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**Season of  
Epiphany**

**FIRST CHURCH  
IN CAMBRIDGE**

Congregational 1633-1636  
United Church of Christ  
Garden and Mason Streets  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC

January 20, 2013

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

*Our goal is to create a beloved community and this will require a qualitative change in our souls  
as well as a quantitative change in our lives.*

*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

VOLUNTARY

\*HYMN 7

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

\*GREETING

Stephanie Paulsell

L: Our Mother-Father God  
has made us to be One Body with many members.

**All: United and uniting. This is our calling.**

L: God calls us to share our diverse gifts  
activated by the one and same Spirit .

**All: United and uniting. This is our redemption.**

L: God longs for us to be united in love  
and to manifest the Spirit in our different ways.

**All: United and uniting. This is our journey.**

L: *We are bound together in an inescapable network of mutuality  
and tied to a single garment of destiny.*

**All: United and uniting. This is our worship.**

L: Let us gather in this hour to offer praise and worship  
to our Holy God, who challenges us  
and calls us to *create the Beloved Community.*

ANTHEM

*We Sing*

Jim Papoulis

Boston Children's Chorus

*There is a sound that's calling me  
A sound that brings us all together  
There is a way that we can change  
One by one we will join  
As you hear our voice*

*We sing the hope of tomorrow  
Our time, this is our call  
We sing as we stand together,  
Voices calling out for change*

*\*You are invited to stand. Hymns preceded by a "C" may be found in the beginning section of the hymnal. The C (Cambridge) - section contains hymns written and composed by current and past members of First Church.*

*We're gonna stand for peace  
We're gonna sing for joy  
We will unite for hope  
And for freedom.*

WORDS OF WELCOME

Karen McArthur

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

Art Anger

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray for healing, pardon and peace.

C: **O God, we long to co-create with you the Beloved Community  
which looks to the common good; privileges all equally,  
and creates societal systems  
which celebrate the humanity and the gifts of all.  
And yet we focus on our differences, envy each other's gifts,  
devalue manifestations of you, O God, that are not like our own.**

**Perhaps our sin is a slow wait for justice:  
We allow the voices of brothers and sisters  
who do not look like us, love like us, or worship like us  
to be silenced.  
We have told them to wait for freedom, justice and equality.  
We foster in them *a denigrating sense of nobodiness*. Have mercy on us.**

**Or perhaps we have kept silence ourselves  
in the face of their struggle for full human life.  
*For it is not solely hateful words and actions,  
but also appalling silence that follows the path of oppression.*  
Have mercy on us.**

**Perhaps our sin is to give in to weariness, discouragement, bitterness:  
You have called us to be *drum majors for justice, peace and righteousness*,  
Yet the work of peace and justice overwhelms us at times,  
To build with God the Beloved Community seems impossible,  
and we grow weary.  
We cry, "Peace, peace,"  
but there is no peace within us or around us.  
We find ourselves on the path  
of hatred and oppression, violence and war.  
Forgive us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

\*GREETING OF PEACE

\*HYMN 409

*How Can We Name a Love*

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

RESPONSIVE PSALM 36:5-10

L: Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,  
your faithfulness to the clouds.

C: **Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,  
your judgments are like the great deep;  
you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.**

L: How precious is your steadfast love, O God!  
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

C: **They feast on the abundance of your house,  
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.**

L: For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

C: **O continue your steadfast love to those who know you,  
and your salvation to the upright of heart!**

READING

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

ANTHEM

*This Little Light of Mine*

arr. Robert A. Harris

Boston Children's Chorus

*This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine.*

*Everywhere I go, I'm going to let it shine.*

*All through the night, I'm going to let it shine.*

*Children from PreK to 7th grade are now invited to leave for church school. Teachers will meet children at the side door to accompany them to their classrooms. Parents can meet their children in Margaret Jewett Hall after worship.*

SERMON

Reebee Girash

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

L: God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray (silence, intercessions, Lord's Prayer)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*(Please pray this prayer and address God in words most meaningful to your heart.)*

**All: Our Father, 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

*Joy in My Heart*

arr. Rollo Dilworth

Boston Children's Chorus

*I've got this joy down in my heart, down in my heart today.  
Ain't gonna let nobody turn me around.  
No one can quench this joy that I have found.  
This joy that I have can't be taken away.  
I believe in myself and I know that this joy is in my heart to stay.  
I've got this joy down in my heart, down in my heart today.*

\*DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**To God, all glorious heav'nly light,  
To Christ revealed in earthly night,  
To God, the Spirit, now we raise  
Our joyful songs of thankful praise! Amen.**

\*BENEDICTION

\*HYMN 366

*We are Walking*

*Regarding today's Liturgy: Phrases from the speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr. have been woven into the prayer texts. They are identified by italics. Texts of King's work are available in **A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings of Martin Luther King, Jr.**, edited by James M. Washington; © 1986 Coretta Scott King. A brief essay on King's understanding of the term "Beloved Community" is available at <http://www.wilpf.org/mlksbelovedcommunity>. **Creating the Beloved Community: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday after Epiphany, Martin Luther King, Jr., Weekend** was written by the Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson, Founder and Director of the Center for Spiritual Light, New York City.*

## **WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...**

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, we are thankful that you are with us today, and we hope that you will stay for a bit after worship for refreshments and conversation. First Church is an open and affirming, just peace congregation of the United Church of Christ. If you'd like to know more about us, please introduce yourself to one of the ministers after church and explore our website at [www.firstchurchcambridge.org](http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org).

**Large print bulletins and assistive listening devices are available.**

**Please ask a greeter for assistance.**

Children of all ages are welcome in our worship. Picture books, children's Bibles and activity packets can be found in the Children's Book Corner located by the door to the parish building (to the right of the chancel). Children may visit the Book Corner at any point during worship.

Nursery care for infants, toddlers and preschoolers is located through that door and down the hallway (up four stairs to the door on the right). Fussy babies and their caregivers are invited to the Hastings Room, just across the hall from that same door, where the service is broadcast through speakers.

**PREACHING TODAY IS** Reebee Girash, Sabbatical Interim Minister. Assisting with worship is Karen McArthur, Affiliate Minister of Stewardship & Finance. Our liturgist is First Church member Stephanie Paulsell. Providing the music for today's worship is the Central Intermediate Advanced Choir of the Boston Children's Chorus conducted by Michele Adams, Assistant Artistic Director and accompanied by Caroline Harvey. A special thank you to them, as well Fanny Lora, BCC Teaching Fellow, and Anthony Victoria, BCC Manager of Programs. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is away this week.

The **YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED** section of the bulletin is omitted from this online version to preserve the privacy of those mentioned. If you'd like more information on the people we're praying for this week, please contact the church office at [parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org) or 617-547-2724 and we'll get the information to you.

## **TODAY'S HAPPENINGS**

*A liturgy writing workshop on three Sundays in December 2012 developed a set of prayers related to the Epiphany season, including today's Prayer for Understanding. This workshop included: Devin Hansen, Mark Destler, Dick Harter, Kate Layzer, Reebee Girash, Susie Neubauer, Alice Kidder, Nancy Cook-Smith, Karlene Griffiths-Sekou, Christine Reynolds, James Greaney, Kate Judd, and Cynthia Shoemaker.*

**FIRST CHURCH WELCOMES BOSTON CHILDREN'S CHORUS TODAY** We are glad to welcome back for the third year the Boston Children's Chorus to sing in today's worship service. "The Boston Children's Chorus harnesses the power and joy of music to unite our city's diverse communities and inspire social change. Our singers transcend social barriers in a celebration of shared humanity and love of music. Through intensive choral training and high-profile public performance experience (locally, throughout the U.S., and around the world), they learn discipline, develop leadership skills, and proudly represent the city of Boston as ambassadors of harmony." (from <http://www.bostonchildrenschorus.org>)

**KAIROS USA, CHRISTIAN FORMATION Today at 10:00 a.m., Hastings Room** "*Kairos*" — "a special time or opportunity." The *Kairos* Document written to churches in South Africa in 1985, urging them to end apartheid, states: "This is the *Kairos*, the moment of grace and opportunity, the favorable time in which God issues a challenge to decisive action." In the *Kairos* Document – Palestine, 2009 – the central message is that "in the midst of the absence of hope, Christian Palestinians proclaim a world of faith, hope, and love." *Kairos* USA, written in 2012, is a response to *Kairos* Palestine. The authors, both lay and ordained, state as their mission "to mobilize the churches of the United States to respond faithfully and boldly to the situation in Israel and Palestine." Come and join the Palestine/Israel Task Team in the third week of a three-week study, where we will

- ◆ examine a time of truth telling about the reality of the situation.
- ◆ Participate in theological reflection – focusing on Christian Zionism, "replacement theology," and US Policy.
- ◆ Explore the ways that bridges, not walls, can be built to establish interfaith relationships.
- ◆ Plan how we can respond to the calls for action, for education, to go and see, and to strengthen our worship and spiritual practices, enabling us more fully to understand and to work for those things that make for peace.

Copies of *Kairos* USA will be available for \$2.00. Please see Gay Harter or Linda Ziebell. The document can also be down loaded from the website [www.Kairosusa.org](http://www.Kairosusa.org), where additional information is also available.

**MONTHLY NEWCOMER SESSIONS Today at 12:15 p.m., Hastings Room** We are blessed to be graced by many visitors and newcomers to our church community. While we have always held newcomer sessions around a joining Sunday, we will now be offering monthly gatherings with a topical focus. Current members are also encouraged to attend to get to know people and share in the dialogue. The next Join Sunday will be January 27. Please contact Reebee Girash ([rgirash@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:rgirash@firstchurchcambridge.org)) if you are interested in becoming a member.

**DID YOU MISS THE ARCHIVES DISCUSSION? Today @ 12:30 p.m., McKenzie Library**

Well, it's not too late to join in. Today at 12:30 in the McKenzie Library, discussion will continue about the future location of First Church's archives. Peggy Bendroth, Executive Director of the Congregational Library, will lead off with brief remarks about how various congregations in the Commonwealth deal with their valuable documents. This will be followed by a general discussion and a tour of the existing archives room. Since the disposition of the archives is an agenda item for the Annual Meeting, this is an opportunity to acquaint ourselves with the various issues involved.

**PARENTS OF YOUTH MEETING, Today at 12:30 p.m., Senior Minister's Office** Thanks so much to all who attended last Sunday's meeting about youth programming. We are having a follow-up meeting to continue our conversations and to consider a few proposals for spring 2013 youth programming today after worship. We will meet for 45 minutes in Reebee's office.

**MENTAL HEALTH & SPIRITUALITY GROUP Today at 2:00 p.m., Tower Room** How do emotional struggles and mental health difficulties affect your relationship with God? Does your faith change your experience of mental health issues? Join us in the Tower Room each Sunday from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. as we hold these questions and our experiences in the healing light of Christ. The group is open: you may attend as often or as little as you like, and newcomers are always welcome. Talk to or e-mail Terry McKinney ([tmckinney@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:tmckinney@firstchurchcambridge.org)) or Carter West ([stbosal@arczip.com](mailto:stbosal@arczip.com)).

**MARTIN LUTHER KING SUNDAY JAZZ WORSHIP Today at 5:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall** In honor of MLK's birthday, come join together for a lively service of worship in the jazz and gospel tradition. Carolyn Wilkins and friends will lead the music and singing. Gather with "all kinds of people around that table," where we will share the bread of heaven and the cup of joy, and where we will together let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever flowing stream! Jazz worship is always kid-friendly, but this month we especially invite families to attend. We'll have some healthy snacks right before the service starts and pizza after the service ends, to make it easier for young children to take part.

**NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Today at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary** Bask in the beauty of Renaissance polyphony, Gregorian chant, introspective modal improvisations by jazz musicians, incense and icons. Participation in Night Song, about an hour in length, is through listening and silent prayer. It is not meant to be a performance, but rather a transformance – a medium for achieving inner peace, centering and spiritual renewal. Set apart from the sights, sounds, and values of current culture, Night Song helps participants enter an inner mystical silence. You are invited and encouraged to attend and to tell others about this opportunity at First Church. If you have any interest in singing, ushering or helping with publicity for Night Song, contact Daryl Bichel at 617-312-8328, [daryl.bichel@aol.com](mailto:daryl.bichel@aol.com).

## **FUTURE HAPPENINGS**

**COFFEE AND CONVERSATION WITH REEBEE GIRASH, SABBATICAL INTERIM MINISTER** Just a chance to have coffee and agenda-free conversation! On the other hand, if this time don't work for you, I am always open to making appointments with parishioners.

◆ Tuesday, February 5, 8:30 - 10:00 a.m., Harvard Science Center Greenhouse Café

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Sunday, January 27, 12:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall** While we are grateful to have passed our annual operating budget for 2013 in October, we still have crucial work to do as a congregation at our Annual Meeting on January 27. After two educational forums earlier in the month, we will vote on proposals regarding our Archives. We will vote on spending limits for occasions when the voted budget cannot be followed precisely. We will vote on annual reports, including the report of the gifts and discernment team about our officer, committee, and board appointments. And we will pause to recognize all of the hard work of those who have served in leadership at First Church in 2012. Member or concerned friend, please join us on January 27! **Lunch and Childcare at Annual Meeting** - For all important decisions, you need to have a full stomach. Thus, please know that we will have a lovely luncheon on Annual Meeting Sunday, January 27. And parents, if you'd like your child to have playtime while you attend to the business of the church, childcare will be available in Sage Hall.

**DAN SMITH'S UPCOMING RETURN; STAFFING THROUGH SPRING** We're excited to welcome Senior Minister Dan Smith back at the beginning of February. At our worship service on February 3 we'll hear from Dan about his sabbatical, and we'll offer our welcome to him for his homecoming. A special celebration will continue after worship! After Dan's return, Sabbatical Interim Minister Reebec Girash will continue at First Church through the spring in a 3/4 time position, while the church discerns next steps in our pastoral staff configuration.

**SAVE THE DATE! MARDI GRAS FAMILY NIGHT Tuesday, February 12, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall. All are welcome!** The Family Night crew invites the whole church to join us for a Mardi Gras Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 12. We will mark Shrove Tuesday, the festive night before the season of Lent begins, with fellowship and fun in MJH. Help us create this year's Alleluia banner and hide it in the sanctuary, to be revealed on Easter morning. Bring fruit salad or a side dish of cooked bacon or sausage to share; pancakes and syrup will be provided. RSVP to Sarah Higginbotham, shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org, to help us plan for pancake production.

**WOMEN'S RETREAT: SAVE THE DATES Friday evening April 12th - Sunday lunch, April 14th at Craigville Conference Center, Cape Cod** This year the retreat will be 2 weekends after Easter. Whether you're a woman new to First Church or a long-timer, consider joining us for part or all of this fun filled weekend of relaxation, reflection and renewal. The weekend is a donate-as-you-can event, with car pools ensuring all can attend. Food allergies are accommodated

by the chef. Males under 14 months are welcome. A few computer savvy volunteers are needed this winter to get the Google Docs, Group page and email list up to speed. If skilled and available please contact Carolyn White at cawhitema@gmail.com. The planning committee is also in need of volunteers.

### **GET INVOLVED**

**EXPLORING HOSPITALITY: PEW CLIP BOARDS** This month we will be experimenting with one aspect of the way that we offer hospitality in worship, which is how we welcome and get to know newcomers. Watch for clipboards in the pews with useful information for visitors and visitor cards. And, as always, please wear your name tag. If you have questions, contact Karen McArthur or Reebee Girash.

**COOPERATIVE METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES (CMM) WILL SPONSOR A DR. ML KING DAY OF INTERFAITH VOLUNTEER SERVICE Monday, January 21, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Brandeis University in Waltham.** You can register on line ([www.coopmet.org](http://www.coopmet.org)) or see Alice Kidder (617-276-62270; [flintkidr@aol.com](mailto:flintkidr@aol.com)). Alice will be available at coffee hour on Sunday, January 13. Carpools will leave First Church at 12:00 noon on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Service activities will be on the Brandeis campus. Volunteers will pack nutritious meals for needy children. A donation of \$10 is suggested, which can be made on line or with a check to CMM.

**NEW POSTINGS IN THE CHURCH WEBSITE'S MEMBERS AREA** Have you logged on to First Church's Members' Area recently? If not, you haven't seen new blog posts from several members and staff (including a post from Dan Smith), prayers of joyful celebration and deeply-felt sorrow, and committee notes and documents uploaded for easy review. Need help logging on for the first time? Follow the directions on the Members Area welcome page, accessed from the website by the menu at the top of the homepage. Join the church's online community!

**OUR REFUGEE FAMILY FROM IRAQ** needs a washer and dryer. Let Pauline Fennel know if you have such to donate. Refugee Immigration Ministries (RIM), in which First Church participates, provides refugees and asylum seekers job preparation, case management and immigrant support.

**COVENANT DINNERS ARE ON FOR 2013. NOW WE NEED HOSTS!** Sign up now to host a dinner, starting this month and beyond. You can sign up to be a host on the First Church website. From the home page, click on "Worship, Music and Spiritual Life." Look for "Covenant Dinners" in the list under "Small Groups" and click on it to get to a form for signups. You can also continue to sign up with us by email or phone, or see us in coffee hour on Sunday. Dave Kidder; [flintkidr@aol.com](mailto:flintkidr@aol.com); 617-924-7236; Beth Loomis; [bethloomis3@gmail.com](mailto:bethloomis3@gmail.com); 617-851-2505). Once we have hosts, we'll begin signing up guests.

## The Week Ahead

### Sunday, January 20

- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)  
10:00 a.m. Christian Formation for Adults: *Kairos* Palestine, Hastings Room  
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Boston Children's Chorus singing; Rev. Reebee Girash, preaching  
11:20 a.m. Church School classes for grades PreK-7  
12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, MJH  
12:30 p.m. Newcomers Meeting, Hastings Room  
12:30 p.m. Archives discussion, McKenzie Library  
12:30 p.m. Parents of Youth Meeting, Senior Minister's Office  
2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room  
5:00 p.m. Jazz Worship, MJH  
7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

### Monday, January 21

Church building and office closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

- 1:00 p.m. Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries MLK Day of Interfaith Service, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA

### Wednesday, January 23

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Senior Minister's office

### Thursday, January 24

- 7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Hastings Room

### Sunday, January 27

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, MJH  
10:00 a.m. Christian Formation for Adults: *Kairos* Palestine, Hastings Room  
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Rev. Reebee Girash, preaching, New members received  
11:20 a.m. Creative Arts Project for grades PreK-7  
12:15 p.m. Luncheon, MJH  
12:30 p.m. Annual Congregational Meeting, MJH  
2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room  
4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class, Senior Minister's Office  
7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

*The bulletin cover is an image of a ceramic mosaic created by the children of the church. The design, by Perry Neubauer, can represent the three Kings who brought gifts to the Christ child as described in Matthew, or it can symbolize the kingship of Jesus who was sent to help establish the Kingdom of God on this planet.*

## First Church Covenant Testimony

Adopted 1990

We believe that our covenant with God and each other calls us:

To love God with all that we are, and our close and distant neighbors as ourselves;  
To seek peace with justice and equity for all people;  
To engage in non-violent resistance to evil;  
To respect and preserve God's earth;  
To foster community across every barrier and division;  
To attend to God's unfolding and reconciling word;  
To support each other in our frailties and strengths, that we may embody that love which overcomes fear and death.

This we testify, confessing always our reliance on God's grace in Christ, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.



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## The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

Senior Minister	Rev. Dan Smith, on sabbatical from October 1, 2012 - January 31, 2013
Sabbatical Interim Minister	Rev. Reebee Girash, 617-547-2724, ext. 26 rgirash@firstchurchcambridge.org
Minister of Mental Health & Healing	Rev. Terry McKinney, 617-299-1617 tmckinney@firstchurchcambridge.org
Affiliate Minister of Stewardship and Finance	Rev. Karen McArthur, 617-547-2724, ext. 22 treasurer@firstchurchcambridge.org
Affiliate Minister of Youth & Young Adults	Julie Rogers, 617-547-2724 jrogers@firstchurchcambridge.org
<i>Havruta</i> Scholar-in-Residence	Rev. Brent Coffin
Director of Music	Peter Sykes, 617-661-0570 psykes@aol.com
Director of Creative Worship & Arts	Sarah Higginbotham, 617-547-2724, ext. 42 shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org
Staff Composer	Patricia Van Ness
Shelter Director	Jim Stewart, 617-661-1873 jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org
Parish Administrator	Kirsten Manville, 617-547-2724, ext. 21 parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org
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**FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL**

*United Church of Christ*

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