



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

Psalm 113:3

Transfiguration Sunday
February 19, 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 19, 2023

Preaching Today Leading Worship

Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*
Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Karen McArthur, *Minister of Stewardship & Finance*
Carla Carbajal, *Ministerial Intern*
Ahmaad Edmund, *Ministerial Intern*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*
Sarah Fujiwara, *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: Creative Arts Workshop, MJH
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, Hastings Common
- 12:30 p.m. *Truth Tellers* Documentary Screening, MJH and [via Zoom](#)
- 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 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

VOLUNTARY

Toccatina in A minor

Dieterich Buxtehude

*HYMN 250

Here in This Place (Gather Us In)

*GREETING

Sarah Fujiwara

- 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

O Nata Lux de Lumine

Thomas Pavlechko

*O nata lux de lumine,
Jesu redemptor saeculi,
Dignare clemens supplicum
Laudes precesque sumere.*

O Light born of Light,
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
with loving-kindness deign to receive
suppliant praise and prayer.

*Qui carne quondam contegi
Dignatus es pro perditis,
Nos membra confer effici
Tui beati corporis.*

Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh
for the sake of the lost,
grant us to be members
of thy blessed body.

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,
we are led away from you. Forgive us, and lead us to repent and return.**

(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.*

**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 281**

Spirit of the Living God

Children up through 6th grade are now invited to Church School: Creative Arts Workshop in the Library. Caregivers can find the children in the Library after worship.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Ahmaad Edmund

READING

Exodus 24:12-18

READING

Matthew 17:1-9

SERMON

Lexi Boudreaux

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Smith

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Karen McArthur

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

Carla Carbajal

OFFERTORY

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Traditional

1. Swing low, sweet chariot
Coming for to carry me home
Swing low, sweet chariot
Coming for to carry me home

3. I'm sometimes up and sometimes down
Coming for to carry me home
Sometimes almost to the ground
Coming for to carry me home

2. I looked over Jordan, and what did I see
Coming for to carry me home
A band of angels coming after me
Coming for to carry me home

4. Swing low, sweet chariot
Coming for to carry me home
Swing low, sweet chariot
Coming for to carry me home

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**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.**

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 4

Come, Living God, When Least Expected

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Toccata in A minor

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck



First Church Land Acknowledgment

We, gathered here, acknowledge that we are meeting on land which has been the traditional ancestral homeland of the Massachusett people. We acknowledge that this land is unceded and remains sacred to the Massachusett, 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

250

Here in This Place
(Gather Us In)

Unison



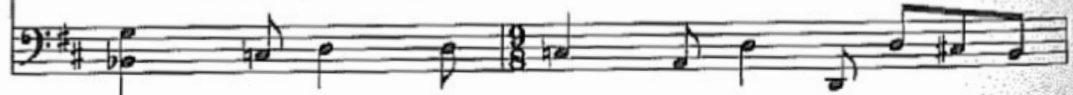
1. Here in this place, the new light is stream-ing, now the dark night has
 2. We are the young- our lives are a mys-tery; we are the old, who
 3. Here we re-ceive new life in your wa-ters; here we re-ceive the
 4. Not just in build-ings, small and con- fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van-ished a - way. See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his - tory,
 bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a - way, here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is God pres-ent, and now is the day.



OPENING HYMN, cont'd.

Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en; gath-er us in; our
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er; gath-er us in and

spir - its in - flame. Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly;
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,

we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

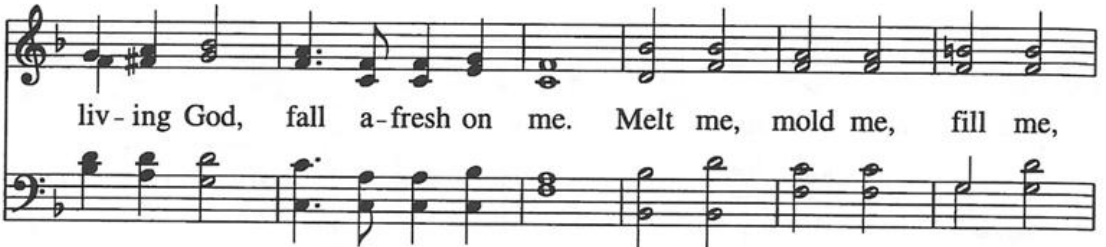
PEACE HYMN

281

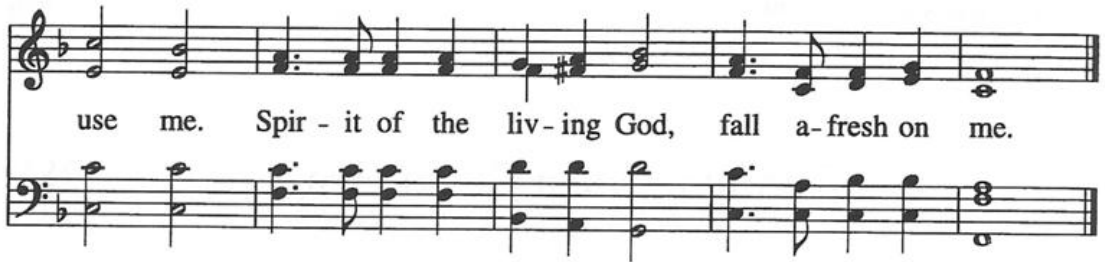
Spirit of the Living God



Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me; Spir - it of the



liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me,



use me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

WORDS and MUSIC: Daniel Iverson, 1926

Daniel Iverson was a North Carolina Presbyterian minister who was moved to create this response while attending a revival service.

IVERSON
75.75.875

© 1935 Birdwing Music, admin. EMI
Christian Music Publishing

CLOSING HYMN

4 Come, Living God, When Least Expected

1. Come, liv - ing God, when least ex - pect - ed, when minds are
 2. Come now, as once you came to Mo - ses with - in the
 3. Then, through our gloom, your Son will meet us as viv - id

dull and hearts are cold, through sharp -'ning word and warm af - fec - tion
 bush a - live with flame; or to E - li - jah on the moun - tain,
 truth and liv - ing Lord, ex - plod - ing doubt and dis - il - lu - sion

re - veal - ing truth as yet un - told. Break from the tomb in which we
 by si - lence press - ing home your claim. So, let our minds be sharp to
 to scat - ter hope and joy a - broad. And we will share his ra - diant

hide you to speak a - gain in start - ling ways; break through the
 read you in sight or sound or print - ed page, and let us
 bright - ness, and, blaz - ing through the dread of night, il - lu - mi -

words in which we bind you to res - ur - rect our life - less praise.
 greet you in our neigh - bors, in ar - dent youth or mel - low age.
 nate by love and rea - son, for those in dark - ness, faith's de - light.

WORDS: Alan Gaunt, 1991

MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois, *Cinquante psaumes en françois*, 1543, rev. 1551

The tune is from the 1543 Geneva Psalter, the earliest of psalters prepared by Louis Bourgeois for reformer John Calvin.

RENDEZ À DIEU
98.98 D

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COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for the family of beloved First Church member and leader Hilary Hopkins, who died 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 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 41,000 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 affected by gun violence and by mass shootings that occur with too much frequency in our country. We pray especially for all those impacted by the recent mass shooting at Michigan State University.
- 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 the wellbeing and safety of our trans siblings as they face the material effects of more than two dozen bills seeking to restrict transgender health care access that have been introduced in current legislative sessions across 11 states.
- We pray for people around the world facing natural disasters and intense weather due to the climate crisis.
- 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.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- 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

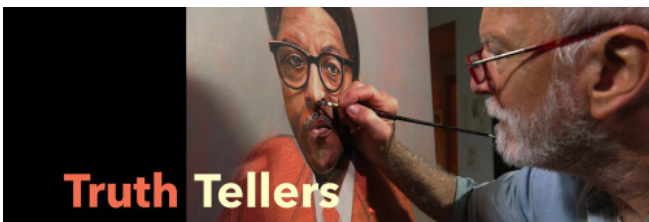
Today, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m., Harter Room & [via Zoom](#)

Join Ministerial Interns Carla Arevalo Carbajal and Ahmaad Edmund for the second session of a two-part 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. Register now for the Lenten Faith & Life Group on Harriet Jacobs to continue the discussion and reflection.

Monthly Hybrid Community Coffee Hour

Today at 12:15 p.m., Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)

In 2023, we are shifting from weekly Zoom Coffee Hours to monthly Hybrid Community Coffee Hours! Usually on the second Sunday of each month, those at home can join via Zoom, while those in person can make their way to the Harter Room for an opportunity to see your church friends’ faces, share joys and concerns, or just smile and wave! Hope to see you today!



Truth Tellers Documentary Screening

Today 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!

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH



Night Song

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

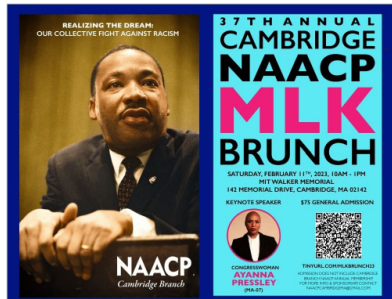
Night Song is a worship opportunity that offers stillness and sublime music in a darkened sanctuary for respite and reset.

[Read more about Night Song.](#)

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.



Cambridge NAACP MLK Brunch Recap - Recording Available

On Saturday, February 11, the Cambridge NAACP awarded Rev. Dan Smith and First Church in Cambridge with the 2023 Drum Major for Justice Award. [You can find a recording of the event here.](#) Senator Elizabeth Warren introduced Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, who offered a powerful keynote address, starting at 39:50. To see the organization’s President and former Cambridge Mayor Ken Reeves’s remarks about Dan and First Church, as well as Dan’s acceptance speech, scroll to 2:48:28. [Find the program booklet 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 right 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.



LENT AT FIRST CHURCH

Mardi Gras Pancake Supper

**This 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.



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.

Young Adults: Faith on Tap

**Wednesday, February 22, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Menotomy Tavern, Arlington**

Join other First Church young adults for an evening of casual fellowship! We'll stay late for those attending the Ash Wednesday service who want to grab a bite afterwards. Let Phil know you're coming, and stay in touch for other get-togethers by emailing: youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org



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.

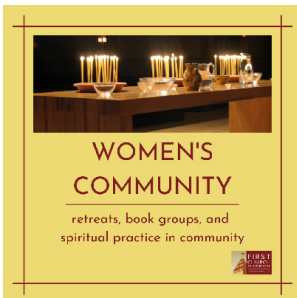
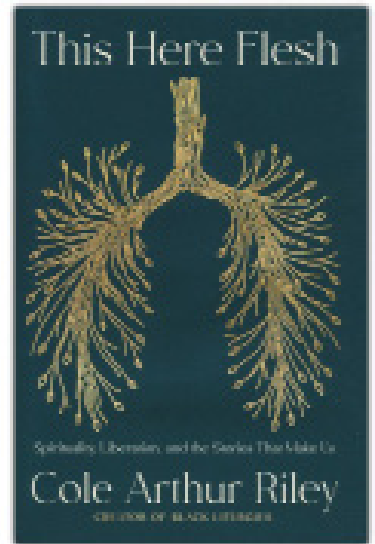
LENT AT FIRST CHURCH

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 and in a Faith & Life Group that will meet on Thursdays mornings at 7:30 a.m., beginning March 9. 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.



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!

LENT AT FIRST CHURCH



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



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 is excited to partner with portrait artist Robert Shetterly and his organization [Americans Who Tell The Truth](http://AmericansWhoTellTheTruth.org) to host 11 of Robert's remarkable works depicting courageous truth-tellers, both historic and contemporary. Some were chosen for their local connections to our city and region. Others have directly inspired our congregation's antiracist journey and wider social justice work.

Next Sunday, February 26, 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.](#)

Visit a Truth Teller

Sundays, March 5 - April 2, 12:15 p.m.

Each Lenten Sunday, we invite you to gather around one or two of our Truth Telling portraits for a brief ritual after worship. After listening to a short description of the truth-teller's life and work, we will pause to look at the faces—the eyes—and to read the quote. We will sing a verse or two of a song and then send each other forth, inspired to go speak the truth in our lives and in our world! You will also be invited to linger in casual conversation and to engage each other in response to some 'truth-telling prompts' that will be available on tables in Margaret Jewett Hall and Hastings Common. These portraits are the opposite of "hot takes" or quick opinions. They invite you to ponder a person, their words, and the issues that inspire their life's journey, work, activism, and imagination. They welcome you into a vital conversation, across time and space, about what it means to be an American.



Visit A Truth Teller



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 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

Our neighbor Harriet A. Jacobs was an African American woman enslaved in the U.S. who harnessed her spiritual power to navigate her way to freedom. Harriet's boarding house is located on Story Street, and she is buried at Mount Auburn Cemetery here in Cambridge. We acknowledge that Harriet's prophetic life is one that needs deeper grounding and contemplation, as we continue learning how to practice truth telling in racial justice and healing among our communities. This group is open to all those who wish to learn more about Harriet's influence, leadership, and, most importantly, vision for freedom for all. No previous knowledge of her life is needed to join this group. This will be a space where we engage in *Lectio Divina*, and through the weeks together we will weave the grief, concerns, darkness, light, and hope that racial justice and healing embody in a community. We hope this will be just the beginning of casting a vision for reparations rooted in spiritual practices.

Day/Time: Mondays, February 20 and 27, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., via Zoom

Leaders: Ahmaad Edmund and Carla Arevalo Carbejal

An Introductory Conversation about Reparations

Perhaps you've heard the word "reparations" and are curious about what it means or what possible models are out there for the practice. Maybe you are looking for a place to talk about the many feelings that come to the surface for you when reflecting on taking steps to grapple with the very real spiritual and physical impacts of the practice. Come with your questions; come with your fears and uncertainties. Come with your open hearts to explore this sacred practice of repentance and relinquishment. Using *Reparations: A Christian Call for Repentance and Repair* by Duke L. Kwon and Gregory Thompson as a resource and a guide, we will explore a basic understanding of reparations, particularly focusing on what it means for us as Christians.

Day/Time: Wednesdays, March 8, 15, and (perhaps) 22, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

Leaders: Abby Shuman and Lexi Boudreaux

LENT AT FIRST CHURCH

Community Bereavement Group

Looking for a grief support group this Lent? FCC Community Minister and chaplain Krysia Burnham co-facilitates a virtual, biweekly bereavement group for hospice families that is now being opened up to our church community as part of our Faith & Life Groups.

Day/Time: TBD

Leader: Krysia Burnham

Intergenerational Cooking for First Church Homeless Ministries

Join us for 1-2 service afternoons to cook for the Friday Café and First Church Shelter. Come to serve our neighbors, to cook together, and to learn how to prepare meals in the First Church Kitchen!

Day/Time: TBD based on group availability; most likely Saturday afternoons

Leader: Caitlin Anderson

Spring Tune-Up and Care of our Temples (Bodies) with Tai Chi Chih

This style of Tai Chi is not martial, which makes it different from other styles. It can be practiced by anyone (standing, sitting, holding on to a chair), simple to learn (two or three sessions), takes minimum space (can practice anywhere) and, of course, gives many health benefits. Our time will also include Qi Gong breathing. Wear flat shoes and join me to circulate our Chi.

Day/Time: Thursdays, March 2 and 9, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., in person at First Church

Leader: Gail Breeze

***This Here Flesh* Extended Discussion Group**

Did you not get a chance to join us for our 9:30 Hour discussion group on Sunday mornings? Are you looking to delve deeper into the wisdom in this book of embodied contemplative spirituality? Join either Lexi or Dan with Sue Reynolds for a drop-in discussion of our Lenten all-church community read, *This Here Flesh*.

Day/Time: Thursdays, 7:30 – 8:30 a.m., March 9, 16, and 23, via Zoom

Leader: Dan Smith or Lexi Boudreaux and Sue Reynolds

[You are invited to register here.](#)



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



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

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Faith & Life Group: The Life of Harriet A. Jacobs, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, via Zoom

Tuesday, February 21

- 7:15 a.m. Reflective Conversations with Brent Coffin, via Zoom
- 10:30 a.m. Communications Team Meeting, Harter Room
- 3:00 p.m. Aging with Grace Monthly Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Mardi Gras Pancake Supper, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 7:30 p.m. Shelter Oversight Committee, via Zoom

Wednesday, February 22 - Ash Wednesday

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary and via livestream
- 7:30 p.m. Young Adults: Faith on Tap, Menotomy Tavern, Arlington

Thursday, February 23

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

Friday, February 24

- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

Sunday, February 26

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Lenten Series - *This Here Flesh*, 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
- 12:30 p.m. *Americans Who Tell the Truth* Exhibit Opening & Portrait Unveiling, MJH and via Zoom

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

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

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