



*Weeping may linger for the night,  
but joy comes with the morning.*

Psalm 30:5

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Lent  
March 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

### March 12, 2023

#### Preaching Today Leading Worship

Karen McArthur, *Minister of Stewardship & Finance*  
Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*  
Kate Layzer, *Minister of Street Outreach*  
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*  
Andrea Seek, *liturgist*  
Anne Holtzworth, *offering a Ministry Moment*  
Lee Prouty, *tech support*

#### Bulletin Cover Image

Psalm 30 collage by Audrey Bellinger  
*This and other Psalm collages can be viewed in a [digital gallery](#).*

#### Today's Programs and Events

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: *This Here Flesh* Lenten Series, Harter Room & [via Zoom](#)
- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 10:15 a.m. Lenten Letter Writing for Justice and Healing, Hastings Common
- 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, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 12:15 p.m. Hybrid Community Coffee Hour, Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)
- 12:15 p.m. Visit a Truth Teller, Hastings Common
- 1:30 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, Library
- 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)

#### Minister On Call

If you have an urgent pastoral need, please call 857-331-7136 ext.222. Your call will be routed to a First Church minister based on a rotating schedule that covers staff time off.

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**

Grave - Adagio

Felix Mendelssohn

**\*HYMN C-25**

Let There Be Life in This House

**\*GREETING**

Andrea Seek

L: Sisters, brothers, siblings, come, you who thirst for contemplation and courage.

**C Come, you who long for justice and joy!**

L: Beloved, come: you who yearn for a deeper life and a fairer world.

**C: Come and find rest and healing,  
find grace and grounding, in the Spirit's truth and love:**

L: in a truth that sets us free, in a love as wide as the sea!

**C: Come now, draw near to God with thanks and praise!**

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**ANTHEM**

Kyrie

Pellegrini

*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.  
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.*

## CONFESSING

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

**SILENCE**

**SUNG PRAYER**

Teach Me Your Way, O God

from Psalm 86; Layzer/Sykes

*The Choir will sing through once; please join them on the second time through.*

Teach me your way, O God, guide my steps in your truth; make  
5 whole my heart by your stead-fast love, that my life may de-clare your praise.

*\*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.*

## DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

### \*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 519

O Day of Peace That Dimly Shines

*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.*

## OPENING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

#### READING

John 4:1-34, 39-42

#### SERMON

A Story of Power

Karen McArthur

## SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lexi Boudreaux

### MINISTRY MOMENT

Anne Holtzworth

### PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Kate Layzer

L: God be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray...

*During the season of Lent, our prayers will be offered as a litany in the form below and with each congregational response preceded by a brief time of silence.*

L: ....God, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayers...**

### 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

### OFFERTORY

Sparrow, Sparrow of the Evening Patricia Van Ness  
*Sparrow, sparrow of the evening, not forgotten, held within God's hands.  
Lily, lily of the field, beauty spun within the mind of God.  
Cherished bird and flower, so cherished also we, beloved of God.*

### \*DOXOLOGY

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

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

#### GOING FORTH

### \*HYMN 367

Break Not the Circle

### \*BENEDICTION

### VOLUNTARY

Adagio

Felix Mendelssohn

*You cannot tell the story of injustice without telling the story of power. It requires integrity to become honest about how our power systems and our position in the world affect our capacity to do justice.*

– Cole Arthur Riley, *This Here Flesh*



SCAN ME

#### 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

## Let There Be Life in This House

C-25

1. Let there be life in this house,  
 2. Let there be life in this house,  
 3. Let there be life in this house,  
 4. Let there be life in this house,

poured from the riches of God; treasure in so many  
 tender and truthful and real; life of belonging, res-  
 life of the Spirit and fire; sisters and brothers new-  
 life of the Body divine, kindly and passionate,

ves-sels of clay, given for sharing, not hiding away:  
 pect-ed and free, hon-ored for all God declares us to be:  
 born from above, dar-ing to love because we have been loved:  
 ear-thy and odd, we are the Church, be-lov-ed of God:

Let there be life in this house!  
 Let there be life in this house!  
 Let there be life in this house!  
 Let there be life in this house!

WORDS: Kate Layzer  
 MUSIC: Peter Sykes

For First Church in Cambridge on the tenth anniversary  
 of its declaring itself an Open and Affirming Church

PEACE HYMN

519

O Day of Peace That Dimly Shines

The piano introduction consists of two staves. The right hand plays a series of chords and moving lines, while the left hand provides a simple bass line. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

1. O day of peace that dim-ly shines through all our  
2. Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the

The piano accompaniment continues with the same musical texture as the introduction, supporting the vocal lines.

hopes and prayers and dreams, guide us to jus - tice, truth, and  
fierce de - vour the small; as beasts and cat - tle calm - ly

The piano accompaniment continues with the same musical texture as the introduction, supporting the vocal lines.

love, de - liv - ered from our self - ish schemes. May swords of  
graze, a lit - tle child shall lead them all. Then en - e -

The piano accompaniment continues with the same musical texture as the introduction, supporting the vocal lines.

PEACE HYMN, cont'd.

hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en - vy find re -  
mies shall learn to love, all crea - tures find their true ac -

lease, till by God's grace our war - ring world shall see Christ's  
cord; the hope of peace shall be ful - filled, for all the

1.  
prom-ised reign of peace.  
earth shall know the

2.  
Lord.



# Break Not the Circle

367

*Unison*

1. Break not the cir - cle of en - a - bling love, where peo - ple  
 2. Come, won - der at this love that comes to life, where words of  
 3. Come, won - der at the Lord who came and comes to teach the  
 4. Join then the move - ment of the love that frees, till peo - ple

grow, for - giv - en and for - giv - ing; break not that cir - cle, make it wid - er  
 free - dom are with hu - mor spo - ken, and peo - ple keep no score of wrong and  
 world the craft of hope - ful crav - ing for peace and whole - ness that will fill the  
 of what - ev - er race or na - tion will tru - ly be them - selves, stand on their

still, till it in - cludes, em - brac - es all the liv - ing.  
 guilt, but will that hu - man bonds re - main un - bro - ken.  
 earth; he calls his peo - ple to cre - a - tive liv - ing.  
 feet, see eye - to - eye with laugh - ter and e - la - tion.

WORDS: Fred Kaan, 1975  
 MUSIC: Margaret R. Tucker, 1997

ROBERT  
 10 11.10 11

Dutch by birth, Kaan has served English United Reformed churches.  
 The tune ROBERT was written and named for FCC's Senior Minister  
 (1971-1999), Robert H. Tucker, husband of the tune's composer.

Words © 1975 Hope Publishing Co.  
 Music © 1998 Margaret R. Tucker

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Tim and Ami Brenner and their families, as Tim’s dad is in the hospital with pneumonia and declining health, and Ami’s dad is being treated for melanoma.
- We pray for Carol Wilson-Braun as she experiences ongoing health issues.
- We pray for Susie Neubauer, who is struggling with painful arthritis in her lower back.
- We give thanks that a longtime guest of our Shelter is finally making the transition to housing!
- We pray for Poppy & Brent Coffin as they continue loving & living with Alzheimer’s and as Poppy transitions to the Bridges Memory Care Community in Lexington.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Bridget Melle, Rich Goode’s sister; 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 earthquakes in Turkey and Syria and surrounding regions that killed tens of thousands of people, left over one million homeless, 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. 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 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 and gender expression that have been introduced—and, in some cases, have passed into law—in current legislative sessions across 11 states.
- We pray for the people of and natural environment surrounding East Palestine, OH, as they navigate the aftermath of the recent toxic train fire.
- 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.
- 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 resources and listening ears.

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

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

### First Church Community Read & Lenten Formation Series

Today and Sunday, 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?" [Read more](#)



### Lenten Letter Writing for Justice and Healing

**Sundays in Lent at 10:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m., Hastings Common**

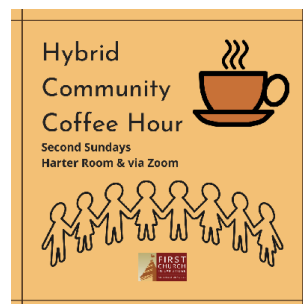
Grab a cup of coffee or tea and join the Missions & Social Justice Committee as we engage in a simple action that we know can make a big difference! Our Lenten letter writing will support at least two efforts. We will write to our state legislators in support of the 2023-2024 MA

Indigenous Legislative Agenda, which includes five priorities: Remove Racist Mascots, Honor Indigenous People's Day, Celebrate and Teach Native American Cultures & History, Protect Native American Heritage, and Support the Education and Futures of Native Youth. We will also offer the opportunity to become a penpal with someone who is currently incarcerated.

### Monthly Hybrid Community Coffee Hour

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

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!



**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.

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

### 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. [Read more about the Americans Who Tell The Truth exhibit here.](#)



### Parish List Now Available

Thank you to everyone who responded to our call for updated directory information. We have made all the changes in our database and have printed a limited number of paper copies of the new Parish List. You may pick up a paper copy at Coffee Hour. As always, our directory is available online; you can find the link on the [Members and Friends](#) page of our website. If you would like a paper copy mailed to you, please email that request to [Kirsten Manville](#).

### 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-fcccokies>



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

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH



### Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th Graders Today, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., Sage Hall

7th and 8th graders meet for OWL, a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum produced by the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Association.

### 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.](#)



### Aid for Turkey and Syria

The United Church of Christ (UCC) has issued an appeal to help recovery efforts in Turkey and Syria. [Click here to give generously.](#) You may also text UCCDISASTER to 41444. All donations will be deposited into the

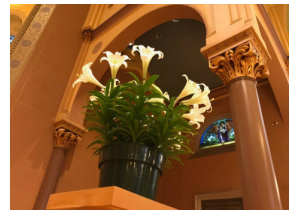
International Emergency fund designated for “Turkey and Syria Earthquake Response.” Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery. You can also mail a check made payable to the United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland,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



image: ABC News

### Memorial Flowers for Easter

If you wish to donate memorial flowers for loved ones this Easter, please send the names of those to be remembered to [Kirsten Manville](#) in the First Church office by April 2. Contributions of \$20 to help defray the cost of flowers can be made online (check off the Easter Flowers category) or can be included in the offering baskets found at the front and back of the Sanctuary (checks payable to First Church in Cambridge, with a memo line of “Easter Flowers”). Please email Kirsten the names even if you pay by check through the offering basket or online; this way we can make sure no one is missed. On Easter Sunday, the congregation is invited to take a plant to a homebound parishioner to spread the joy of Easter.



## LENT AT FIRST CHURCH



### **GBIO Housing Justice Campaign at the State House**

**Thursday, March 16, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

**24 Beacon St., Boston**

Show up for Housing Justice at the State House! Governor Healey's first budget is out, the new legislature is in session, and GBIO has a chance to make sure our stories are heard by those in power. Join GBIO member institutions, public housing tenants, returning citizens, and elected officials on Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m. [Register here](#). It's our first in-person action in three years, and we need to show up big! Register now at: [bit.ly/GBIOStatehouseMarch16](http://bit.ly/GBIOStatehouseMarch16) or talk to Phil Jones, Casey Marsh or Will Erickson.

**Refugee Resettlement Info Session**  
**Sunday, March 19, 12:30 - 1:15 p.m.**  
**Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)**

# **WELCOME**CORPS

Interested in helping refugees? Welcome to [WelcomeCorps](#)! WelcomeCorps is a brand-new US State Department program established to support small groups of Americans in welcoming and sponsoring new refugees for their first 90 days in our country. During the next few months, the program will place 5,000 refugees from Sub-Saharan Africa in US communities. All arriving refugees will have official Refugee Status and be approved for resettlement through the US Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP).

First Church is exploring whether we could form a sponsorship group to welcome a refugee or refugee family. We are looking for 4-6 individuals who are able and interested in becoming Core Team members for the immediate task of research, planning, and completing an application to the program. This is time-sensitive and potentially time-consuming work in the short-term. Experience in local housing, finance and employment, benefits and health care, education and ESL are needed, but any enthusiasm for the thorough planning process is most welcome! Please also be aware that if we are successful in our application, we will then have a need for a larger group to help with the many tasks of supporting a refugee or refugee family.

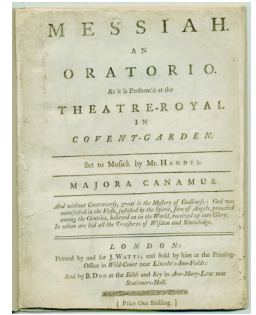
If you feel called to take part in this emerging ministry opportunity, or if you are just curious and have questions, please attend the exploratory session after worship on March 19. You can also reach out to Anne Holtzworth at [aholtzworth@post.harvard.edu](mailto:aholtzworth@post.harvard.edu) or 617-230-7842 to express interest or ask questions. Anne and others will be deciding on how to proceed based on the March 19 gathering, so please make your interest known!

## LENT AT FIRST CHURCH

### The Hallelujah Chorus, Reconsidered

Sunday, March 26, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m., Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)

Handel's beloved masterpiece Messiah has a backstory that we need to know about. Aspects of the setting of the text and Handel's investments will be explored and discussed, so that we may come to terms with colonial history and cultural attitudes of his time. Andy Clark and Peter Sykes will lead a discussion about what it may have meant in Handel's time and what it can mean for us now.



### Financial Sustainability Update & Discussion

Sunday, March 26, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)

During our recent Annual Meeting, leaders shared information about several financial sustainability initiatives underway at First Church. Please join us for an update and open discussion about these efforts. In particular, we will discuss the possibility of a near-term debt retirement appeal that could pay off the remaining loan balances from our 2018 building renovations and 2020 boiler replacement, which in turn would have a significant impact on our annual budget. We will also share what we are learning in our research about our cockerel weathervane and some of our archival documents. Finally, we will do some initial looking ahead to our fall staffing plans. Please bring your questions, ideas, encouragement, and prayers!



### Holy Week and Easter at First Church

Mark your calendars for our Holy Week services.

Visit [firstchurchcambridge.org/holy-week-2023](https://firstchurchcambridge.org/holy-week-2023) for details.

# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, March 13

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

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

## Tuesday, March 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, March 15

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom  
6:30 p.m. Faith & Life Group: An Introductory Conversation about Reparations, via Zoom  
7:30 p.m. Missions & Social Justice Committee, via Zoom

## Thursday, March 16

7:30 a.m. Faith & Life Group: *This Here Flesh* Extended Discussion Group, via Zoom  
6:00 p.m. Weekly Drop-In Bible Study, via Zoom

## Friday, March 17

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewet Hall (MJH)

## Sunday, March 19 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Lenten Series - *This Here Flesh*, Harter Room and via Zoom  
10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
10:15 a.m. Lenten Letter Writing for Justice and Healing, Hastings Common  
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11:20 a.m. Church School: Godly Play and Bible 101 classes  
12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, MJH  
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1:30 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, Library  
1:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Harter Room  
7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC  
11 Garden St. • Cambridge, MA 02138

617-547-2724 • [info@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:info@firstchurchcambridge.org) • [www.firstchurchcambridge.org](http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org)

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