

Palm Sunday
March 24, 2024

**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 24, 2024

Preaching Today
Liturgist
Leading Worship

Ahmaad Edmund, *Pastoral Associate*
Joanne Paul
Carla Arevalo, *Pastoral Associate*
Sarah Higginbotham, *Director of Creative Worship & Arts*
Phil Jones, Casey Marsh, Callum Pelton-Cairns, and Erik Stauffer,
leading the Palm Processional
Lee Prouty, *tech support*
Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*
Emma Thomas, *Ministerial Intern*

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE
CONGREGATIONAL
388 YEARS
ON THE WAY
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 4

Today's Programs and Events

- 10:00 a.m. All-Church Palm Sunday Breakfast, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 10:55 a.m. Palm Processional from the Church Lawn
- 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. Refreshments and Leavetaking Team Update, MJH
- 12:15 p.m. Young Adults: Brunch at Zoe's Diner, meet in MJH
- 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 electronically by using the QR code in the bulletin or explore more options for giving at: www.firstchurchcambridge.org/give

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.

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

*You are invited to gather on the church lawn at 10:55 a.m. for the opening of the service.
If you do not wish to process with palms, you may take a seat in the Sanctuary
or tune in via livestream.*

*GREETING ON THE LAWN

Dan Smith

L: People of God, sing Hosanna!

C: Hosanna! God is near!

L: People of God, lift high your palms!

C: Let us fill our hearts with sounds of praise!

L: Lift your voices. Sing out God's courage for our community!

C: Let us walk with Jesus to Jerusalem!

L: Blessed is the One who comes to show us God's way of love and peace!

C: Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN (insert) All Glory, Laud, and Honor

WORDS OF WELCOME

Joanne Paul

ANTHEM

Hosanna to the Son of David

Luc Jakobs

*Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed be he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Blessed be the King of Israel. Blessed be the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven. Hosanna in the highest heavens!*

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

SUNG PRAYER

Lead Me, Lord

Hymn 271

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 179

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

Children up through 7th grade are now invited to Church School: Creative Arts Workshop in the Library. Children will return to worship after the Homily.

**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.*

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Mark 11:1-11

HOMILY

Ahmaad Edmund

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

The Way Knows the Way

Lindsay Scott

**You don't have to know the Way;
the Way knows the Way.
You don't have to plan the Way,
trust the Way, feel your Way.
The Way knows, the Way knows,
the Way knows the Way.**

BLESSING OUR JOURNEYS AND INTENTIONS

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carla Arevalo

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

L: God be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray... (*silence, intercessions, and the Lord's Prayer*)

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

*Our offering supports the many ministries of our church,
with 10% for missions in the community and beyond.
Please use our new [all-in-one link](#) for gifts from your
bank account or by credit/debit card:*



***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 471**

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

***BENEDICTION**

VOLUNTARY

Valet will ich dir geben

J. S. 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.



SCAN ME

You can find a longer version of this acknowledgment [here](#) or by scanning the QR code.

OPENING HYMN

178

All Glory, Laud and Honor

1. All glo - ry, laud and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King,
 2. Thou art the King of Is - rael, thou Da - vid's roy - al son,
 3. Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!
 who in the Lord's name com - est, the true and bless - ed One;
 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
 to thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King,

our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!

SUNG PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lead Me, Lord

271

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy right-cous-ness, make thy way

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains the vocal melody, and the bass staff contains the piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

plain be - fore my face. For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord,

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

on - ly, that mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

The third system of music concludes the hymn. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

WORDS: Psalms 5:8, 4:8
MUSIC: Samuel S. Wesley, 1861

LEAD ME, LORD
378.548

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!

179

1. Ride on, ride on in ma - jes - ty! Hark! all the
 2. Ride on, ride on in ma - jes - ty! In low - ly
 3. Ride on, ride on in ma - jes - ty! The wing - ed
 4. Ride on, ride on in ma - jes - ty! Your last and

crowds ho - san - na cry; through wav - ing branch - es
 pomp ride on to die; O Christ, your tri - umph
 squad - rons of the sky look down with sad and
 fierc - est foe de - fy; bow your meek head to

slow - ly ride, O Sav - ior, to be cru - ci - fied.
 now be - gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
 won - dering eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
 mor - tal pain, then take, O Christ, your power and reign.

WORDS: Henry H. Milman, 1827, alt.
 MUSIC: John Bacchus Dykes, 1862

ST. DROSTANE
 LM

CLOSING HYMN

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

471

1. I want Je - sus to walk with me; (walk with me)
 2. In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 3. When I'm trou - bled, Lord, walk with me;
 4. When I'm dy - ing, Lord, walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me; (walk with me)
 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 When I'm trou - bled, Lord, walk with me;
 When I'm dy - ing, Lord, walk with me;

all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,
 when my head is bowed in an - guish,
 when I'm on my bed of sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. (with me)

WORDS: African-American spiritual
 MUSIC: African-American spiritual; harm. *The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms and Spiritual Songs*, 1990

SOJOURNER
 88.89

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for the family and friends of longtime First Church member Alice Kidder, who died peacefully on March 10, surrounded by family and following an extended time of declining health.
- We pray for Mike Stevens, who is recovering from aortic valve replacement surgery.
- We celebrate the birth of Brent and Poppy Coffin's grandchild, Shiloh Grace Hurst, born last Thursday, and pray for Brent's daughter's family as they welcome Shiloh into the world. We continue to pray for Brent and Poppy as Poppy experiences a significant decline in her struggle with Alzheimer's.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer and other ongoing health challenges: Carol Wilson-Braun, who is managing ALS; Carter West, who is experiencing a chronic neurological disorder; Dana Hunt, Claire Morgan's mother; Jim Rae, Ami Brenner's father; Ellen Smith, Devin Hansen's aunt; Judith Semmler, Alice Napoleon Jones's mother; Karen Anne Zee's daughter Becky Collet and her son-in-law Stewart Bailey; Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters; Lisa DiNardo's friend Graziella Macchetta; and Abby Shuman's uncle Barry.
- We pray for the many families seeking emergency shelter in cities and towns across our state.
- We continue to pray for all who are recovering from recent natural and climate related disasters. We pray for our rapidly warming planet and for redoubled efforts to reduce fossil fuel emissions.
- We pray for the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo, where ongoing armed conflicts have led to more than 6 million people killed and more than 5 million people displaced from their homes. We pray also for those who have experienced devastating incidents of gender-based violence during the conflicts.
- We pray for all those impacted by the violence of war and political upheaval, throughout the Middle East, in Ukraine, and in Sudan. This week, we pray especially for the people of Haiti, given the heart-wrenching turmoil and gang-related violence leading to the near-collapse of the government and human services sector.
- We pray for political and climate refugees and migrants who make often life-threatening border crossings over land and open water. We pray for wisdom and justice to prevail as our court system tackles issues of immigration in its rulings.
- We pray for the wellbeing and safety of our trans and gender non-conforming siblings as they face the experience of vitriolic public discourse and of state laws that restrict and criminalize transgender health care, personal expression, and wider LGBTQ+ education.
- We continue to 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.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS



In Memoriam

A memorial service for beloved First Church member Alice Kidder will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 20, in the Sanctuary and via livestream, with a reception to follow in Margaret Jewett Hall.

Prayer for Israel and Palestine

As the war in Gaza and Israel continues, and as the threat of famine in Gaza looms, our hearts cry out in prayer. With the death of 1400 Israelis and over 31,000 Palestinians so far, we pray for an end to the war and immediate de-escalation of tensions in the region that are threatening a wider and more lasting conflict. We decry the horrifically violent Hamas attacks against Israel on October 7, as well as the disproportionate use of force by the Israeli government and military.

We hold that every person is made in God's image and that every life is precious. We pray for the safe return of all hostages. We pray for redoubled diplomatic efforts to address the already devastating humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the ongoing occupation of Palestinian territories. We continue to pray for a just peace in Palestine and Israel and throughout the region. We also pray for Jews and Muslims, nearby and around the world, who are facing increased threats and acts of anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim discrimination, hatred, and violence.

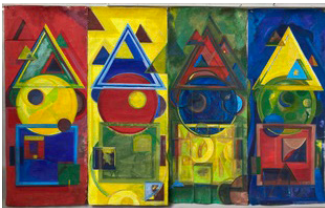
We continue to pray for ourselves, that we will be courageous, faithful, compassionate, and open to God's love and leading, and to all whom we encounter through these tension-filled times. Across whatever division or disagreement, may our words and deeds seek to honor the humanity and God-given dignity of every human being.



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



Art Exhibit for Palm Sunday

Hosanna! If cloaks were strewn before Jesus, then art may be an exaltation for Palm Sunday as well. See art for the four evangelists in Margaret Jewett Hall during our All-Church Palm Sunday Breakfast and in the Narthex during the palm procession. First Church member Henry Gates uses four color forms to symbolize the four Gospels.



Palm Sunday Breakfast

Today, 10:00 - 10:45 a.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

Join us for our annual All-Church Palm Sunday Breakfast, 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 Processional to Hybrid Morning Worship

Today, 10:55 a.m., 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! You are also welcome to go directly to the Sanctuary in person or via livestream.



Leavetaking Team Update

Today, 12:15 - 1:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

Join the Leavetaking/Farewell Team (Bruce Hoppe, Amy Matias, Beth Spaulding, and Alex Steinert-Evoy) after worship for an opportunity to hear more about what we have planned and how we can minister to each other during this time of pastoral transition.



Young Adults: Brunch at Zoe's Diner

Today, 12:15 - 2:00 p.m., Zoe's Diner, Harvard Square

Come join other young adults (20s and 30s) from First Church for brunch and casual fellowship at Zoe's Diner in Harvard Square! We'll meet at coffee hour after church and walk over together. This event is open to anyone in the age group, whether you're just exploring First Church or have been here a while and are looking to meet some new folks.

LENT 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.](#)

New 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](#).



Easter Flowers: Donate and Send Names by Today!

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 today, March 24. Contributions of \$20 to help defray the cost of flowers can be made [online](#) or by check in the offering basket (payable to First Church in Cambridge, with a memo line of "Easter Flowers"). ***Please send an email to Kirsten (operations@firstchurchcambridge.org) with the names, even if you pay by check through the offering basket or online; this way we can make sure no one is missed.***

Spring Clean-Up Day: Volunteers Welcome!

Saturday, March 30, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m., First Church Lawn

Let's have fun together reclaiming our beautiful church grounds before we celebrate Jesus' resurrection! Volunteers are welcome to join Joanne Paul and other First Church gardeners as we primp and prune the perennials and shrubs on the First Church lawn. RSVP to Joanne (jpaulandscape@aol.com), so she can expect you (or just show up!), and bring your garden tools and gloves.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER



As we continue to find courage in community, walk with us through Holy Week to hear the gospel stories of what Jesus encounters and endures in his final days. During Holy Week, we come face to face with the human realities of injustice, persecution, suffering, and death. Together, we seek God's presence there and in the dawning promise and unending love of Easter.

Maundy Thursday Service with Communion and Tenebrae Thursday, March 28, 7:00 - 8:00 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 this truth revealed to us during 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, March 29, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Chapel 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, readings, and song that will help us hold the grief of our lives and world.

Parents are encouraged to use their judgment; this service is likely most suitable for children older than 10.

Easter Sunday Hybrid Morning Worship

Sunday, March 31, 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Sanctuary and via livestream

Christ is Risen! We celebrate God's gift of new life and love stronger than death as we recall and sing out the story of the Risen One, who meets on the way!

LOOKING AHEAD



Middler Book & Bible Study

Sunday, April 7, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m., Harter Room and via Zoom

Join First Church's 5th graders to hear about their learning during this Church School year. Prepare by reading [Stella by Starlight](#), a middle reader novel set in rural North Carolina during the Jim Crow era that students have explored side-by-side with Biblical stories about Moses and his life experiences. Copies of the novel are available at church for a donation of \$7; you can also find it in your local library or download it to your e-reader. Set aside some time to read the engaging story before April 7.

Peter Sykes Celebrates Anniversary of First Recital Sunday, April 7 at 3:00 p.m., via YouTube Premiere

Fifty years ago, on Sunday, April 7, 1974, at 3:00 p.m., First Church Music Director Peter Sykes gave his first harpsichord recital. (He was a sophomore in high school.) To commemorate the occasion, Peter will present a virtual harpsichord recital on the very same instrument that he and his father built from a kit. Visit the church's events calendar to find the link to the virtual performance on Sunday, April 7, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.



PETER SYKES

On Sunday, April 7 at 3 p.m., probably most responsible for Peter Sykes, a 15-year-old sophomore at Brimley High School, will present a three-harpsichord concert (violin, harpsichord, and clavichord music). He will display the instruments and play compositions appropriate to each.

Sykes built his own clavichord from a kit supplied by Zimmerman Harpsichords of New York. He also built the harpsichord from a kit supplied by Frank Haberman, author of "Three Centuries of Harpsichord Making," and the same

probably most responsible for reviving an interest in harpsichord.

Harpsichord offerings will include works by J.S. Bach and Louis Couperin. Mr. Sykes will play Portuguese Baroque compositions on the clavichord, and works by Beethoven, Chopin, and Corelli on the piano.

Peter Sykes began his study of piano at age seven at the Cape Cod Conservatory of Music, and is currently studying with Margaret Hackett. He has appeared in many concerts locally, and hopes to make music his career.



Young Adults: Bowling!

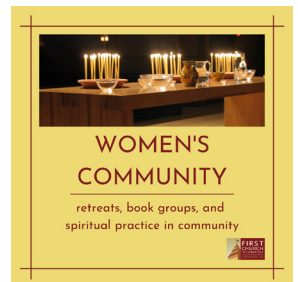
Tuesday, April 9, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Sacco's Bowl Haven, Davis Square

Come join other young adults (20s and 30s) from First Church for bowling, pizza, and fun times at Sacco's in Somerville! Our budget will cover lanes and shoes for everyone who signs up. This event is open to anyone in the age group, whether you're just exploring First Church or have been here a while and are looking to meet some new folks.

Women's Community Book Group

Tuesday, April 16, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

Please join the women of FCC for a rip-roaring discussion of Drew Gilpin Faust's [Necessary Trouble: Growing Up at Midcentury](#). This is a memoir by the former president of Harvard that describes her life as "a privileged white girl in conservative, segregated Virginia [who] was expected to adopt a willful blindness to the inequities of race and the constraints of gender. The acceptance of both female subordination and racial hierarchy proved intolerable and galvanizing, [and] she found resistance was necessary for her survival." As we think of our own roles in society, Faust's book is a great inspiration!





THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, March 25

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

Tuesday, March 26

- 10:30 a.m. Communications Team Meeting, The Landing and via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Faith & Life Group: MLK Book Study, via Zoom

Wednesday, March 27

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 6:30 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Reparations Book Group, via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. Missions and Social Justice, via Zoom

Thursday, March 28 - Maundy Thursday

- 3:00 p.m. Drop-In Bible Study, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service, Sanctuary and via livestream

Friday, March 29 - Good Friday

- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service, Chapel and via livestream

Saturday, March 30

- 9:00 a.m. Spring Clean-Up, church lawn

Sunday, March 31 - Easter

- 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
- 12:15 p.m. Refreshments in Margaret Jewett Hall
- 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.

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