

Awake, my soul! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn. I will give thanks to you, O Lord, I will sing praises to you among the nations, for your steadfast love is as high as the heavens; your faithfulness extends to the clouds.

- Psalm 57:8-10

Eastertide April 30, 2023

FIRST CHURCH

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.

April 30, 2023

Preaching Today Liturgist Assisting in Worship	Dan Smith, <i>Senior Minister</i> Susan Reynolds Issa, Khima, and Marcia Bibbins, <i>guest musicians</i> Lexi Boudreaux, <i>Transitional Minister</i>
	Carla Carbajal, Ministerial Intern Paul Dale, for SNEUCC Environmental Ministries Team
	Lennie De Souza, guest musician
	Ahmaad Edmund, <i>Ministerial Intern</i> Lee Prouty, <i>tech support</i>
Bulletin Cover Image	Psalm 57 collage by Audrey Bellinger This and other Psalm collages can be viewed in <u>a digital gallery</u> .

Today's Programs and Events

S FIOGIAIIIS AIN LVEINS				
9:30 a.m.	First Church Treasures from the Past, Harter Room and via Zoom			
10:15 a.m.	Coffee and Conversation, 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)			
12:30 p.m.	Ongoing Crisis in Israel/Palestine, Harter Room and via Zoom			
1:30 p.m.	Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, Library and MJH			
1:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class for 9/10th graders, Chapel			
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: <u>www.firstchurchcambridge.org/give</u> or by texting "\$_" to: 1-844-996-0982.

Contact a Pastor or Staff Member

Find <u>contact information</u> 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.

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE congregational **387 YEARS** ON THE WAY 1636-2023

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

*HYMN

Let It Rise Let the glory of the Lord rise among us Let the glory of the Lord rise among us Let the praises of our King rise among us Oh, Oh, Oh, let it rise

Let the songs of the Lord rise among us Let the songs of the Lord rise among us Let the joy of our King rise among us Oh, Oh, Oh, let it rise William Murphy

*GREETING

Susan Reynolds

- L: Siblings in the Spirit, grace and peace to you from God!
- C: From God the Merciful, peace to you!
- L: Together, let us praise God in the presence of Love —
- C: Love divine, stronger than injustice and death!
- L: Together, let us praise God in the companionship of the Risen Christ —
- C: the Risen Christ, source of truth, who abides with us now!
- L: Together, let us praise God in this time of worship!

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

Let Praises Rise

William Murphy

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- L: Let us pray for healing, pardon, and peace:
- All:God of Justice, when we settle for the way things are
instead of the way you would have them to be, forgive us.
When we hold onto fear or are limited in vision,
increase our trust in you.
When we offer charity, but fail to work for justice,
show us what your love requires.(cont'd on next page)

*You are invited to stand. Hymns proceeded 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.

When we tire of the struggle
and tomorrow feels overwhelming,
rise up in us and give us your strength,
restore our hope, and renew our courage.
In the name of Jesus, our brother, we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

Please turn to your neighbors and offer a handshake, or a hug! Or if you prefer to maintain social distance, fold your hands or arms in a sign of peace. We want everyone to be comfortable; today let there be no spiritual distance between us.

*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		Ahmaad Edmund		
READING	Ephesians 3:14-20			
HOMILY		Dan Smith		
	SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER			
HONORING LONGTIME MEMBERS DICK AND GAY HARTER				
ANNOUNCEMENTS		Lexi Boudreaux		
	EN CONGREGATION RECOGNITION of Thanksgiving Creator God, we give you thanks for the gifts of your creation that sustain our lives, for the air we breathe and the water we drink. Thank you for the mountains and valleys, rivers and seas that nourish our spirits. Jesus, our teacher and friend, we give you thanks for your guiding example as we seek to love our neighbors a	Paul Dale		

INVITATION	TO OFFERING	
OFFERTORY	Indescribable	Chris Tomlin
*DOXOLOGY /	AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION O Jesus, risen now to bless, do thou thyself our hearts possess; that we may give thee all our days the willing tribute of our praise! Amen.	
L: C: L: THE LORD'S	R THE CHURCH AND WORLD God be with you. And also with you. Let us pray(silence, intercessions and the Lord's Prayer) PRAYER this prayer in words most meaningful to your heart.) 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 kingdo and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.	
	GOING FORTH	
*HYMN	Leaning on the Everlasting Arms	see page 4
*LEAVETAKIN	G BLESSING FOR THE ACKERMANN FAMILY	
*BENEDICTIO	Ν	
VOLUNTARY	-3-	

Thank you for nurturing many gifts of discipleship within this church, that together we can more faithfully follow you.

Holy Spirit, we give you thanks for your stirring among us. You have inspired us to take our Christian faith seriously in a world of climate crisis.

Just as you have been with us in our difficult work so far, continue to inspire and sustain us for where you lead next.



⁻Hymn Insert 1-

CLOSING HYMN



WORDS: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887 (Dt. 33:27) MUSIC: Anthony J. Showalter, 1887 SHOWALTER 10 9.10 9 with Refrain

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Art Anger, who had a hemorrhagic stroke recently and is beginning a long road of rehabilitation and recovery.
- We pray for Karen Anne Zee's beloved aunt Shirley Smith, who had a series of strokes recently and who is in precarious health.
- We pray for Carol Wilson-Braun as she deals with a slow-progressing motor neuron disorder.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Joanne Paul; 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 Faith Lutheran Church after its building was destroyed in a fire on Easter Sunday evening. The fire is now being investigated as an act of arson. We pray for their pastor, Rev. Robin Lutjohann, as well as the staff and community impacted by this devastating loss.
- We pray for the people of Sudan and for an end to escalating and deadly violence between warring political and military factions in Khartoum and surrounding areas, leading to evacuation efforts by the international community. We continue to pray for all those in global regions impacted by the violence of war.
- We pray for all whose lives are touched by our nation's raging epidemic of gun violence. We pray for ongoing efforts to create lasting change in our country's gun safety laws.
- We pray for the wellbeing and safety of our trans siblings as they face the impact of hundreds 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.
- We pray for all those affected by police violence and for all those protesting and working at the local, state, and federal level to end police brutality, which disproportionately affects persons and communities of color.
- We pray for peace with justice in Palestine and Israel amidst ongoing political tensions.
- We pray for those most affected by changes in reproductive rights: for all those struggling with the moral and political complexities of pregnancy and childbearing, and for patients and healthcare providers who are now unable to give and receive care in their own states.
- 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.

Join the First Church List to see and offer up more community prayer requests.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

First Church Treasures from the Past Today and Sunday, May 7, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Harter Room and via Zoom

Come and learn the fascinating story of the Cockerel weathervane that tops our church tower. The great gilded rooster was made in 1721 by famous Boston coppersmith Shem Drowne and was already 150 years old when it landed in Cambridge in 1873. Today, Lindsay Miller tells the



cockerel's story. Next Sunday, Kate Judd, Chris Reynolds, and other members of the First Church Archives team reveal the once-forgotten history of the Archives and how some remarkable 17th and 18th century documents ended up in the collection. Join us to hear history come alive!



Celebrations In Morning Worship Today

Good news! First Church is being recognized for our efforts in reaching Level One of the Southern New England Conference UCC (SNEUCC) <u>Green Congregation Challenge</u>. Paul Dale from the SNEUCC Environmental Team will join us in Morning Worship to present us with an award as we lift up our shared journey toward addressing the climate crisis and environmental injustice.

More good news! Former Pastoral Associate Jaz Buchanan is joining us for the Green Challenge celebration, along with her new baby! We are so grateful to Jaz and to Jim Brown for their recent efforts to mobilize our First Church Earth Stewardship Team.

Even more good news! Former longtime members Dick and Gay Harter are also be with us, and they will receive a Cockerel tile acknowledging their 50+ years of involvement at First Church.

Ongoing Crisis in Israel/Palestine: Challenges and Opportunities on the 75th Anniversary of the Nakba Today, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Harter Room & via Zoom May 2023 will mark the 75th anniversary of what

Palestinians call the Nakba, or catastrophe: the founding of



the modern State of Israel and the accompanying mass displacement and violence experienced by Palestinians. Grounded in its just peace commitment, First Church members are invited to hear from special guest Hilary Rantisi, Associate Director of the Religion, Conflict, and Peace Initiative at Harvard Divinity School. A Palestinian-American, Hilary formerly served as Director of the Middle East Initiative at Harvard's Kennedy School and as a grassroots activist in Jerusalem. Hilary will share her family's experience of the Nakba and offer an update on the current challenges to, and opportunities for, advancing just peace in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th Graders Today at 1:30 p.m., Library

Our OWL class holds its final session today. Parents are invited to join the group at 2:30 p.m. in Margaret Jewett Hall for an ending ritual and reception. We are grateful for the journey of discovery and self-reflection



that our students have undertaken over the 2022-23 program year, and we thank the volunteer leaders who have been their guides.



Confirmation Class for 9/10th graders Today at 1:30 p.m., Chapel

Confirmands meet for their penultimate session, entitled "The Sacraments." They continue to prepare for **Confirmation Sunday on May 21,** when we will mark the end of the Confirmation process. Morning Worship that day will include the Rite of Confirmation, as well as the baptisms of several Confirmands. Join us to celebrate their spiritual journeys and to welcome many of them into membership by covenant. Then, head to Margaret Jewett Hall for a cake reception in their honor!

Night Song

Sundays, 7:30 - 8:15 p.m., Sanctuary and <u>via livestream</u> 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.*





Faith Lutheran Church Fire Recovery Fund

On Easter Sunday, Faith Lutheran Church at 311 Broadway in Cambridge suffered a devastating fire. We give thanks for the efforts of the many firefighters who worked to extinguish the fire and protect the surrounding neighborhood, even as we mourn with the congregation at the loss of their church home.

If you would like to donate toward their recovery, they have set up a <u>Faith</u> <u>Lutheran Church Fire Recovery Fund</u> GoFundMe page.

EASTERTIDE AT FIRST CHURCH



Men's Breakfast

This Saturday, May 6, 8:00 - 9:30 a.m., Harter Room

All who identify as men at First Church are invited to join us in person on Saturday morning for our monthly gathering, a time to reflect and rejoice. If you would like to be added to the Men's Breakfast email list to receive reminders of these gatherings, please contact Peter Byerly: p.byerly@comcast.net

Many Helping Hands Food Pantry: Donations Accepted Next Sunday, May 7

Holding Hilary Hopkins in our hearts, First Church continues to provide contributions to the Many Helping Hands Food Pantry. The volunteer-run, donation-driven pantry offers a grocery shopping experience on the second Saturday of each month. On an April Saturday, the 60+ customers were elders, veterans, families with children, and native speakers of Haitian, Portuguese



and Ukrainian—many hold several of these identities. Helping Hands shared that the following donations are especially appreciated by their customer community at this time: family/kid-friendly items (e.g. healthy snacks, meals to bridge weekends until senior & school lunches resume), hygiene products (e.g. incontinence, feminine pads, no tampons), spices, and, where possible, items bought in bulk/case, as this supports customers on that particular morning having a similar shopping experience. No diapers, please. *First Church donations can be left in the large baskets in the Narthex on the first Sunday of each month, which is next Sunday, May 7.* Questions or concerns? Please contact Steve Weller or Stefanie Haug, our new First Church food pantry liaisons.



Newcomers Meet and Greet

Sunday, May 7, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m., Hastings Common Are you feeling new to First Church? Or are you a member interested in meeting someone new to our community? All are warmly invited to meet up directly after worship in Hastings Common, just through the Sanctuary door by the Children's Book Corner. Some of what you can expect: friendly faces, new friends?, questions answered, snacks, and an informal atmosphere for conversation.

EASTERTIDE AT FIRST CHURCH

Preparing for Joining Sunday, May 7

Have you been thinking about exploring membership at First Church in Cambridge? Do you have a growing sense that First Church is where you belong? Have you recently enjoyed meeting new folks in our community and are looking to make it official? You are in luck! Please save the date for our next Joining Sunday in our Morning Worship next Sunday May 7. If you are interested in joining, please submit a short bio about yourself to <u>Lexi Boudreaux</u> by Tuesday, May 2, at 10:00 a.m.





Recycling, Compost, and Trash at First Church: A Quick Primer

It has been wonderful to be able to gather in person again for fellowship, formation, and meetings, while also partaking in refreshments, snacks, treats, and even full meals. Because gatherings with food are back in full swing, we thought it would be a good idea to remind everyone of the proper ways to dispose of waste here at First Church.

Recycling (blue containers) metal cans and foil glass bottles and jars plastic containers paper and cardboard

Compost (green containers)

food wasteAfter youused tea bags, coffee grounds & filtersand comppaper towels, napkins & muffin paperscan, what'certified compostable plates, cups, utensilsthe trash.

Trash (black containers)

After you have recycled and composted what you can, what's left can go in the trash.

Thank you very much for disposing of your refuse in the proper containers. Not only is it in line with our Earth Stewardship goals, but both the City of Cambridge and our compost company will fine the church if trash is mixed in with the recycling or compost. Questions? Want to learn more about refuse disposal at First Church? Contact <u>Director of Operations Kirsten Manville</u>.



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.

SPRING FAITH & LIFE GROUPS



Register for a Spring Faith & Life Group

It's time to sign up for the last round of Faith & Life Groups in this program year! Led by First Church members, Faith & Life Groups are designed to encourage meaningful connections through shared interests. Faith & Life Groups involve making a short-term commitment (a single session to several weeks, depending on the group) to something that might be delightful, deep, or even transformational. At the same time, you can get to know First Church friends who share your interests. We need each other now more than ever. If you are looking for a way to dip your toes into the life of our church and stay connected outside of Sunday Worship, this is for you!

Registration Deadline is Sunday, May 14.

Questions?

Please contact Transitional Minister <u>Lexi Boudreaux</u> or the leader of the group directly. <u>Please sign up to participate in a faith and life group here.</u>

Birding at Mount Auburn Cemetery

We'll explore the grounds and look for the birds that visit and may nest in this lovely place during Spring migration. Please wear comfortable shoes and bring binoculars, if you have them. Meet at the Mount Auburn Main Gate. No experience necessary!

Dates/Times: Thursdays, May 11 and 18 at 7:00 a.m. **Leader:** Marianne Jensen

Art in Faith

Is seeing believing? How do the arts affect one's faith? Does one imagine their religion? Questions of doubt and wonder range when art shows in church. View a show of twenty paintings of Jesus Christ on display in Margaret Jewett Hall and participate in an hour-long discussion of the visual and other arts in your faith and life.

Date/Times: Pentecost Sunday, May 28, at 9:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. **Leader:** Henry Gates

SPRING FAITH & LIFE GROUPS

Reparations: Approaching the Journey with a Beginner's Mind

If you're curious about what reparations mean and what possible models are out there for the practice, and/or looking for a place to talk about the many feelings that come to the surface when thinking about taking steps to grapple with the very real spiritual and physical impacts of the practice, this conversation series is for you! Come with your questions, come with your fears and uncertainties, come with your open hearts to explore this sacred practice of repentance and relinquishment. Using Reparations: A Christian Call for Repentance and Repair by Duke L. Kwon and Gregory Thompson as a resource and a guide, we will explore a basic understanding of reparations, particularly focusing on what it means for us as Christians. We will bring select quotes and concepts to the discussion, so reading the whole book is not a requirement for participation.

Dates/Times: Wednesdays, May 31, June 7 (and maybe 14), 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., via Zoom **Leader:** Abby Shuman

All We Can Save Circle: A Climate Grief Small Group

Are you hungry for deeper dialogue about the climate crisis and building community around solutions? Join us in reading *All We Can Save*, an anthology of writings by 60 women at the forefront of the climate movement who are harnessing truth, courage, and solutions to lead humanity forward. This group will function as an *All We Can Save* Circle and will be a facilitated discussion that makes room for processing and discussing climate grief and leadership in community.

Find more information about the All We Can Save Project and Circles

Dates/Times: TBD based on registrants' availability **Leader:** Lexi Boudreaux

EASTERTIDE AT FIRST CHURCH



Fabric Dyeing and Stitching Workshops May 13, 16, and 30, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Margaret Jewett Hall and the Landing

Join textile artists Sarah Fujiwara, Gail Willett and Carol Anne Grotrain for the next steps on our journey of creating *Wade in the Water: Remembering and Honoring Enslaved Africans and Native Americans at First Church in Cambridge*. At these workshops, participants will learn about traditional fabric-dyeing methods, assist in stenciling African Adinkra symbols, and begin the embroidery of background images to which we will add the embroidered names of those we remember and honor. Space is limited; please RSVP to Sarah Fujiwara for any or all of the workshops (sarahpfujiwara@gmail.com).

LOOKING AHEAD

Children's Sunday and The First Church Musicale Sunday, June 11

On the second Sunday of June, it is our custom to celebrate the children's formation programs of the church in a Children's Sunday worship service. We are led in liturgy by younger voices, and we recognize our 4th graders with their own Bibles as they "graduate" from Godly Play. We lift up the volunteer teachers and helpers who make our Church School run, and we take time to ask wondering questions about the stories central to our faith and practice.

And this year after worship, we are bringing back an old favorite: The First Church Musicale! All ages are invited



to gather in Margaret Jewett Hall for an indoor picnic luncheon, followed by a time of sharing our creative talents with one another. <u>Sign up</u> to offer a (short) performance that showcases your skills in music, theater, dance, circus, poetry, stand-up comedy, or quirky tricks. Questions? Contact <u>Sarah Higginbotham</u>. Now, go start rehearsing!



Staffing Transitions

We have sad news and glad news about our staffing plans!

First, the sad part. As was announced at our recent Congregational Meetings, our fabulous Transitional Minister's 2-year term is coming to an end in the coming months. Lexi Boudreaux will be leaving us on August 31, but not before we celebrate the remarkable gifts she has brought these last five years, beginning with her time as a Ministerial Intern and a Pastoral Associate from Harvard Divinity School. We will

have a congregational celebration of her ministry after church on June 18 while we are still gathered, leaving time throughout the summer for further goodbyes.

The glad news is that both Carla Carbajal and Ahmaad Edmund have agreed to stay with us for the 2023-24 program year as half-time Pastoral Associates to share their extraordinary gifts and to help us cover Lexi's myriad responsibilities. We are grateful that this plan



will afford us the time and resources needed to set First Church on a more sustainable financial path as we pursue our goal of calling a full-time minister of color. We are grateful beyond words to Lexi, Ahmaad, and Carla, and to the rest of our staff and community ministers for their dedication and agility, to our lay leaders, and to our entire faith community for joining us in this ongoing discernment of our still evolving staffing model.



Monday, May 1

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

Tuesday, May 2

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

Wednesday, May 3

9:30 a.m.Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom4:00 p.m.Gifts Discernment Committee, via Zoom7:00 p.m.Christian Formation Committee, via Zoom

Thursday, May 4

6:00 p.m. Drop-In Bible Study, via Zoom 7:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee, via Zoom

Friday, May 5

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

Saturday, May 6

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

Sunday, May 7

- 9:30 a.m. First Church Treasures from the Past, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Pastoral Care Sunday, MJH
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, MJH
- 12:15 p.m. Newcomers Meet & Greet, Hastings Common
- 1:30 p.m. Confirmation Class for 9/10th graders, Harter Room
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

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See our <u>Events Calendar</u> for Zoom links and details.

Sign up <u>here</u> to receive our weekly e-newsletter.