



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

Psalm 30:5

Lent
March 26, 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.

March 26, 2023

Preaching Today Leading Worship

Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Kate Layzer, *Minister of Street Outreach*
Ahmaad Edmund, *Ministerial Intern*
Carla Carbajal, *Ministerial Intern*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*
Paula Paris, *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](#).

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

Today's Programs and Events

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: The Hallelujah Chorus, Reconsidered, 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
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Creative Arts Workshop, Library
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 12:15 p.m. Visit a Truth Teller, Hastings Common
- 12:30 p.m. Financial Sustainability Update & Discussion, Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)
- 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 clipboards or this "[virtual visitor card](#)" so that we might 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

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

Allegro (Sonata in G Minor)

C. P. E. Bach

***HYMN 444**

Lord of All Hopefulness

***GREETING**

Paula Paris

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

Antonio Lotti

*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 C-26

Lord, Your Grace Shines Like the Morning

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

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Kate Layzer

READING

John 11:1-45

SERMON

Dan Smith

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carla Carbajal

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Ahmaad Edmund

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

Domine, Non Sum Dignus

Tomas Luis da Victoria

*Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof:
but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.
Have mercy on me, for I am weak; heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed.*

***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 415**

When We Are Living (Pues Si Vivimos)

***LEAVETAKING BLESSING FOR CATHY GARNETT**

***BENEDICTION**

VOLUNTARY

Presto (Sonata in G Minor)

C. P. E. Bach

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

444

Lord of All Hopefulness

1. Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
 2. Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
 3. Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
 4. Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,

whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy,
 whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
 your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to en - brace,
 whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm,

be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray, your
 be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray, your
 be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray, your
 be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray, your

bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

PEACE HYMN

C-26 Lord, Your Grace Shines Like the Morning

1. Lord, your grace shines like the mor - ning, sweet - ly
 2. Bit - ter is our long night's dream - ing, muf - fled
 3. You are mer - cy, you are heal - ing, though, save
 4. Praise to you, O God most pa - tient! in our

pierc - ing our deep night; comes up - on us with - out
 in a cloth of pain; shut in where no light comes -
 dark, we noth - ing see; new day breaks, your love re -
 dark - ness you see light; sor - row turns to ju - bi -

warn - ing; sor - row yields be - fore your light.
 stream - ing, till we wake to you a - gain.
 veal - ing: hope in what is yet to be.
 la - tion in your ev - er - last - ing sight!

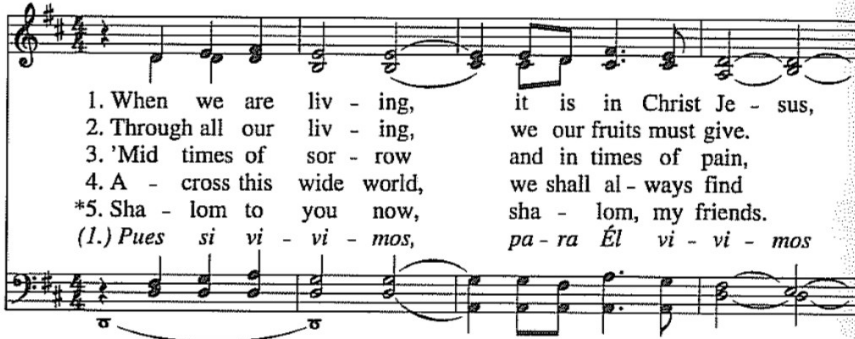
WORDS: Kate Layzer
 MUSIC: Peter Sykes

For the dedication of a new central chancel window,
 Spring 1994

CLOSING HYMN

415

When We Are Living
(Pues Si Vivimos)



1. When we are liv - ing, it is in Christ Je - sus,
 2. Through all our liv - ing, we our fruits must give.
 3. 'Mid times of sor - row and in times of pain,
 4. A - cross this wide world, we shall al - ways find
 *5. Sha - lom to you now, sha - lom, my friends.
 (1.) *Pues si vi - vi - mos,* *pa - ra Él vi - vi - mos*



and when we're dy - ing, it is in the Lord.
 Good works of ser - vice are for of - fer - ing.
 when sens - ing beau - ty or in love's em - brace,
 those who are cry - ing with no peace of mind,
 May God's full mer - cies bless you, my friends,
y si mo - ri - mos pa - ra Él mo - ri - mos.



Both in our liv - ing and in our dy - ing,
 When we are giv - ing, or when re - ceiv - ing,
 wheth - er we suf - fer, or sing re - joic - ing,
 but when we help them, or when we feed them,
 in all your liv - ing, and through your lov - ing,
Sea que vi - va - mos o que mu - ra - mos,



(1.-4.) we be - long to God, we be - long to God.
 (5.) Christ be your sha - lom, Christ be your sha - lom.
 (1.) *so - mos del Se - ñor,* *so - mos del Se - ñor.*

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

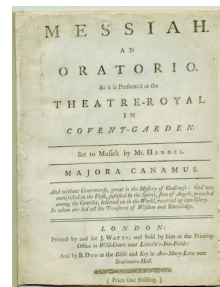
- We pray for Lisa McCarty and her family as they grieve the loss of Lisa's father Michael Triplett, who died unexpectedly of a heart attack this past Wednesday.
- We pray for Renate Rose, who is recovering at home after a serious fall.
- We pray for Tim and Ami Brenner and their families as Tim's dad transitions out of the hospital into a rehab facility, and Ami's dad is being treated for melanoma.
- We pray for the Wilson-Braun family as Carol experiences ongoing health issues, and as Jeff and Nathan recover from Covid.
- 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 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 our rapidly warming planet and for redoubled efforts to reduce fossil fuel emissions in light of another alarming report released this week by the world's top climate scientists.
- 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 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 pray for all who are affected by COVID-19 and those grieving Covid-related loss.
- We pray for the 14 men 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

The Hallelujah Chorus, Reconsidered

Today, 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.



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.](#)



Visit A Truth Teller 



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 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

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!



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.

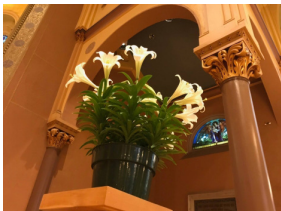


Night Song

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.](#)



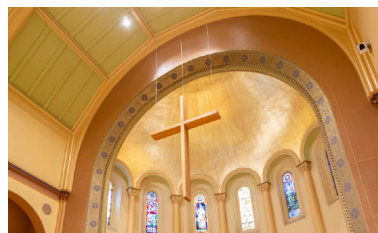
Memorial Flowers for Easter

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.

LOOKING AHEAD

Food Pantry Donations on Communion Sundays

Let us continue to bring food pantry contributions to First Church EVERY first Sunday of each month, which is next Sunday! The need is great and getting greater. Always welcome are: cereal, hearty soups, canned meats including Spam, canned fruits and veggies, cooking oil, condiments, baking supplies, diapers and feminine products. No fresh, frozen, opened or expired items, please! Be in communion with needy neighbors who rely on the St. James Food Pantry.



First Church Membership and Joining By Covenant Sunday, April 16, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m., Harter Room & via Zoom

What does it mean to join a church community “by covenant?” What does it mean to become a member of First Church—for you and your spiritual journey, as well as for our church community? In this discussion hour, we will address these questions and more. If you are considering membership at First Church, want to explore what that means for you, or are already a member who is curious about our covenants—both historic and modern—please join us.



Remembering and Honoring: First Church Embroidery Project Learning Session and Workshop

Sunday, April 23 at 12:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

Join local textile artists Sarah Fuijwara and Gail Willett, along with other project leaders for a session in which we take the next steps in our community project to embroider names of enslaved persons connected with First Church into a large-scale piece of fabric art. We’ll begin by sharing and discussing one or two [“Stories Impossible To Tell”](#) about enslaved persons whose names we will eventually

embroider. Sarah and Gail will guide us through an exercise of sewing and practicing our embroidery skills on muslin sacks. This activity is inspired by Tiya Miles’s National Book Award Winner *All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley’s Sack, a Black Family Keepsake*, which was one of our First Church Summer Reads last year. Please be thinking in advance about three family keepsakes you would put in your sack to pass along to future generations.



LOOKING AHEAD

Neighborhood Youth Group Service Project

Sunday, April 23, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., First Church Kitchen

Teens from 7th to 12th grade are invited to join youth from other churches bordering the Cambridge Common for an afternoon of cooking lasagnas for the Friday Café and First Church Shelter. We will meet in the First Church kitchen to cook together.



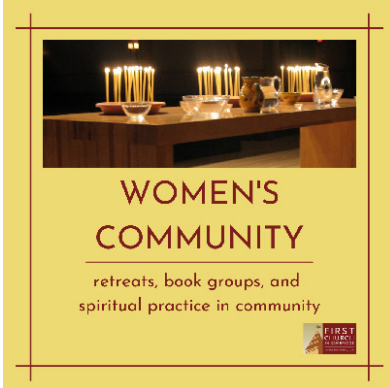
Women's Community Eastertide Retreat

Saturday, April 29, 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The women of First Church are invited to gather for a time of worship, spiritual practice, reflection, and fellowship to observe Eastertide. Everyone who identifies as a woman is welcome to join! Come as you are to take time out of our busy weeks for rest, renewal, and spiritual practice in the midst of a supportive community.

To let us know that you plan to attend, please sign up here:

<https://forms.gle/h4Lm3cRhsoXdubig9>





THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, March 27

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Executive Council, via Zoom

Tuesday, March 28

- 7:15 a.m. Reflective Conversations with Brent Coffin, via Zoom
- 10:30 a.m. Communications Team Meeting, Harter Room
- 1:30 p.m. Beloved Community, via Zoom

Wednesday, March 29

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 6:15 p.m. Staff Policy Committee, via Zoom

Thursday, March 30

- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Drop-In Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Margaret Jewett Hall

Friday, March 31

- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

Saturday, April 1

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Harter Room

Sunday, April 2 - Palm Sunday

- 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Breakfast, MJH
- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 10:55 a.m. Palm Procession, gather on church lawn
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Pastoral Care Sunday, MJH
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, MJH
- 12:15 p.m. Visit a Truth Teller, Hastings Common & MJH
- 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

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

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

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC
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