



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

Psalm 30:5

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Lent  
March 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

### March 19, 2023

#### Preaching Today Leading Worship

Ahmaad Edmund, *Ministerial Intern*  
Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*  
Kate Layzer, *Minister of Street Outreach*  
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*  
Jenn McManus-Goode, *liturgist*  
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. Visit a Truth Teller, Harter Room  
12:30 p.m. Refugee Resettlement Info Session, Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)  
1:30 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, Library  
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)

#### Minister On Call

If you have an urgent pastoral need, please call 857-331-7136 ext.222. Your call will be routed to

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

Toccata Quinta

Girolamo Frescobaldi

\*HYMN 183

What Wondrous Love Is This

\*GREETING

Jenn McManus-Goode

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 (Missa Secunda)

Hans Leo Hassler

*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 442

#### What a Friend We Have in Jesus

*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

Psalm 1

#### SERMON

Ahmaad Edmund

## SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kate Layzer

### PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Lexi Boudreaux

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

Wake Every Breath

William Billings

*Wake every breath and every string to bless the great Redeemer King.  
His name through every clime adored! Let joy, and gratitude, and love,  
Through all the notes of music move, and "Jesus" sound on every chord.*

### \*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 352

Go Forth for God

### \*BENEDICTION

### VOLUNTARY

Canzona Quarta

Frescobaldi



#### **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

What Wondrous Love Is This

183

1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul! O my soul! What  
 2. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to  
 3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is  
 God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to God and to the  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! And when from death I'm

this! that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the heav-y cross for my  
 Lamb who is the great I Am, while mil-lions join the theme, I will  
 free, I'll sing and joy-ful be, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing

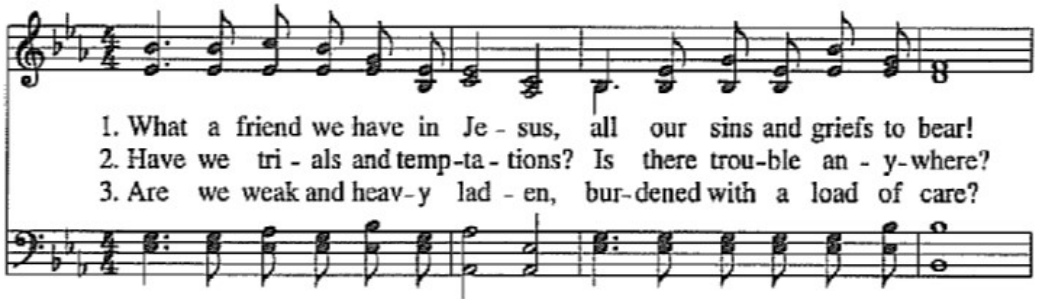
soul, for my soul, to bear the heav-y cross for my soul!  
 sing, I will sing; while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.  
 on, I'll sing on, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on!

WORDS: Appalachian folk hymn, Stith Mead's *A General Selection of the Newest and Most Admired Hymns and Spiritual Songs Now in Use*, 1811, alt.  
 MUSIC: Appalachian folk hymn, Walker's *Southern Harmony*, c. 1835; harm. FCC, 1997

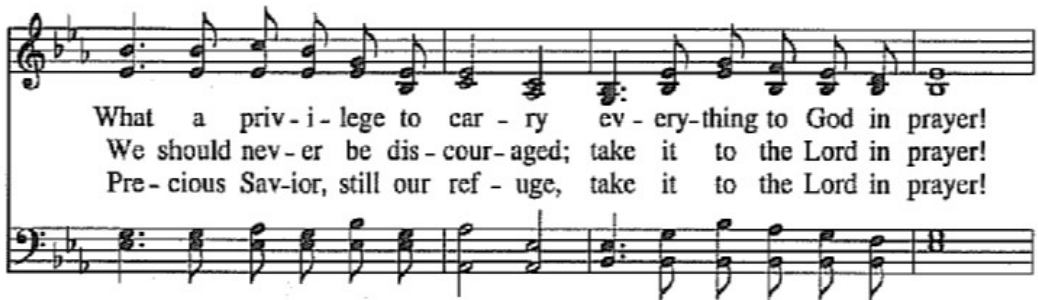
WONDROUS LOVE  
 12 9. 12 12 9

442

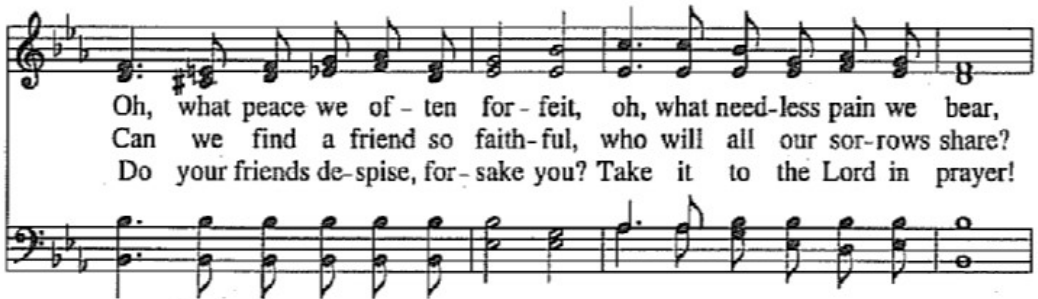
## What a Friend We Have in Jesus



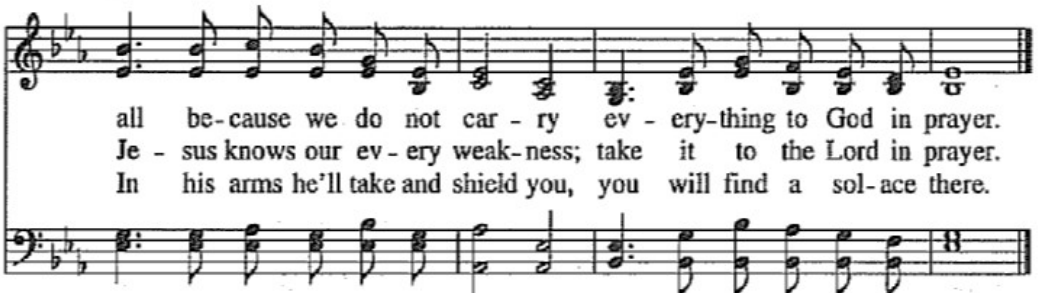
1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
 2. Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?  
 3. Are we weak and heav-y lad - en, bur-den-ed with a load of care?



What a priv-i - lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!  
 We should nev - er be dis - cour-aged; take it to the Lord in prayer!  
 Pre - cious Sav-ior, still our ref - uge, take it to the Lord in prayer!



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need-less pain we bear,  
 Can we find a friend so faith-ful, who will all our sor-rows share?  
 Do your friends de-spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!



all be-cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer.  
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak-ness; take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 In his arms he'll take and shield you, you will find a sol - ace there.

CLOSING HYMN

Go Forth for God

352

1. Go forth for God, go to the world in peace; be of good  
 2. Go forth for God, go to the world in love; strength - en the  
 3. Go forth for God, go to the world in strength; hold fast the  
 4. Go forth for God, go to the world in joy, to serve God's

cour - age, armed with heaven-ly grace, in God's good Spir - it  
 faint, give cour - age to the weak; help the af - flict - ed;  
 good, be ur - gent for the right; ren - der to no one  
 peo - ple ev - ery day and hour, and serv - ing Christ, our

dai - ly to in - crease, till in the king - dom we be - hold God's  
 rich - ly from a - bove God's love sup - plies the grace and power we  
 e - vil; Christ at length shall o - ver - come all dark - ness with his  
 ev - 'ry gift em - ploy, re - joic - ing in the Ho - ly Spir - it's

face. Go forth for God, go to the world in peace;  
 seek. Go forth for God, go to the world in love;  
 light. Go forth for God, go to the world in strength;  
 power. Go forth for God, go to the world in joy,

WORDS: John Raphael Peacey, 1975  
 MUSIC: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

OLD 124th  
 10 10.10 10.10



## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Renate Rose, who is recovering at home after a serious fall.
- 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 celebrate with Friday Café co-founder Tom Hathaway and his wife Sarah as they welcome baby Findley James Hathaway to their family.
- We pray for Carol Wilson-Braun as she experiences ongoing health issues.
- 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. We pray for the recovery efforts of medical and relief crews, and for the continuation of a 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 dozens of bills seeking to restrict transgender health care access and gender expression that have been introduced—and, in some cases, have passed into law—in state houses across the country.
- We pray for the people of central California, who are struggling in the face of unprecedented snow and rainfall .
- 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.

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

### First Church Community Read & Lenten Formation Series

Today, 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.

### 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! 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.](#)



## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

**Refugee Resettlement Info Session**  
**Today, 12:30 - 1:15 p.m.**

**Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)**

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 today. 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 today's gathering, so please make your interest known!

# WELCOME CORPS

### Youth Programs at First Church



### **Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th Graders**

**Today, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., Library**

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

### **Confirmation Class for 9/10th graders**

**Today, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., Harter Room**

Our year-long Confirmation journey for 9th and 10th graders continues today with a session entitled "Christian Values."

## 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.](#)

### 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](#).



### 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.



UNITED  
CHURCH OF  
CHRIST



image: ABC News

**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.

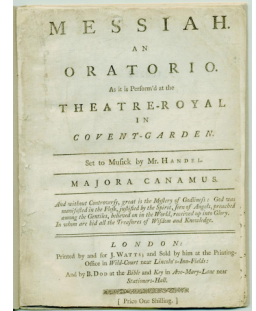


## LENT AT FIRST CHURCH

### 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.

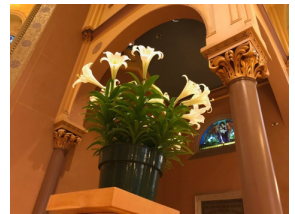
Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)

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!

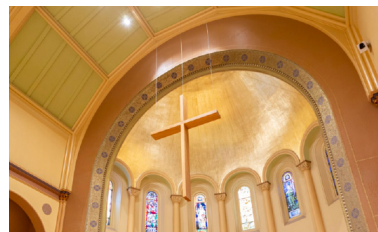
### Memorial Flowers for Easter

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.



## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT FIRST CHURCH

Plan to walk with us through Holy Week as we gather to hear the gospel stories and face the hard truth of what happened to Jesus. In the days leading up to Easter, we confront our own and humankind's shadows. And God too is revealed, standing firmly on the side of the persecuted—even those who are persecuted “in God's name.” Come to contemplate how this truth matters in our lives and in our world today.



### **Palm Sunday Breakfast**

**Sunday, April 2, 10:00 - 10:45 a.m., Margaret Jewett Hall**

Join us for our annual All-Church Palm Sunday Breakfast in Margaret Jewett Hall, where we enjoy conversation and connection over hot cross buns and other breakfast goodies. At the close of the breakfast, we hand out palms and make our way to the church lawn for our palm procession.

### **Palm Sunday Procession and Hybrid Morning Worship**

**Sunday, April 2 at 10:55 a.m., gather on the church lawn**

We remember Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem. We greet him with a “parade” of young and old, waving palms and singing traditional songs. Come join us as we make our way on the road with Jesus!

### **Maundy Thursday Service with Communion and Tenebrae**

**Thursday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary and via livestream**

We recall the new commandment Jesus gave his disciples “to love one another as I have loved you.” We remember his last meal with his friends by celebrating Holy Communion. And in a candle-lit, then darkened, sanctuary, we call to mind Jesus' anguish and arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. We depart in silence. *Parents are encouraged to use their judgment; this service is likely most suitable for children older than 10.*

### **Good Friday Service of Lamentation**

**Friday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary and via livestream**

We gather to lament the world's pain and injustice and to remember Jesus' death on the cross. Join us for this solemn service of ritual, reverence, and remembrance, where we meditate on Jesus' story and the stories and images from our current lives and recent past. *Parents are encouraged to use their judgment; this service is likely most suitable for children older than 10.*

### **Easter Hybrid Morning Worship,**

**Sunday, April 9 at 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary and via livestream**

Christ is Risen! We celebrate and rejoice in God's gift of new life through the resurrection of Jesus, as we proclaim the liberating truth of God's forgiving, redeeming, all-embracing love, greater even than death.

# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, March 20

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, via Zoom

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

## Tuesday, March 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
- 7:30 p.m. Shelter Oversight Committee, via Zoom

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

## Wednesday, March 22

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom

## Thursday, March 23

- 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
- 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Margaret Jewett Hall

## Friday, March 24

- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

## Sunday, March 26 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: The Hallelujah Chorus, Reconsidered, 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: Creative Arts Workshop, MJH
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, MJH
- 12:15 p.m. Visit a Truth Teller, Hastings Common
- 12:30 p.m. Financial Sustainability Update, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 1:30 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, Library
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