

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2023

Preaching Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*

Liturgist Angela Servello

Assisting in Worship Lee Prouty, *tech support*
Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*

Bulletin Cover Image Psalm 96 collage by Audrey Bellinger
All Psalm collages can be viewed in [a digital gallery](#) on our website.

Voluntary

Andante grazioso, quasi Allegretto
L. van Beethoven

Opening Hymn 353

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

Anthem

Psalm 139
Bay Psalm Book/Denise Karuth

Peace Hymn 340

Peace Before Us

Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

Reading

John 21:1-14

Sermon Hymn 396

Strong, Gentle Children

Offertory

Shall We Gather At the River
Aaron Copland

Closing Hymn 100

By Gracious Powers

Voluntary

Andante
L. van Beethoven

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 617-547-2724 ext. 222. Your call will be routed to a First Church minister based on a rotating schedule that covers staff time off.



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.

-Bulletin Insert 1-

353 Called as Partners in Christ's Service



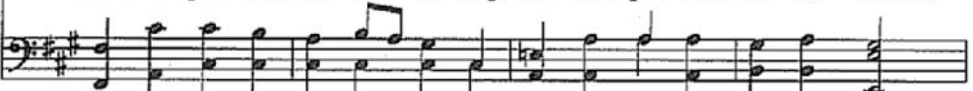
1. Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2. Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3. Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4. So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



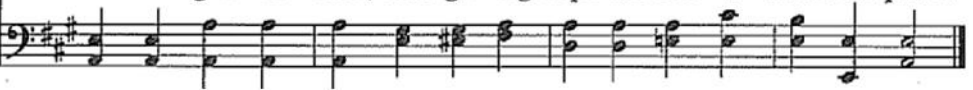
we re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 that sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quers strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



e - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
 blend-ing hu-man skills to-geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
 bring new pow'r and strength for ac-tion, make us part-ners, free and fair.
 mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.



PEACE HYMN

340

Peace Before Us



1. Peace be-fore us, peace be-hind us, peace be-neath our feet.
2. Love be-fore us, love be-hind us, love be-neath our feet.
3. Light be-fore us, light be-hind us, light be-neath our feet.
4. Christ be-fore us, Christ be-hind us, Christ be-neath our feet.



Additional verses: joy, truth, hope.

WORDS: David Haas, (b.1957), alt., based on a Navaho prayer
MUSIC: David Haas, (b.1957); harm. FCC, 1997

PRAYER FOR PEACE
445.447

Words, music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.
Harm. © 1998 FCC Houston TX



- Peace with-in us, peace a-bove us, let all a-round us be peace.
Love with-in us, love a-bove us, let all a-round us be love.
Light with-in us, light a-bove us, let all a-round us be light.
Christ with-in us, Christ a-bove us, let all a-round us be Christ.



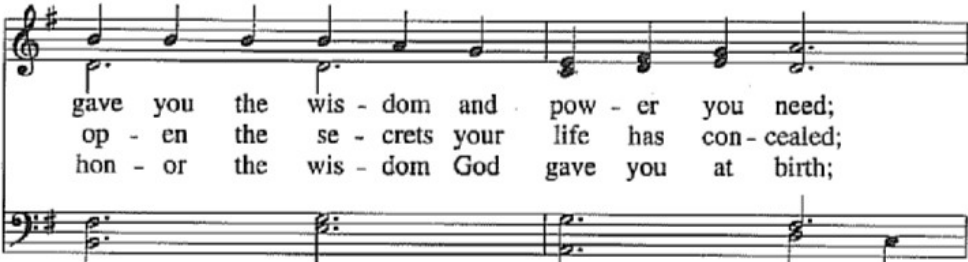
Strong, Gentle Children

396

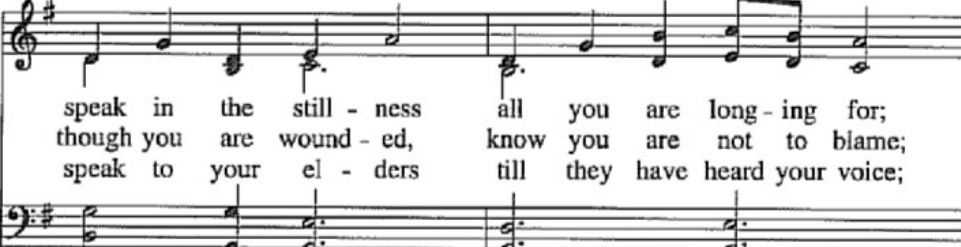
Unison



1. Strong, gen - tle chil - dren, God made you beau - ti - ful,
 2. Strong, hurt - ing chil - dren, an - gry and ter - ri - fied,
 3. Strong, know - ing chil - dren, ut - ter your cry a - loud,



gave you the wis - dom and pow - er you need;
 op - en the se - crets your life has con - cealed;
 hon - or the wis - dom God gave you at birth;



speak in the still - ness all you are long - ing for;
 though you are wound - ed, know you are not to blame;
 speak to your el - ders till they have heard your voice;



live out your call - ing to love and to lead.
 cry out your sto - ry till truth is re - vealed.
 sing out your vi - sion of heal - ing on earth.

CLOSING HYMN

100

By Gracious Powers

Unison

1. By gra-cious powers so won-der-ful-ly shel-tered,
 2. Yet is this heart by its old foe tor-ment-ed,
 3. And when this cup you give is filled to brim-ming
 4. Yet when a-gain in this same world you give us

and con-fi-dent-ly wait-ing, come what may,
 still e-vil days bring bur-dens hard to bear;
 with bit-ter suf-fring, hard to un-der-stand,
 the joy we had, the bright-ness of your sun,

we know that God is with us night and morn-ing,
 O give our fright-ened souls the sure sal-va-tion
 we take it thank-ful-ly and with-out trem-bling,
 we shall re-mem-ber all the days we lived through,

and nev-er fails to greet us each new day.
 for which, O God, you taught us to pre-pare.
 out of so good and so be-loved a hand.
 and our whole life shall then be yours a-lone.

WORDS: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1944; tr. Fred Pratt Green, 1972
 MUSIC: Herbert G. Hobbs, 1976; harm. Jan Helmut Wubbena, 1976

BONHOEFFER
 11 10.11 10

This text was written, with serene confidence, in the Gestapo jail cell
 from which theologian and leader of the German opposition Bonhoeffer
 would emerge only for his 1945 execution.

Tr. © 1974 Hope Publishing Co.
 Music © 1976 Herbert G. Hobbs
 Harm. © 1976 Jan Helmut Wubbena

PROVIDENCE AND CARE

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Perry Neubauer, who is recovering from shoulder surgery this past Thursday
- We pray for Anita Anger as she negotiates rehab after a recent fall.
- We pray for Cathy Garnett, who is recovering from recent hip replacement surgery.
- We pray for Ami Brenner's father Jim Rae, who has started a new treatment for melanoma.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer and other ongoing health challenges: Carol Wilson-Braun, who is managing slow-progressing ALS; Ellen Smith, Devin Hansen's aunt; Judith Semmler, Alice Napoleon Jones'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 also pray for those in hospice care: Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn's mother.
- We continue to pray for all those impacted by the violence of war and political upheaval, including in Ukraine, Sudan, and Haiti, and especially those displaced and seeking refuge in other countries.
- We pray for all refugees and migrants who make often life-threatening border crossings over land and open water to escape poverty, political persecution, violence, and climate-related disaster.
- We pray for all in Maui who are grieving losses and impacted by recent wildfires, and everyone around the country and globe experiencing deadly heat waves, flooding and other extreme weather. We continue to pray for our rapidly warming planet and for redoubled efforts to reduce fossil fuel emissions.
- We pray for all whose lives are touched by our nation's raging epidemic of gun violence, especially those dealing with related loss and trauma. We pray for ongoing advocacy to create lasting change in our country's gun safety laws.
- We pray for the wellbeing and safety of our trans and gender non-conforming siblings as they face the impact of vitriolic public discourse and of state laws that restrict and criminalize transgender health care, personal expression, and wider LGBTQ+ education.
- 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 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.

SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH



1

August Worship Services and a Farewell to Lexi Boudreaux

After five years of ministry, the time has come to say our final farewells to our beloved Transitional Minister Lexi Boudreaux. As we move towards staffing transitions with Lexi's imminent departure, we invite you to a series of important events that take place this month:

Lexi's final sermon, today, August 20

Lexi has been a guiding light within our congregation, and her words and service have touched our hearts deeply. Let us come together to honor her and listen to the wisdom she will share on this significant day.

Leavetaking Service, August 27

We will bid farewell to Lexi as she moves forward on her path of faith. It will be a time to express gratitude for her invaluable contributions and to wish her well as she embraces new opportunities in service to the Lord.

You may read letters from our Moderator Moana Bentin and from Lexi Boudreaux in the [Latest News](#) on our website.

Summer Sign-Ups with Lexi Boudreaux

Lexi would love to connect with as many First Church folks as she can before the summer is over. To schedule a time with Lexi over the summer to say goodbye or to talk about what a good goodbye looks like—to laugh or cry about change, to wrap up a shared project, or to ask any lingering questions— please follow this link and suggest a time and place: <https://calendly.com/lexiboudreaux>

Pastoral Care Cards This Summer

During the summer months, we invite you to support our Pastoral Care ministry by writing a simple note to First Church members who are on our weekly prayer list. It may be to share congratulations, condolences, or “get well soon” wishes. Look for the “card table” after worship each Sunday, where you’ll find the weekly list of pastoral care needs and/or the Sunday bulletin prayer section, blank cards, pens, as well as stamps and a Church Directory with addresses. Please take the completed cards with you to mail. If you’d like to write cards from home, use the online bulletin and Church Directory found in the “Quick Links” on the Members & Friends page of our website. Many thanks in advance for sharing in this important ministry of outreach and care.



SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH



**Sponsoring Refugees.
Strengthening Communities.**

Do you enjoy helping others to build skills? Are you inspired to help immigrant newcomers learn about budgeting and finance? About US culture, laws, and norms? Or excited to share about our local community, including food resources, libraries, parks, public transportation?

Then we especially need you to welcome refugees! First Church & Friends is now an official sponsor group for WelcomeCorps and we are preparing to welcome two refugees from Sub-Saharan Africa in October 2023. These newcomers will have Official Refugee Status and full access to government benefits. Our team will support them in a 90-day resettlement effort, which includes helping them to settle into all aspects of their new lives in Cambridge. We are asking for volunteers interested in helping newcomers to thrive here in their new home. We believe that participating will provide you with a meaningful opportunity to support refugees in a major life transition, as well as to collaborate with other Church and community members. If you can join us in our effort, [please complete this form](#). And reach out to your friends and community with this experience; people outside of First Church are very welcome to join the team! If you have any questions about being a volunteer, please email Martha Mueller Cook at marthamuellercook@gmail.com.

Support the Friday Café This Summer

The Friday Café is serving a light lunch to our 100+ guests on summer Fridays through Labor Day. We would love some help! Please visit <https://signup.com/go/qQfTjJN> to sign up to bring 10 sandwiches, sweet treats, or servings of fruit. This is a great activity for kids, or teens looking for community service credit. Dropoff is Friday mornings.



Registration Now Open:

**All-Church Fall Retreat at Craigville Retreat Center
Friday, September 29 - Sunday, October 1**

Register now to join us on the Cape for a weekend of community-building in fellowship, formation, and fun. All ages are invited to come together as a multigenerational community to talk, laugh, play, dance, eat, sing, worship, and connect! [Complete this registration form](#) and stay tuned for more details on this year's retreat theme. Questions? Contact [Sarah Higginbotham](#).

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