



*From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
the name of God is to be praised.*

Psalm 113:3

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Season of Epiphany  
February 12, 2023

**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  
387 YEARS  
ON THE WAY  
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 3

### February 12, 2023

#### Leading Worship

Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*  
Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*  
Carla Carbajal, *Ministerial Intern*  
Ahmaad Edmund, *Ministerial Intern*  
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*  
Stefanie Haug, *liturgist*  
Lee Prouty, *tech support*

#### Bulletin Cover Image

Psalm 113 Collage by Audrey Bellinger  
*This and other Psalm collages can be viewed in Margaret Jewett Hall and in a [digital gallery](#) on our website.*

#### Today's Programs and Events

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: The Life of Harriet A. Jacobs, Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)  
10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)  
11:20 a.m. Church School: Godly Play and Bible 101 classes  
12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, Hastings Common  
12:15 p.m. GBIO Housing Justice Campaign Teach-In and Build-A-Book Presentation, MJH and [via Zoom](#)  
1:30 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, Sage Hall  
1:30 p.m. Confirmation Class for 9/10th 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 a visitor card found on the small clipboard in the pews or 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](http://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](mailto: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

**VOLUNTARY**

Prelude in G Major

Felix Mendelssohn

**\*HYMN 88**

My Shepherd, You Supply My Need

**\*GREETING**

Stefanie Haug

- L: Sisters, brothers, siblings, come, let us gather in prayer and song.  
**C: Come, one and all, across screens and devices, across time and space.**  
L: Here, gathered together, may God's glory embolden us with strength and courage.  
**C: Here, may God's glory light the path towards healing and justice.**  
L: Here, may God's glory kindle sustaining hope and faith in each of our hearts,  
**C: as we glorify God and all of her holy mysteries and revelations.**

## WORDS OF WELCOME

**ANTHEM**

Lobt Gott mit Schall

Heinrich Schütz

*Lobt Gott mit Schall, ihr Heiden all,  
Ihr Völker, preist den Herren,  
Sein Gnad und Gunst walt über uns,  
Er hilft von Herzen gerne,  
Was er verspricht,  
Das trüget nicht,  
Ewig sein Wort wird bleiben,  
Mit fröhlichem Mund von Herzensgrund  
Singen wir zu allen Zeiten  
Alleluja, mit Freuden.*

*Praise God with joy, all ye nations,  
ye people praise the Lord.  
God's grace and favor be with us,  
it helps heartily.  
The faithful will forever  
keep God's word,  
with cheerful mind,  
with cheerful heart  
we sing always with joy!  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

## CONFESSING

### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

### SILENCE

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- L: Let us pray for healing, pardon, and peace.  
**All: God of Glory, you have given light to the world through Jesus Christ.  
But seeking comfort in privilege and power,  
distracting ourselves with wealth and possessions,  
exploiting the earth and all of your sacred creation,** *(cont'd. on next page)*

*\*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.*

**we are led away from you. Forgive us, and lead us to repent and return. Help us to see with our hearts and our imaginations, as we journey through holy darkness with you, discovering your light in unexpected corners, illuminating justice, righteousness, and peace. Amen.**

### **DECLARATION OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**L:** Friends, hear this good news: God’s love lights our way to a new dawn, and God’s mercy is working in our hearts even now.  
The light of Christ and the peace of God be with you always.

**C: And also with you!**

**L:** Let us share this good news and greet one another now with a sign of Christ’s peace.

### **\*GREETING OF PEACE**

*We invite you to greet each other with a hug or handshake. If you prefer to maintain social distance, please put your hands together or fold your arms to share the peace.*

### **\*HYMN 86**

#### **The Lone, Wild Bird**

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

## **ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF DEACONS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Lexi Boudreaux and Dan Smith

### **THE CANDIDATES’ PROMISES**

### **\*THE CONGREGATION’S PROMISES**

**L:** Do you affirm these deacon’s gifts of care and leadership?

**All: We do.**

**L:** Will you receive, respect, and respond to their ministry among you?

**All: We will.**

**L:** Will you uphold and enfold them and all the deacons of this church with your prayer and gratitude?

**All: We will.**

### **\*THE LAYING ON OF HANDS**

*The laying on of hands is an ancient practice by which, through human touch, the Holy Spirit consecrates (“sets apart”) and confirms persons called to particular ministries in a community. It is also a sign that these leaders stand in a long and living line of servants who have been called from within their communities for this same ministry.*

## \*ORDINATION PRAYER AND DECLARATION

### \*INSTALLATION

L: ... Deacons of the church, since you have been called to this ministry by grace, by grace alone will you be able to carry it out. I charge you to rely on God's grace!

**All: We welcome you in this ministry with hope, and we install you in joy!  
Trust God, seek the Spirit's consolation,  
love this congregation with all your hearts,  
serve, forbear, witness, and lead,  
in the name of the good and gracious God. Amen.**

### OPENING THE WORD

#### PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Carla Carbajal

#### READING

James 5:13-16

### A TIME FOR HEALING

#### REFLECTION AND INVITATION

Dan Smith

#### BLESSING OF OIL AND HANDS

**HYMNS**      **427** My Life Flows on in Endless Song  
                  **441** Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ  
                  **470** Precious Lord, Take My Hand

#### CONCLUDING 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.**

# SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ahmaad Edmund

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

Deep River

Spiritual

Paul Sawyer, baritone

*Deep river, my home is over Jordan.*

*Deep river, Lord; I want to cross over into campground.*

*Oh, don't you want to go to the Gospel feast;*

*that Promised Land, where all is peace?*

*Oh, deep River, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.*

## \*DOXOLOGY

**To God, all glorious heav'nly light,**

**To Christ revealed in earthly night,**

**To God, the Spirit, now we raise**

**Our joyful songs of thankful praise! Amen.**

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## GOING FORTH

## \*HYMN C-3

Psalm 23

## \*BENEDICTION

## VOLUNTARY

Allegro maestoso

Felix Mendelssohn



### **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 to the left.

OPENING HYMN

88 My Shepherd, You Supply My Need

1. My Shep-herd, you sup - ply my need; most ho - ly is your name;  
 2. When I walk through the shades of death, your pres-ence is my stay;  
 3. Your sure pro - vi - sions, gra-cious God, at - tend me all my days;

in pas-tures fresh you make me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.  
 one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.  
 O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.

You bring my wan - dering spir - it back when I for - sake your ways;  
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;  
 There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;

you lead me, for your mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.  
 my cup with bless - ings o - ver - flows, your oil a - noints my head.  
 no more a strang - er or a guest, but like a child at home.

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

MUSIC: Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm., FCC, 1997

RESIGNATION  
CMD

This is Congregationalist Watts' paraphrase of Psalm 23. Because of ill health, Watts lived for the last thirty-six years of his life in the home of a wealthy parishoner, devoting most of his time to writing.

Harm. © 1998 FCC Houston TX



PEACE HYMN

86

The Lone, Wild Bird

1. The lone, wild bird in loft - y flight is still with you, nor  
 2. The ends of earth are in your hand, the sea's dark deep and  
 3. Each se - cret thought is known to you, the path I walk my  
 4. In se - cret depths you knit my frame, be - fore my birth you  
 5. O search me, God, my heart re - veal, re - new my life, my

leaves your sight. And I am yours! I rest in  
 far - off land. And I am yours! I rest in  
 whole life through, my days, my deeds, my hopes, my  
 spoke my name; with - in my soul, as close as  
 spir - it heal; for I am yours, I rest in

you. Great Spir - it, come, rest in me, too.  
 you. Great Spir - it, come, rest in me, too.  
 fears, my deep - est joys, my si - lent tears.  
 breath, so near to me, in life, in death.  
 you. Great Spir - it, come, rest in me, too.

WORDS: Sts. 1, 2, Henry Richard McFadyen, 1925, alt.; sts. 3 - 5, Marty Haugen, 1991  
 MUSIC: Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. David N. Johnson, 1968

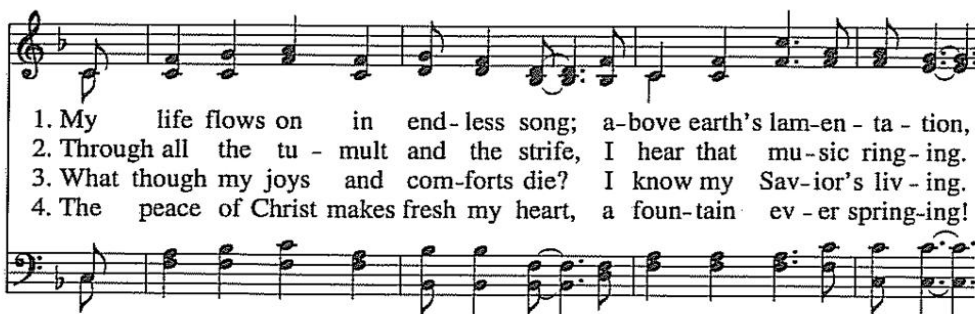
PROSPECT  
 LM

American Presbyterian minister McFadyen wrote stanzas one and two while a field worker for the Presbytery of Nashville. UCC poet and composer Haugen has added three additional stanzas. The entire text is based on Psalm 139.

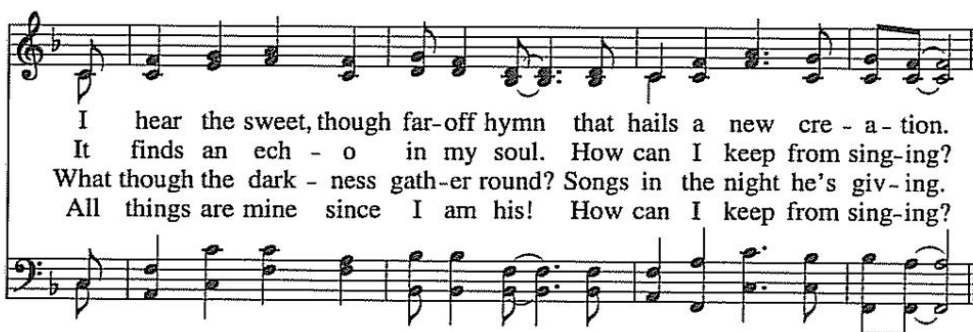
Words. sts. 1,2 © 1927 *The Homiletic and Pastoral Review*, admin. Ignatius Press  
 sts. 3-5 © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.  
 Harm. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*,  
 by permission of Augsburg Fortress



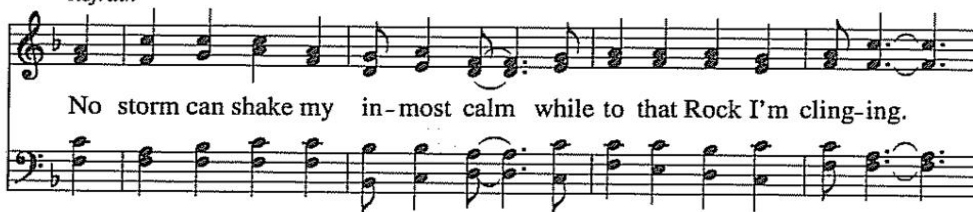
## My Life Flows On in Endless Song 427



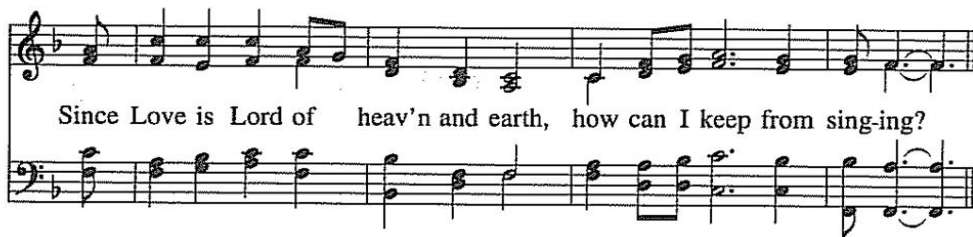
1. My life flows on in end-less song; a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,  
 2. Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring-ing.  
 3. What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav-ior's liv - ing.  
 4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!



I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.  
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?  
 What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he's giv-ing.  
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

*Refrain*


No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

WORDS and MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1869, alt.

Baptist minister and educator Lowry was editor of Sunday School song books for Biglow & Main, one of the largest publishers of hymnals.

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING  
 87.87 w. refrain

## Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ

441

*Unison*

1. E - ter-nal Spir - it of the liv - ing Christ, I know not how to  
 2. Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day; help me to see your  
 3. Come with the vi - sion and the strength I need to serve my God, and



ask or what to say; I on - ly know my need, as deep as  
 pur - pose and your will, where I have failed, what I have done a -  
 all hu - man - i - ty; ful - fill - ment of my life in love out -



life, and on - ly you can teach me how to pray.  
 miss; held in for - giv - ing love, let me be still.  
 poured — my life in you, O Christ, your love in me.



WORDS: Frank von Christierson, 1974, rev. 1979  
 MUSIC: Alfred M. Smith, 1941

SURSUM CORDA  
 10 10.10 10

This text was inspired by Romans 8:26-27. Finnish-born  
 Christierson was an American Presbyterian minister;  
 Smith was an American Episcopal priest.

Words © 1974 The Hymn Society,  
 admin. Hope Publishing Co.  
 Music © 1941 Historic Church of the Ascension, Atlantic City NJ

HEALING HYMN

470

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,  
 2. When my way grows drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger near,  
 3. When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
 when my life is al - most gone,  
 and the day is past and gone,

through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:  
 hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:  
 at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

WORDS and MUSIC: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932

PRECIOUS LORD  
66.9D

Dorsey's most widely-known song was written in Chicago in 1932 as he mourned the death of his wife and new-born child.

© 1938 Unichappell Music, Inc.

CLOSING HYMN

Psalm 23

C-3

1. My God, my shep-herd and my guide, you sat - is -  
2. You bring my soul to peace a - gain and set my  
3. You lay a ban-quet out for me in sight of  
4. I know your good-ness and your love will al - ways

fy my need, you of - fer rest in pleas - ant fields,  
path a - right. Your rod and staff sub - due my fears,  
all my foes. You hon - or me and fill my cup  
fol - low me, and in your house I'll make my home

to wat - ers calm you lead.  
in dark-ness you give light.  
un - til it ov - er - flows.  
for all e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: New translation by Denise Karuth

MUSIC: New England Psalter, 1698

LOW DUTCH

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for the family of beloved First Church member and leader Hilary Hopkins, who died last Thursday of complications following a cardiac procedure. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, June 17, 2023, at First Church.
- We give thanks that Anita Anger's cancer treatments have been successful and that her recent PET scan showed no signs of lymphoma.
- We pray for Peggy Bendroth and her family as they grieve the loss of Peggy's father, Robert Lamberts, who died recently.
- We pray for Lisa DiNardo and her boyfriend Wayne Brunell as they grieve the loss of Wayne's father Phil Brunell, who died recently.
- We pray for Larry Evans and his family as they grieve the loss of his wife, long-time member Bev Evans, who died recently following a long struggle with Alzheimer's.
- We pray for Poppy & Brent Coffin as they continue loving & living with Alzheimer's.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Bridget Melle, Rich Goode's sister; Robin Williams, Kimel Williams's wife; Lyman Morrill, Ann Riker's brother; Judith Semmler, Alice Napoleon Jones's mother; Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn's mother; 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 friend of Homeless Ministries Brian O'Donovan.
- We pray for all impacted by the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria and surrounding regions that has killed at least 20,000 people and caused widespread destruction. We pray for rescue and medical and relief crews. We pray for a swift and well-coordinated international response.
- We pray for all those affected by police violence, especially those grieving the loss of Tyre Nichols in Memphis, TN; Sayed Arif Faisal in Cambridge, MA; and many others killed by police across the country. We pray for all those protesting and working at the local, state, and federal level to end police brutality, which disproportionately impacts persons and communities of color.
- We pray for all impacted and grieving after a terrorist attack at a mosque in Peshawar, Pakistan, which killed 101 people and injured over 220.
- We pray for all affected by gun violence and by mass shootings that occur with too much frequency in our country. We pray especially for the families and loved ones of those killed or injured in recent incidents in Monterey Park, CA; Baton Rouge, LA; Shreveport, LA; Half Moon Bay, CA; and Holyoke and Mattapan, MA.
- We pray for our Jewish siblings as antisemitic expression continues to appear with alarming frequency in our communities and around our nation.
- We pray for people around the world facing natural disasters and intense weather due to the climate crisis.
- We pray for the people of Iran, Afghanistan, Haiti, and Peru, where anti-government protests have led to violence.



## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for our country and for those most affected by changes in reproductive rights: for all those struggling through the moral and political complexities of pregnancy and childbearing, and for the integrity of our legal and judicial institutions at a time of extreme political polarization.
- We pray for the people of Ukraine and stand in hope and solidarity as they continue to resist unjust and unlawful Russian invasions. We pray for all soldiers and civilians in Ukraine, Russia, and surrounding areas, as well as all global regions impacted by the violence of war.
- We continue to pray for all who are affected by COVID-19, and we pray for healthcare professionals as they navigate caring for children and the elderly through a winter season with heavy rates of RSV and the flu, in addition to COVID-19.
- 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.

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

### Aid for Turkey and Syria

The news continues to unfold about the devastating earthquake on the border of Turkey and Syria. You can read about our denomination's early response here:

[Deadly earthquake strikes Turkey/Syria border, UCC delegation in Europe connects with partners to respond by Connie Larkman](#)



*image: ABC News*



The United Church of Christ (UCC) has issued an appeal to help recovery efforts in Turkey and Syria. It is hard to tell what other areas are affected or the extent of the damage from this seismic event. Amid this current uncertainty, you can be certain that with your financial support the United Church of Christ will be there helping those in need.

[Click here to give generously.](#) You may also text UCCDISASTER to 41444.

All donations will be deposited into the International Emergency fund designated for “Turkey and Syria Earthquake Response”. Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery. You can also mail a check made payable to the United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note “Turkey and Syria” on your check in the memo section.



## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH



### **Adult Formation: The Life of Harriet A. Jacobs** **Today and Sunday, February 19, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.** **Harter Room & [via Zoom](#)**

Join Ministerial Interns Carla Arevalo Carbajal and Ahmaad Edmund for a new series about the life of Harriet A. Jacobs, an African American woman enslaved in the U.S. who harnessed her spiritual power to navigate her way to freedom. The series aims to provide participants with a closer connection to the divine power found in unlikely circumstances. Antiracism and healing work is not an easy or simple journey; Romans 8:22-25 gives us a language where “the labor pains” of creation can reflect the labor pains experienced in social justice and healing. Harriet will become a guiding force that will encourage and teach us how, in our labor pains, to push for new life and healing. Stay tuned for a Faith & Life Group offering on Harriet Jacobs following in Lent.



### **GBIO Housing Justice Campaign Teach-In and Build-A-Book Presentation** **Today, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m, MJH and [via Zoom](#)**

Join members of First Church’s Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) Core Team after worship today for a GBIO Housing Justice Campaign Teach-In, where we will learn more about how we and members of our community are affected by our region’s housing crisis, and learn more about how we can support GBIO’s work. This will also be

a chance to meet CMM Executive Director Sophia Bishop Rice and hear about an opportunity to buy a book for a prisoner and their child. For more information about Build-A Book, contact Alice Kidder at: [flintkidr@aol.com](mailto:flintkidr@aol.com) or 617-276-6227. A light lunch will be provided.



### **Our Whole Lives for 7/8th graders** **Today at 1:30 p.m., Sage Hall**

### **Confirmation Class for 9/10th graders** **Today at 1:30 p.m., Harter Room**



### **Night Song** **Sundays, 7:30 - 8:15 p.m., Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)**

Night Song is a worship opportunity that offers stillness and sublime music in a darkened sanctuary for respite and reset.  
[Read more about Night Song.](#)

## EPIPHANY SEASON AT FIRST CHURCH

### Collage Exhibit: *Reflecting on the Psalms*

January - February, Margaret Jewett Hall

This Epiphany season, please come and behold *Reflecting on the Psalms*, an exhibit of 150 collages created by First Church artist Audrey Bellinger. Audrey joined our "Praying the Psalms" group led by Brent Coffin wherein participants were invited to enter into a spiritual practice of reading one psalm a day and then meeting weekly for small group discussion. *Reflecting on the Psalms* is Audrey's response to these invitations. Her collages became a spiritual practice, and they now invite us to wonder anew at each psalm and, perhaps, to take on our own practice of daily reading. In addition to being on display through the end of February, the collages are available in [a digital gallery](#) on our website, along with some simple prompts for how you might engage with the psalms and the artwork.



### New Year, New Way to Contact You?

On Tuesday, January 24, all those in our database should have received an email from First Church providing you with the information we have for you on file. The message included instructions for accessing our online directory, where you can make changes to your profile and see your giving history to First Church. If you did not receive the email on Tuesday, please contact Office Assistant [Bruce Dillenbeck](#) to provide your info for our database. We sincerely appreciate your help in keeping our records in order!

### Invitation to Contribute to Coffee Hour

Please help us make worship as delicious as it is spiritually sustaining! For Coffee Hour each week we are looking for 2-4 households to bring 3 dozen cookies each, or the equivalent of snacks such as cheese & crackers or fruit. In general the church has a No Nuts policy. Recently some have requested a brief list of relevant ingredients for those with allergies, if at all possible.



Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E044EA8AE2CABFD0-fcccookies>

Questions? Difficulty with the online signup?  
Contact Lisa DiNardo at [ladinardo@hotmail.com](mailto:ladinardo@hotmail.com).



***Truth Tellers* Documentary Screening**

**Sunday, February 19 at 12:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall and via Zoom**

As we prepare for First Church's exhibit of [Americans Who Tell the Truth](#), we offer a hybrid screening of an hour-long 2021 documentary film: "[Truth Tellers: Robert Shetterly's journey to paint portraits of activists fighting for justice.](#)" The film "chronicles the lives of courageous Americans fighting for racial equity, climate justice and indigenous rights through the eyes of Robert Shetterly, a long time activist and artist. The film explores the intersection of these issues stressing the urgency of coming together to confront them and galvanizing our resolve to uphold our country's founding ideals." All are welcome!

**Mardi Gras Pancake Supper**

**Tuesday, February 21, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall**

All are warmly invited to the return of our annual all-church pancake supper on Mardi Gras! Come celebrate with pancakes and maple syrup, a traditional sweet treat on the eve of the Lenten season. The children will decorate our "Alleluia" banner and bury it in the sanctuary, where it will await its unveiling on Easter morning. We'll also hear a preview of our Lenten programs. Pancakes will be provided; please bring fruit or breakfast meats (ready for heating or serving) to share. RSVP to [Sarah Higginbotham](#) so she can plan the pancake production.



## LENT AT FIRST CHURCH



**Ash Wednesday Service**  
**Wednesday, February 22, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.**  
**Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)**

On Ash Wednesday, we reflect on our origins in the dust, our brokenness, and our dependence on God. Through a liturgy of readings, song, and prayer, we will gather together in the Spirit to acknowledge ashes as a sign of creation, mortality, repentance, and the Cross. Join us in person for our evening service with the imposition of ashes or participate

from home via our livestream. If you are participating from home, please plan to bring a small dish of soil mixed with olive oil or water for self-imposition.

## The Truth That Sets Us Free

Lent 2023

Contemplation  
and Courage  
for the  
Common Good



**Lent** is a season of special depth and intentional observance at First Church in Cambridge. Each year we reflect on the forty days leading up to Easter with opportunities to gather for study and spiritual practice. Join us as we spend our time together with an exhibit of 11 portraits from the project “Americans Who Tell the Truth” by Robert Shetterly, a documentary about his work, and with an all-church community book read that engages the topic of embodied contemplative spirituality. This Lent, we are all invited to reflect on and illuminate our need for unity, as we continue to reckon with our past and reimagine embodied hope for the future of our lives and our world.



## LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT

### First Church Community Read & Lenten Formation Series

Sundays, February 26 - March 19, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

Harter Room and via Zoom

*To be human in an aching world is to know our dignity and become people who safeguard the dignity of everything around us.*

- Cole Arthur Riley

Join a Lenten season all-church community read of [\*This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation and the Stories that Make Us\*](#) by Cole Arthur Riley.

Written as stories about the author's childhood and coming to self, *This Here Flesh* "boldly explores some of the most urgent questions of life and faith: How can spirituality not silence the body, but instead allow it to come alive? How do we honor, lament, and heal from the stories we inherit? How can we find peace in a world overtaken with dislocation, noise, and unrest? In this work of contemplative storytelling, Arthur Riley invites us to descend into our own stories, examine our capacity to rest, wonder, joy, rage, and repair, and find that our humanity is not an enemy to faith but evidence of it." We'll discuss the book in four hybrid Sunday morning sessions, but even if you can't attend the conversation, all are encouraged to join in reading this work of truth telling, memory, and embodied contemplative spirituality. Books are available for a donation of \$10.



## Americans Who Tell The Truth

February 26 - April 11, 2023

**Documentary Screening:**  
Sunday, February 19 at 12:30 p.m.

**Exhibit Opening and  
New Harriet Jacobs Portrait Unveiling:**  
Sunday, February 26 at 12:30 p.m.

[firstchurchcambridge.org/AWTT](http://firstchurchcambridge.org/AWTT)



### **Americans Who Tell The Truth Exhibit Opening and Portrait Unveiling Sunday, February 26 at 12:30 p.m.**

**Margaret Jewett Hall**

First Church in Cambridge and portrait artist Robert Shetterly will co-host an exhibit opening of 11 works from his [Americans Who Tell the Truth](#) collection.

Robert will introduce the exhibit and unveil his latest work, a portrait of the writer and abolitionist Harriet Jacobs.

We will also hear remarks from Harvard Divinity School Associate Dean of Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging Dr. Melissa Wood Bartholomew, who teaches a course on Harriet Jacobs. We've invited several of the living truth-tellers whose portraits will be featured to join us for this celebration!

[Read more about the exhibit here.](#)

## LENT AT FIRST CHURCH

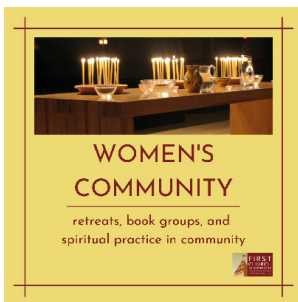
### Register Now for Lenten Faith & Life Groups

Registration is now open for our latest round of Faith & Life Groups! [You are invited to read the group descriptions and register here.](#)

Questions may be directed to Lexi Boudreaux or to the individual group leaders.

**Deadline for registration is Sunday, February 26.**

- **The Life of Harriet A. Jacobs**  
with Carla Carbajal and Ahmaad Edmund
- **An Introductory Conversation about Reparations**  
with Abby Shuman and Lexi Boudreaux
- **Community Bereavement Group**  
with Community Minister Krysia Burnham
- **Intergenerational Cooking for First Church Homeless Ministries**  
with Caitlin Anderson
- **Spring Tune-Up and Care of our Temples (bodies) with Tai Chi Chih**  
with Gail Breeze
- **This Here Flesh Extended Discussion Group**  
with Dan Smith or Lexi Boudreaux and Sue Reynolds



### Women's Book Group

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

The New Year and January brought a great discussion of *Hamnet*, and we are looking forward to our next gathering for which we will be reading [The Personal Librarian](#) by Heather Terrell and Victoria Christopher Murray. "*The Personal Librarian* is a fictionalized telling of the lifework of Belle da Costa Greene, the personal librarian to J. P. Morgan, as well as the first director of the Morgan Library & Museum." Next month's book will be Lauren Groff's [Matrix](#). Please join us, we'd love to have you!



## WIDER COMMUNITY EVENTS



### International Choral and Arts Festival A Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries Fundraiser Tuesday, February 14, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Marsh Chapel, Boston University 735 Commonwealth Ave., Boston

Join Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries as we bring together powerful voices of international and local

choirs, dancers, spoken word artists, and others for an unforgettable evening: ***Reclaiming Communities of Peace through Praise***. Hosted in partnership with the Boston Theological Interreligious Consortium, this event has a mesmerizing line-up of international praise and worship performances.

Gun violence has erupted in the City of Boston, erasing promising teen lives and countless others. These acts have called for community action. CMM provides anti-violence training to inner city youth, a “must” in these trying times. It also rehabs homes for low-income families to bring properties up to code. Your support is vital and very much appreciated!

If you cannot join us, please consider purchasing a sponsorship/ad for your business, organization, committee, or foundation, and donate to our cause. Help us carry the message to those who need it the most and let us carry it together in solidarity. “We denounce violence of any kind” is our resounding message. Show up for our slain Black fathers, brothers, and sons of Boston.

[Purchase tickets and/or sponsor the event here.](#)



Do you want to follow the hyperlinks, but you’re holding a paper bulletin in your hand? Use your phone’s camera to hover over the QR code to the left marked “scan me;” this will take you to the Members & Friends page of our website, where you’ll find the bulletin online, as well as links to news, events, and more.



# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, February 13

4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom

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

## Tuesday, February 14

7:15 a.m. Reflective Conversations with Brent Coffin, via Zoom  
10:30 a.m. Communications Team Meeting, Harter Room  
4:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds Committee, via Zoom

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

## Wednesday, February 15

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom  
7:30 p.m. Missions & Social Justice Committee, via Zoom

## Thursday, February 16

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

## Friday, February 17

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

## Sunday, February 19

9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: The Life of Harriet A. Jacobs, Harter Room and via Zoom  
10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream  
11:20 a.m. Church School: Creative Arts Project, MJH  
12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, Hastings Common  
12:15 p.m. Hybrid Community Coffee Hour, Harter Room and via Zoom  
12:30 p.m. *Truth Tellers* Documentary Screening, MJH and via Zoom  
7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

## Monday, February 20 - Church Office and Building Closed for Presidents' Day Holiday

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC  
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