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1747, alt.
 MUSIC: John Zundel, 1855

BEECHER
 87.37D

CLOSING HYMN

Just as I Am

410

1. Just as I am, with - out one plea but that your
 2. Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a
 3. Just as I am, you will re - ceive, will wel - come,
 4. Just as I am, your love un - known has bro - ken

blood was shed for me, and that you called in -
 con - flict, many a doubt, fight - ings and fears with -
 par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause your prom - ise
 ev - 'ry bar - rier down; now to be yours, and

vit - ing me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 yours a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray in joyful celebration at the recent birth of Piyô Pataqahak Tinsley Burnham, grandson of Krysia Burnham, son of Jon and Phoebe Burnham.
- We pray for Alice Napoleon Jones and her family as Alice's mother Judith Semmler continues to struggle with stage IV cancer in New Jersey.
- We pray for Hilary Hopkins's Ukrainian family, especially Yaroslav Zapotichniy and his family, who live in Lviv, Ukraine.
- We continue to pray for Alice Kidder, who is in a rehab hospital recovering from a recent treatment for internal bleeding.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Pauline Fennel; Abby Shuman's uncle Barry; Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn's mother; Amy Golodet, Jonathan New's sister-in-law; Karen Anne Zee's daughter Becky Collet, and her sons-in-law, Denis Collet and Stewart Bailey; Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters; and Keith Peterson, brother of Friday Café volunteer Neil Peterson.
- We pray for the people of Ukraine as they experience a full-scale Russian assault. We pray for all troops and civilians, and for bordering countries receiving refugees. We mourn the loss of life and pray for those grieving amidst death and destruction. We pray that diplomatic measures, sanctions, and peace prevail.
- We pray for peacemakers in Russia and around the world, who are in touch with the pain of others and realize the need for action. Keep them safe. May their work and their spirit be contagious.
- We pray for our LGBTQ+ siblings around the country as state leaders and lawmakers in Florida, Texas, and elsewhere push for laws that threaten their civil rights and basic freedoms.
- We pray for all who are affected by COVID-19—those experiencing symptoms, those grieving the loss of loved ones, and those awaiting vaccines. We pray with and for anxious hearts, and especially for educators, healthcare personnel, and other essential workers.
- We pray for food security for island peoples whose homelands are threatened by climate-induced storms and rising sea level, and for all sea animals and plants stressed by warming ocean temperatures. God, give us the fortitude to work with intention for climate justice.
- We pray for the 14 men who are finding sustenance and protection in our First Church Shelter, and we pray for the guests of the Friday Café, who are finding food and listening ears. We pray for all who are experiencing deprivation and hardship in these uncertain times.

Join the [First Church List](#) to see and offer up more community prayer requests.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH



Contemplative Prayer

Sundays in Lent, 9:30 - 10:00 a.m., [via Zoom](#)

Join us as we begin our Sundays with a time of quiet spiritual practice. We'll start with a scripture, then introduce simple guidelines for centering prayer before entering into a time of shared silence. Choir members in the building for rehearsal are invited to find a quiet place where they can connect to this offering with their own devices.

Zoom Coffee Hour, Today at 12:00 p.m.

Hop on the Coffee Hour [Zoom](#) immediately following the service for a time of connection, sharing of joys and concerns, and Q&A about all things First Church. Bring your own coffee or beverage of choice!



Hybrid Adult Formation:

Learn about the Miyawaki Forest in Danehy Park

Today, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m., MJH and [via Zoom](#)

On our "Jesus and Creation" Lenten Sunday, join us after worship to learn about the Miyawaki Forest in Danehy Park! [Biodiversity for a Livable Climate](#) is joining us for our 12:15 hour and will share with us how Miyawaki forests can help restore biodiversity and fight the climate crisis.

They are a nonprofit organization seeking to bring back lost biodiversity, cool the biosphere, and draw down excess atmospheric greenhouse gasses through living systems worldwide.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Today, 1:15 - 3:00 p.m.,

Harter Room

8th and 9th graders from First Church, Old South Church, and the community meet for our denomination's sexuality education curriculum.



Night Song

Sundays at 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)

Night Song is a weekly, hour-long meditation featuring sublime choral music and transformational instrumental accompaniment in our quiet, candle-lit sanctuary.

Learn more about Night Song [here](#).

LENT AT FIRST CHURCH

This Lent, join us as we explore what it means to hold Jesus at the center of our faith and lives.

- How might focusing on Jesus' life and teachings ground and clarify our conversations about how we hold the loneliness, anger, and grief of these times?
- How might focusing on *his* story help us to feel more centered, as we come through this pandemic together and as we live and shape *our* stories?

Each week, we'll offer a different scripture and related theme of daily living, along with several opportunities for weekly prayer and reflection. Themes and scriptures we'll be exploring together include:

- | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Feb 27: | Jesus, Our Center | Introduction of our theme |
| • Mar 6: | Jesus and Solitude | Luke 4:1-11 |
| • Mar 13: | Jesus and Anger | Luke 13:31-35 |
| • Mar 20: | Jesus and Creation | Luke 13:1-9 |
| • Mar 27: | Jesus and Loss | Luke 15:1-2, 11-32 |
| • Apr 3: | Jesus and Trust | John 12:1-8 |
| • Apr 10: | Jesus and Courage | Luke 19:28-40 |

Wednesdays in Lent



Midweek Contemplative Prayer

Wednesday mornings, 8:00 - 8:30 a.m., [via Zoom](#)

Want to explore centering prayer as a spiritual practice? [Read more](#)



Midweek Small Group: Hanging out with God

Wednesday afternoons, 5:30 - 6:15 p.m., [via Zoom](#)

Join Lexi Boudreaux and Jaz Buchanan weekly on Wednesdays during Lent for some theological reflection... [Read more](#)

Changes to Masking Guidelines at First Church in Cambridge

As communities across the country wrestle with lifting masking mandates, First Church is following the guidance of the City of Cambridge and the expertise of the Cambridge Public Health Department. We trust that they are taking necessary precautions to ensure the safety of our community, including the most vulnerable in our midst. On March 14, we lifted our indoor mask requirements, except during communal worship and church choir rehearsals, where masks are still required. Outside of worship, we encourage people to make their own decisions about whether to mask, honoring what they feel is best for them and the wider community.

[Read the full announcement here.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Young Adults: Faith on Tap **Monday, March 21, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.** **Bow Market, Somerville**

Join the Young Adults for Faith on Tap, a time for fellowship and conversation with other folks out of high school and looking to meet some new people. Contact Phil with questions: 585-610-7919



Newcomers Meet and Greet **Sunday, March 27, 12:00 - 12:30 p.m., Hastings Common**

Those feeling new to First Church, or interested in meeting (in person!) someone new to our community, are warmly invited to meet up directly after worship in Hastings Common (the open space between the Sanctuary side door and the Kitchen). Some of what you can expect:

friendly faces, new friends?, questions answered, snacks, and an informal atmosphere for conversation.

CISC Celebration

Sunday, March 27, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., University Lutheran Church and via Zoom ([link to follow](#))

The Cambridge Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition (of which First Church is a founding member) warmly invites all past CISC volunteers to a celebration of the journey that has led to our guests' transition out of sanctuary. There will be a short service for reflecting and remembering, followed by a social time with sharing of food and drink. Covid safety protocols will be in place: masking required, except when eating/drinking in a designated area. If you wish to attend, but did not receive the emailed invitation to the event that included a link to RSVP and sign up to bring food, please contact [Sarah Higginbotham](#).

Youth Group and Young Adults Game Afternoon **Sunday, March 27, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., Harter Room**

The Youth Group and the Young Adults group of First Church are coming together to play favorite games of all kinds for the afternoon. Bring your beloved board games, card games, or ideas for Charades and Pictionary to share with your friends at church! Enjoy creating connections, eating snacks, and some friendly competition between the generations. Any questions? Excited to come? Please let Lexi Boudreaux or Becky Moyer know.



Youth Group
v. Young Adults
Game Afternoon

March 27, 3-5 p.m.

UCC AID APPEAL FOR UKRAINE

WE STAND
FOR PEACE.

WE STAND WITH
UKRAINE.

On February 24, the Russian military attacked Ukraine. Since that day, over 2 million persons have already sought refuge outside of Ukraine, and even more have remained in the country, but have been displaced from their homes.

The humanitarian crisis is accelerating in Ukraine and in neighboring countries, as the violence escalates and the number of people on the move multiplies.

Please consider supporting the [United Church of Christ Appeal to Aid Those Unable to Leave Ukraine.](#)

The United Church of Christ (UCC) is appealing for support for refugees and for elderly and other vulnerable people who are displaced within Ukraine and unable to leave. As a member of the ACT Alliance, UCC support is being targeted to people most in need through humanitarian relief partners with a history of working in the region. Aid also is being extended through Hungarian Reformed Church Aid, the relief agency of the Reformed Church in Hungary. The UCC's long-term relationship with the Reformed Church in Hungary is held through the Europe and the Middle East Office of Global Ministries.

Gifts made to UCC Ukraine Relief Fund will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people. It also will help refugees and asylum seekers from African, Middle Eastern and other countries who had sought refuge in Ukraine and now are twice displaced, as well as other citizens of more than 125 countries living in Ukraine.

Uniting in prayer, action, and giving, we stand as a people of faith in love and compassion with the people of Ukraine and all who are affected, and with our global partners who are welcoming those driven from their homes.

[Read more and donate here.](#)

[Read daily updates on the emergency response for Ukraine from the Reformed Church in Hungary.](#)

FROBENIUS AT FIFTY

**Help us to celebrate
and fundraise for our Frobenius organ.**

A letter from Music Director Peter Sykes:

The three-manual, forty-stop Frobenius organ at First Church in Cambridge, made in Copenhagen in 1972, the first Danish organ imported to the United States, is about to mark the fiftieth anniversary of its installation and dedication.

In those fifty years, it has been part of the life of the church for countless services, weddings and funerals, has accompanied hundreds of concerts given by numerous performing organizations, and has provided another important service as a practice and teaching organ for generations of students; right now, it is being played on average about forty hours each week by students practicing and taking lessons. It is not too much to say that it has formed a musical foundation of all who come in contact with it. It's time, now, to thank it for its service by giving it a much-needed overhaul and tune-up....

[Read Peter's full letter here.](#)





THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, March 21

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. "Telling our White Stories" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Young Adults: Faith on Tap, Bow Market, Somerville

See our [Events Calendar](#) for Zoom links and details.

Sign up [here](#) to receive our weekly e-newsletter.

Tuesday, March 22

- 7:30 a.m. Space to Listen: Reflecting on the Gospel of Luke, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. "Troublesome Attitudes and Antidotes" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom

Wednesday, March 23

- 8:00 a.m. Midweek Contemplative Prayer, via Zoom
- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room
- 5:30 p.m. Midweek Small Group: Hanging Out with God, via Zoom

Thursday, March 24

- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Friday Café food dropoff, Tower Room

Friday, March 25

- 9:30 a.m. Friday Café food dropoff, Tower Room
- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH) and the church lawn

Sunday, March 27 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

- 9:30 a.m. Contemplative Prayer, via Zoom
- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, MJH
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Creative Arts Workshop, MJH
- 12:00 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour
- 12:00 p.m. Newcomers Meet and Greet, Hastings Common
- 12:15 p.m. Hybrid Adult Formation: Jesus, Our Center, MJH and via Zoom
- 1:00 p.m. Cambridge Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition (CISC) Celebration, University Lutheran Church
- 1:15 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 8/9th graders, Harter Room
- 3:00 p.m. Youth Group and Young Adults: Game Afternoon, Harter Room
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC

11 Garden St. • Cambridge, MA 02138

617-547-2724 • info@firstchurchcambridge.org • www.firstchurchcambridge.org

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