

SUMMER WORSHIP

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**

Congregational 1633-1636
United Church of Christ
Garden and Mason Streets
Cambridge, Massachusetts

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

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...

Grounded in God • Growing in Community • Acting in Love

These past weeks have brought home to all of us the vital importance of working together to slow and limit the spread of Coronavirus. We know we are called to be a community of faith, not fear. We also know we are called to care for the most vulnerable in our midst, to be good stewards of our staff and resources, and to be good citizens of the wider community.

Under normal circumstances, people of faith would care for each other by drawing close together. It's what we do. It's who we are. In times of loss or threat, we respond by coming together to pray and to sing, to hug and hold each other tight.

Pandemics are different. During an outbreak such as the one we are facing now, we are called to care for each other by moving farther apart, creating a holy buffer of social distance. We do this not only for our own safety and the safety of the people around us, but in loving stewardship to our wider world.

Even when apart, we are not alone. God is with us, in every heartbeat, every breath: strengthening, comforting, and upholding us. Christ is with us, walking beside us, sharing our trials, speaking peace to our fears. The Spirit is with us, uniting us one to another across the barrier of physical distance.

These are temporary measures only. They won't last forever. We will rejoice and celebrate all the more when we are able to come back together, to share stories of what it was like, to laugh, to cry, and to share hugs and handshakes again. Until then, day by day, let's hold one another in prayer.

WORSHIP LEADERS

July 26, 2020

Dan Smith, Senior Minister
Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts
Issa, Marcia, and Malachi Bibbins, guest musicians
Joe Welker, technology support

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan..

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Issa Bibbins

*HYMN

You Are My Strength
Songwriter: William Murphy

**You are my strength
Strength like no other
Strength like no other
Reaches to me
Reaches to me**

**In the fullness of your grace
In the power of your name
You lift me up
You lift me up**

*GREETING

Dan Smith

L: Siblings in the Spirit, God is good!
C: All the time!
L: All the time!
C: God is good!
L: Then, come if you are weary,
C: for God will give you rest!
L: Come if you are hungry for connection,
C: for God will fill your heart with blessing!
L: Come if you are looking for transformation in this new normal,
C: for God's love, truth, and justice are real!
All: For God's presence is here in this sacred time and space.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Sarah Higginbotham

ANTHEM

You Deserve It
Songwriters: Jackie Cortez Vaughn / Demond Reed / James Leon Hairston / David D Bloom
Marcia Bibbins, vocalist

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

C: **Before you, O God, and before one another,
we confess the harm we have brought on our lives,
the lives of others, and the life of the world.
Forgive us, we pray, for what we have done
and what we have left undone.
Lead us toward wholeness, renew us,
and enable us to grow in love and in faith.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

SERMON

Dan Smith

*HYMN 403 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

**Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.**

Lord, I want to be more loving...

Lord, I want to be more holy...

Lord, I want to be like Jesus...

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

L: God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray... (*silence, intercessions, and the Lord's Prayer*)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Please pray this prayer in words most meaningful to your heart.)

All: Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

You may give online from your bank account [at our website](#) or by text from your debit/credit card by texting the amount to 844-996-0982.

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Praise God, the source of life and birth,
Praise God, the Word who came to earth,
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame,
All glory, honor to God's name! Amen.**

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 467

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

(see page 4)

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

CLOSING HYMN

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

I'm gon-na live so God can use me



1. I'm gon-na live (I'm gon-na live so) God can use (God can


me

use me) an - y - time, Lord, and an - y - where. (yes, an - y -



yes, an - y - time,

I'm gon-na live so God can use me



where.) I'm gon-na live (I'm gon-na live so) God can use me

an - y - time, Lord, and an - y - where. (yes an - y - where.)



Stanza 2. I'm gonna work 3. I'm gonna pray 4. I'm gonna sing

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For Gail Breeze and her family as they grieve the unexpected loss of Dudne Breeze on July 5.
- For our cities and our nation during this time of reckoning with historic and ongoing violence against Black and Indigenous persons and persons of color. We pray for all who are protesting, including those in Portland, Oregon who are facing extreme policing measures. We pray for a new birth of justice and healing throughout our land. We pray also for all who are continuing to grieve the recent killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks, and so many others.
- For all who are grieving the loss of loved ones due to Covid-19; for all those who are ill with COVID-19 and their families; and for all of us who are navigating this strange new world, that we may receive God's comfort, strength, and peace.
- For all essential workers, who continue to put themselves at risk to care for the sick and most vulnerable, maintain our food supply, deliver supplies, keep our public services running, and lead us through this crisis.
- For African Americans and communities of color around the country that are facing disproportionately high rates of coronavirus death and infection, revealing entrenched inequalities in resources and access to healthcare. And for Asian Americans as they face unwarranted discrimination and hostility during this Covid-19 pandemic.
- For all who are experiencing unemployment or underemployment during this crisis, including undocumented workers who cannot find a safety net in our government's response.
- For all who are in treatment for cancer: Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn's mother; Amy Golodet, Jonathan New's sister-in-law; Becky Collet, Karen Anne Zee's daughter; Stewart Bailey, Karen Anne Zee's son-in-law; Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters; Katie, Moana Bentin's sister; and former First Church member Nancy Sanders.
- For the 14 men who are finding care and residence in our First Church Shelter and for the guests of the Friday Café, who are experiencing worsening deprivation and hardship in this time of disruption; that may they know warmth, compassion, and companionship.
- We pray for those who seek sanctuary in houses of worship around the country, including our partner University Lutheran Church in Harvard Square. We pray for tranquility for immigrants who live in constant fear and anxiety. And we pray for all who are working for a just and compassionate future for immigrants and asylum seekers.
- We offer up our fears and grief, and we pray for God's strength as we combat the realities of the climate crisis. May God empower us and our leaders to take bold steps, personally and politically, to care for God's creation and for the poor around the world who are most affected by our inaction.

*If you would like us to include a prayer request in the bulletin,
please contact Dan Smith or Sarah Higginbotham by Tuesday morning,*

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR Today, 11:00 a.m., via Zoom After a moment of greeting, we'll start our time in breakout rooms with a check-in and then shift to a brief conversation about what we are learning on the journey towards becoming an anti-racist church. Many of you are participating in related Faith & Life groups or are otherwise praying and protesting, learning and acting, whether on your own or together. What questions are coming up for you in this moment of national reckoning? What is the Spirit asking of you and of our church at this time?

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

Meeting ID: 876 6474 8993

Password: coffee

SUMMER PASTORAL CARE CARD-WRITING Following our tradition of writing pastoral care cards on the lawn during summer coffee hours, we will begin hosting a breakout room for people interested in writing pastoral care cards together during our weekly Zoom coffee hours. You are invited to write a card to someone listed in the prayer section of the bulletin; addresses will be provided in the breakout room. Gather up some blank cards and stamps, and join us in this ministry of pastoral care.

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

SUMMER SCHEDULE Sunday Morning Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. in July and August. During the summer months, there will be a mix of livestream and pre-recorded worship. We are excited to continue experimenting with the possibilities surrounding virtual services, and we hope you will continue to worship with us online until we can all be together again in the sanctuary. The church building continues to be locked but is staffed by sextons. We are offering building access from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. If you need access to the building, please email Director of Operations Kirsten Manville and give prior notice of the day and time you would like to enter. This is both for contact tracing purposes and also to let the sextons know to expect you. Office Assistant Bruce Dillenbeck will also be in the church office for a few hours every Tuesday and Friday afternoon throughout the summer, answering the phone, sorting the mail, and doing other tasks that cannot be done from home. As Massachusetts and Cambridge continue to update their reopening plans, we will continue to closely monitor their guidelines and recommendations. Any change to the above information will be communicated in a timely manner, both here in the bulletin and via the First Glance E-newsletter. Please email Kirsten if you have any questions: parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAYING CONNECTED

SUMMER FAITH & LIFE GROUPS Summer Faith & Life Group Registration is now closed. If you are interested in joining a group please contact Lexi Boudreaux so that you can be directly connected with the leader. Email: lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org

TUESDAY EVENING ZOOM COMPLINE PRAYER SERVICE Tuesdays, 8:30 - 8:45 p.m., via Zoom
Are you feeling the need to switch up the way you connect with worship this summer? Are you craving some time before bed to center yourself in sacred stillness and the comfort of community? We are offering a participatory evening prayer service this summer on Tuesdays at 8:30 p.m.

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

Meeting ID: 890 9172 4810

Password: summer

ONGOING PROGRAM OFFERINGS Zoom invitations to all our week's programs are in the all-church email that was sent this morning. If you are not receiving our e-newsletter, please sign up by clicking on the E-Newsletter icon at the bottom of our homepage to receive future correspondence. Email Dan Smith (dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org) this morning to have today's email forwarded to you.

- **Tuesdays** FCC Professional Caregivers' Call, 4:00 p.m. (N.B. now every other week)
- **Thursdays** FCC Kids' Prayer & Connection Call with Sarah Higginbotham, 12:00 p.m.;
Shared Reflections on Richard Rohr Daily Devotionals, 5:00 p.m.;
Weekly Bible Study, 6:00 p.m.;
First Church Choir Call with Peter Sykes, 7:45 p.m.
- **Fridays** Spiritual Practices with Lexi Boudreaux, 8:00 a.m.

YOUNG ADULTS ZOOM GATHERING The Young Adults of First Church (mostly 20- and 30-some-things) gather regularly on Zoom for a casual catch up and discussion of faith journeys, with questioning encouraged! Our "Gentle Blasphemy" group meets casually, as able, usually on Wednesdays. Get more info from Phil Jones: p.robbennolt.jones@gmail.com

FIRST CHURCH YOUTUBE CHANNEL Continue to tune into our First Church YouTube channel as we offer pre-recorded reflections and devotions. Subscribe to make sure you don't miss new videos, including our pre-recorded services. The link to the channel is:

<https://tinyurl.com/ryac3av>

Have an announcement for the bulletin?

Please send information about church or wider community events to Sarah Higginbotham (shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org) by 10:00 a.m. on Tuesdays

BECOMING AN ANTI-RACIST CHURCH

Prayer, Reflection, and Action

Summer 2020

The following statement expresses First Church's intentions and commitments for the summer of 2020. We join with a global outcry against recent and past events of violence against black and brown persons. This statement builds on several years of concerted efforts to raise our self-awareness, build relationships, and act towards racial justice and healing. We approach this work with hearts open to listening, learning, and change.

White silence is violence.
Black Lives Matter



First Church affirms that Black Lives Matter and Indigenous Lives Matter.

We celebrate the gifts, presence, and leadership of persons of color within First Church and beyond.

We recognize that the problem of racism is a white person's problem and that this is white people's work.

Becoming an anti-racist church means that we are determined not merely to raise our consciousness of racism, but to actively call out and intentionally work for change.

We do this work because we know our individual and collective spiritual health, transformation, and liberation depend on it.

We do this work relying on God's help and knowing that we cannot do it alone.

SOUL LEVEL

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

☪ The "Exploring a Practice of Reparations" Group holds its first meeting tomorrow, Monday, July 27, 5:00-6:00 p.m. For more information, contact Dan Smith (dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org) or Alice Kidder (flintkidr@aol.com).

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

CONGREGATIONAL LEVEL

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

COMMUNITY LEVEL

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

☪ Environmental justice is essential to racial and economic justice and to a just recovery from COVID-19. These bills need your action in the final days of the legislative session, which ends on July 31:

1. The Roadmap bill H.3983, would commit MA to zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and a 50% reduction by 2030. **Action needed:** Contact Rep. Golden, House Chair of the Joint Energy Committee and Speaker Robert A. DeLeo on behalf of the bill.
2. Environmental Justice Bills H.4264 and S.464 need to be voted out of committee. As people of faith, committed to racial and economic justice, we need to be heard on these important environmental justice bills. **Action needed:** Contact both your rep and senator to urge them to support these bills.

NATIONAL LEVEL

☪ Join the Poor People's Campaign by visiting: <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/>
Read their Policy Platform:
<https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/about/moral-justice-jubilee-policy-platform/>
and take action.

☪ Follow the [Movement for Black Lives](#) that recently announced [a police reform proposal](#) at national level.

**SHOW
UP
AND
DO
THE
WORK**

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

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

DAY SHELTER AND FOOD DISTRIBUTION UPDATE The City of Cambridge is continuing food and funding so that the meal distribution program from the Tower Room here at First Church will continue through the summer. Since many community meal programs were shut down due to the pandemic, as many as 120 meals (prepared by local restaurants) are distributed, 5 days a week, from First Church. The city also has committed to continue funding to allow the First Church Shelter to remain open on a 24-hour basis through the summer. First Church's Shelter staff, Oversight Committee, Director of Operations, and Facilities Manager are working together to identify ways to ensure that this essential service is able to continue without disrupting return of Newtowne School and others who make use of the building in the weeks and months ahead.

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

FOOD INSECURITY IS RISING Leave your food pantry donations in the box on Hilary's front porch at 30 Winslow St., Cambridge. Hilary is .75 mile from First Church, just off Sherman St. where it diverges from Garden St. She will see that your donations are delivered on the second Saturday of the month, which is when the pantry is open. NEEDED: cereal, canned fruit and veggies, proteins, pasta and sauce; also feminine products (pads, tampons). No fresh food. Please be sure your contributions are unopened, unexpired, and not in glass containers. Thank you for your generous donations!

THE FRIDAY CAFÉ BAGGED LUNCH SIGNUP HAS OPENINGS! Sign up to prepare 10 bagged lunches for hungry neighbors some upcoming Friday by visiting: www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d45aaa628ab9-friday to claim your spot. Many thanks!

VOLUNTEER TO BAKE SOME GOODIES FOR OUR EVENING MEAL PROGRAM First Church is now serving 500 meals a week to help feed hungry neighbors! If you would like to make a few dozen sweet treats to hand out at one of our evening meals on Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, or Sunday, please visit <https://signup.com/go/DCsUUei> to sign up. Treats can be dropped off at the Tower Room door at 4:30 on any of those nights. Thank you!



Change the Flag and Seal, ban Native Mascots, protect Native heritage.

Four hundred years after the Pilgrims landed In Plymouth, it is long past time for Massachusetts to begin to reckon with its racist and damaging history with Native Americans.

Send a message to your State Legislators asking them to support the bills to change the state flag, seal, and motto, and ban Native American sports mascots in Massachusetts public schools, as first steps in acknowledging and rectifying the harms done to Native Americans. The three bills to support are:

1. Resolve Providing for the Creation of a Special Commission Relative to the Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth (S.1877/H.2776)
2. An Act to Ban the Use of Native American Mascots by Public Schools in the Commonwealth (S.247 / H.443)
3. An Act to Protect Native American Heritage (S.1811/H.2948)

Please go to this link: <https://secure.everyaction.com/a7m-qciMMUyYIIL2jxcTVA2>, where you can fill in your home or organizational address and send an automated letter in support of all 3 bills to your state representative and state senator, as well as other key legislators.

Then, please share the link for this letter with your personal networks across the state, and urge each and every one of your contacts to do the same!

Letters and calls must be completed by tomorrow, July 27.

MEDITATIVE MUSIC FOR YOUR WEEK

LINKS TO CHANT WORKS PROVIDED BY NIGHT SONG

Looking for meditative chant music
during your time at home?

Night Song Director Daryl Bichel
offers the following suggestions:



St. John Cantius, Chicago: High Mass, Sunday, July 19

This continues to be one of my favorites, as it includes a great deal of chant.

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

Canticles of Ecstasy - Hildegard von Bingen, performed by Sequentia

Click on “learn more” to get the playlist. Beautiful!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ei88J4lERbk>

St. Mark’s Cathedral, Seattle: Compline Podcast, Sunday, July 12

There is no video, but just close your eyes and pretend you’re actually there. Enjoy the very resonant room. A larger group is singing this week (or possibly they are using music recorded at some time prior to the pandemic). The singing isn’t as fine as in last week’s compline liturgy; still, some things are quite lovely, such as the psalm setting by Hallock. Peter Hallock is the church musician who began compline at St. Mark’s in 1956. It’s an institution in Seattle, with many attending and many listening to the radio broadcast.

<https://complinepodcast.org>

Program:

ORISON: The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended (Tune: Les Commandements) – mel. Louis Bourgeois (c. 1510-c. 1559); harm. Claude Goudimel (c. 1514-1572)

PSALM 65 – Peter R. Hallock (1924-2014)

HYMN: Almighty God, your word is cast like seed (Tune: Walden) – Jane M. Marshall (1924-2019)

NUNC DIMITTIS – Plainsong setting, Tone III.6

ANTHEM: Hear the voice and prayer – Thomas Tallis (c. 1505-1585)

Jason Anderson, director & cantor; Jeffrey Ricco, reader

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, July 26

- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship via live-stream, Dan Smith, preaching, Issa, Marcia, and Malachi Bibbins, guest musicians
11:00 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour with “How to Become an Anti-Racist Church” conversation
5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Monday, July 27

- 5:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
5:00 p.m. “Exploring a Practice of Reparations” Faith & Life Group, via Zoom

Tuesday, July 28

- 5:00 p.m. “Diversifying Your Bookshelf” Faith & Life Group, via Zoom
7:30 p.m. “Book of Exodus” Faith & Life Group, via Zoom
8:30 p.m. Compline Prayer Service, via Zoom

Wednesday, July 29

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom
5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
7:00 p.m. *How to Be an Anti-Racist* Faith & Life Group, via Zoom

Thursday, July 30

- 8:30 a.m. *Me & White Supremacy* Faith & Life Group, via Zoom
12:00 p.m. FCC Kids’ Prayer & Connection Call with Sarah Higginbotham
4:30 p.m. Shared Reflections on Richard Rohr Daily Devotionals, via Zoom
6:00 p.m. Bible Study, via Zoom
7:45 p.m. Choir Call, via Zoom

Friday, July 31

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

Saturday, August 1

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

Sunday, August 2

- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship via live-stream, Dan Smith, preaching, Issa Bibbins, guest musician
11:00 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour
5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

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by clicking on the E-Newsletter icon at the bottom of our homepage
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***Email Dan Smith (dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org) this morning
to have today’s email forwarded to you.***

THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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George Williams, Kimel Williams
617-642-3980

Would you like to give to
First Church in Cambridge?
Here are easy ways to do it:



Text \$ __ to 1-844-996-0982



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE
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