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Good Friday Service  
March 29, 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.

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

## Good Friday, March 29, 2024

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### Leading Worship

Carla Arevalo, *Pastoral Associate*  
BBB, Dean Eaton, Joanne Paul, Peggy Stevens, *readers*  
Kate Layzer, *Minister of Street Outreach*  
Lee Prouty, *tech support*  
Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*  
Emma Thomas, *Ministerial Intern*  
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*

**Bulletin Cover Image** Freddie Funck, *First Church member*

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### New to First Church?

Have you just begun joining us for worship? Consider filling out this [“virtual visitor card”](#) so that we might reach out and connect with you about our community.

### Give to First Church

You can explore options for giving at: [www.firstchurchcambridge.org/give](http://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](mailto: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.

*You are invited to enter in silence.*

*We are live-streaming from the Chapel for the first time.  
The microphones used by leaders are for the benefit of those online;  
the sound will not be amplified in the Chapel.*

## GATHERING

### VOLUNTARY

#### \*GREETING

Kate Layzer

L: Sisters, brothers, siblings, in person and online  
the peace of Christ be with you.

**C: And on the whole world,  
on this beautiful and hurting Earth, peace.**

L: In suffering and love, our God draws near

**C: to be with us and all of Creation in our pain,**

L: allowing the flow of our unending tears,  
and the cries of our neighbors,

**C: to flow into the rivers of our collective mourning  
where we remember that we  
are not alone in our pain and suffering.**

L: Then let us pray tonight, the best we can,  
the hard prayers of lament, the tears of grief,  
the prayers of reckoning, the questions with no answer.

#### \*HYMN 200

Were You There?

see page 4

#### \*PRAYER

**All: O grieving God,  
the suffering of the world is gathered up tonight  
in the broken body of Jesus,  
our tender brother, who did no harm.  
Give us the grace to cling to him,  
and to let the water of our tears mix with his,  
so that the rivers of our collective grief  
might water with love the seeds of justice  
and beloved community throughout our aching world.  
We ask all this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*\*You are invited to stand.*

## HEARING THE STORY

### OPENING THE WORD

Emma Thomas

### READINGS AND SILENT REFLECTION

**READING 1:** John 18:33-18:38

Dan Smith

**PRAYER All: Lord, have mercy. We repent and turn again.**

**SILENCE**

**READING 2:** John 18:38-19:11

Joanne Paul

**PRAYER All: Lord, have mercy. We repent and turn again.**

**SILENCE**

**READING 3:** John 19:12-19:16

Dean Eaton

**PRAYER All: Lord, have mercy. We repent and turn again**

**SILENCE**

**\*HYMN 190**

When Jesus Wept

see page 5

**READING 4:** John 19:16-19:25

BBB

**PRAYER All: Lord, have mercy. We repent and turn again.**

**SILENCE**

**READING 5:** John 19:25-19:30

Peggy Stevens

**PRAYER All: Lord, have mercy. We repent and turn again.**

**SILENCE**

**READING 6:** John 19:31-19:32

Carla Arevalo

**SILENCE**

### PRAYER

**All: God of our grief and God in our suffering,  
God to whom Jesus cried out on the cross,  
God of the thieves, God of the mob,  
God of the women standing at the foot of the cross:  
Be with us now as we hold the immensity of this story.  
Help us to find ourselves and our lives within it.  
Let it challenge us, level us, open us,  
and help us to turn and turn again.  
Stay close, O God, as we grieve. Amen.**

## GRIEF RITUAL

### INVITATION

### INVOCATION

L: Let us begin by praying together.  
God of grief and God of the love from which grief flows,  
wrap around us tonight as we face the broken places in our own hearts  
and in the heart of the world.

**All: Grant us the courage that comes from the heart  
and from feeling you and our community at our backs.**

L: As our tears mix with the ancient river of Jesus' suffering and grief,

**All: help us to remember our belonging to you,  
to each other, to this ancient story,**

L: to the Way of grief and love that is ever unfolding before us,

**All: into which we are ever turning and turning again. Amen.**

### \*COMMUNAL SONG & TIME FOR GRIEF

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

### \*HYMN 335

Dona Nobis Pacem

see back cover

*You may depart in silence.*

*Please join us for our Easter Sunday morning worship at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary.*

## Were You There?

1. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?      Were you  
 2. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?      Were you  
 3. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?      Were you

there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
 there when they nailed him to the tree? Oh! - - -  
 there when they laid him in the tomb?

Some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

# When Jesus Wept

190

*May be sung as a round*



When Je - sus wept, the fall - ing tear in mer - cy



flowed be - yond all bound; when Je - sus groaned, a



trem - bling fear seized all the guilt - y world a - round.

WORDS and MUSIC: William Billings, 1770

William Billings, in the Congregational tradition, was the first great American singing school master, composer and writer of hymns.

WHEN JESUS WEPT  
LM



1



Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem,



do - na no - bis pa - - - - - cem.

2



Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na



no - bis pa - - - - - cem.

3



Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na



no - bis pa - - - - - cem.

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