



FF 2022

Lent
Hybrid Morning Worship
March 27, 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 27, 2022

Preaching Today Leading Worship

Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Kate Layzer, *Minister of Street Outreach*
Ebony West, *Ministerial Intern*
Sarah Higginbotham, *Director of Creative Worship & Arts*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*
Joanne Paul, *liturgist*
Kevin Newell, *tech support*
Freddie Funck, *Youth Group member*

Bulletin Cover Image

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: 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 and via Zoom (link emailed to those who RSVP'd)
- 1:15 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 8/9th graders, Harter Room
- 3:00 p.m. Youth Group & Young Adults: Game Afternoon, 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: 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

Nun bitten wir den Heiligen Geist

Dieterich Buxtehude

*GREETING AND CANDLE LIGHTING

Joanne Paul

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

CONFESSING

ANTHEM

Kyrie Dixit Maria

Hans Leo Hassler

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

**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.*

SILENCE

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 261

The Sun Is on the Sea and Shore

Children up through 7th grade are now invited to Church School: Creative Arts Workshop in Margaret Jewett Hall. Caregivers can find the children in Hastings Common after worship.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Luke 15:1-2, 11-32

SERMON

Dan Smith

SILENCE

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ebony West

TEACHING MOMENT

Peter Sykes

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Kate Layzer

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 AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**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.**

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 352

Go Forth for God

*LEAVETAKING BLESSING FOR DAVE DYER

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

O Lamm Gottes

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.

261

The Sun Is on the Sea and Shore

1. The sun is on the sea and shore, a new day has be - gun;
 2. Your love is ev - er in our view, like shin - ing stars by night;
 3. We do not know what grief and care each com - ing day may bring;

with morn - ing hymns we will a - dore the bless - ed Three - in - One;
 your gifts are ev - ery morn - ing new, O God of love and light;
 the heart shall find some glad - ness there, trust you in ev - 'ry - thing;

and we shall praise you ev - er more un - til the day is done.
 your mer - cy, like the heav - en's blue, fills all our daz - zled sight.
 the life that serves you ev - 'ry - where will nev - er cease to sing.

WORDS: Louis F. Benson, 1897; adapt. Austin C. Lovelace, 1991, alt.
 MUSIC: J. L. Macbeth Bain, 1915; arr. Gordon Jacob, 1934, adapt.

James Leith MacBeth Bain, called 'Brother James' by his friends, was a Scottish poet who found, lost and regained faith in God's love. He spent his last years caring for others in the slums of Liverpool.

BROTHER JAMES' AIR
 86.86.86

Word adapts. © 1991 Austin Lovelace
 Harn. © 1934 Oxford University Press

CLOSING HYMN

Go Forth for God

352

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

English Anglican Canon Peacey began writing hymn texts after retirement in 1966. He based this text on Paul's letter to the Romans (12:9-21).

OLD 124th
 10 10.10 10.10

Words © 1984 Hope Publishing Co.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- 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 pray for Devin Hansen as she awaits medical testing and results.
- We pray for Alice Kidder, who continues to recover in a rehab hospital.
- 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 face 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 all those impacted by the Eastern China Airlines plane crash in Guangxi, China. The plane was carrying 132 people, and no survivors have been found.
- In the wake of nine mass shootings in our country last weekend, we pray for the success of advocacy for legislation to address and prevent gun violence.
- 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.

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... [Read more](#)

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!



Newcomers Meet and Greet

Today, 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.

Hybrid Adult Formation: Jesus, Our Center

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

Join a conversation about the morning's themes. The preacher for the morning will offer a brief frame with a "living question" or two, and then we will divide into small groups for a time of sharing our faith and struggles, with Jesus as our center.



CISC Celebration

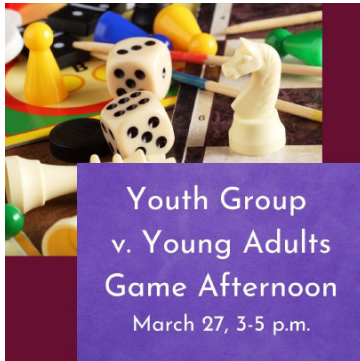
Today, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., University Lutheran Church and [via Zoom](#) (link sent via email)

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. 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](#).

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

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.



Youth Group
v. Young Adults
Game Afternoon
March 27, 3-5 p.m.

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.

Night Song

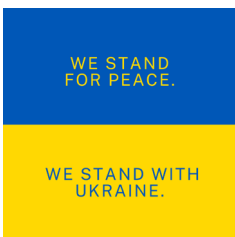
Sundays at 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)

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](#).



Changes to Masking Guidelines at First Church in Cambridge

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](#).



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

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

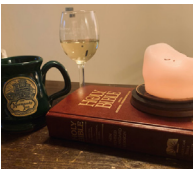
Wednesdays in Lent



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](#)

Memorial Flowers for Easter

If you wish to donate memorial flowers for loved ones this Easter, please send the names of those to be remembered to [Kirsten Manville](#) in the First Church office by April 10. Contributions of \$20 to help defray the cost of flowers can be made online (check off the Easter Flowers category) or can be included in the offering baskets found at the front and back of the Sanctuary (checks payable to First Church in Cambridge, with a memo line of "Easter Flowers"). On Easter Sunday, the congregation is invited to take a plant to a homebound parishioner to spread the joy of Easter.

LOOKING AHEAD TO HOLY WEEK

Our 40-day journey with Jesus, Our Center, culminates as we turn toward Jerusalem and to the powerful, somber, mysterious, yet ultimately joy-filled events of Holy Week. This year, we pay special attention to blessing the ties that bind us together and weave us into one community in Christ!

Each of the stories we read—from Palm Sunday through Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter—include powerful references to fabric and thread. We plan to “weave” this symbol into our Holy Week liturgies and rituals, and we look forward to offering everyone a simple hemp bracelet to be worn throughout the week. We hope the bracelet can be a symbol of your connection to First Church and your Holy Week intentions.



Palm Sunday, April 10

Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. —Mark 11: 8

- 10:15 a.m. Palm Sunday Gathering & Processional on the Lawn
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary & via livestream
- 12:00 p.m. Refreshments on the Lawn and Zoom Coffee Hour

Maundy Thursday, April 14

After that, Jesus poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. —John 13:5

- 6: 15 p.m. Multigenerational Foot Washing Ritual,
Sanctuary and via livestream
- 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service with Communion and Tenebrae,
Sanctuary and via livestream

Good Friday, April 15

Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

—Matthew 27:51-52

- 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service, via Zoom

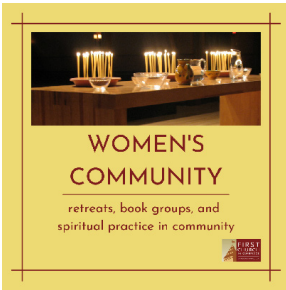
Easter Sunday, April 17

Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened. —Luke 24:10-12

- 10:00 a.m. Easter Proclamation, Breakfast, and Egg Hunt on the Lawn
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream

Find details at [Holy Week and Easter at First Church](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Women's Community Book Club

Tuesday, March 29, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., [via Zoom](#)

Come, one and all who identify as women, to our monthly book club. In March, we turn to non-fiction: *Love Is the Way* by Episcopalian Bishop Michael Curry. As always, if you are having trouble finding the book, please let [Susan](#), [Alex](#), or the group know, and we will do our best to get a copy to you.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, April 2, 8:00 - 9:30 a.m., Harter Room

All who identify as men at First Church are invited to join us in person this Saturday morning for a time to gather, reflect, and rejoice.

Questions? Contact [Peter Byerly](#).



FROBENIUS AT FIFTY

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....

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

Bounty: Film Screening and Conversation

Tuesday, April 12, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Old South Meeting House, Boston and online

In early October 2021, First Church hosted a special preview of the 9-minute documentary *Bounty*, released soon after by the award winning [Upstander Project](#). We engaged in a difficult and meaningful conversation about this history; we hope to continue this discussion later this spring. On Tuesday, April 12, you are invited to watch *Bounty* and then



join Penobscot Nation Tribal Ambassador and *Bounty* filmmaker Maulian Dana, *Bounty* filmmaker Dawn Neptune Adams (Penobscot), Upstander Project learning director Mishy Lesser, and Upstander Project director and filmmaker Adam Mazo, along with special guests from Revolutionary Spaces for a conversation after the film... [Read more and find the link to register here.](#)



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, March 28

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom
- 5:00 p.m. Exploring Reparations Group, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Staff Policy Committee, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Executive Council, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. "Telling our White Stories" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom

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

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

Tuesday, March 29

- 7:30 a.m. Space to Listen: Reflecting on the Gospel of Luke, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Women's Community Book Group, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. "Troublesome Attitudes and Antidotes" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom

Wednesday, March 30

- 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
- 7:00 p.m. Christian Formation Committee, via Zoom

Thursday, March 31

- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study, via Zoom

Friday, April 1

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

Saturday, April 2

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Harter Room

Sunday, April 3 - Fifth 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: Pastoral Care Sunday, MJH
- 12:00 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour
- 12:15 p.m. Hybrid Adult Formation: Jesus, Our Center, 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

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