

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 February 15, 2015 THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

*HYMN 4 Come, Living God, When Least Expected

*GREETING Marc O'Brien

L: In the name of God, merciful and mighty,

peace be with you all!

C: God's peace be with us here, and cover the earth with joy!

L: Come, gather and be glad!
This is the day God made for us!

C: A shining day—a glory!

Praise the Lord, whose kindness never ends!

WELCOME

ANTHEM

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- L: Let us ask for healing, pardon, and peace.
- C: God of Life and Light,
 our hearts are divided, our attention wanders.
 We look only to visions of our own interests,
 while the poor go unseen, and justice is overshadowed.
 Trusting in your patient love, we confess our many sins,

^{*}You are invited to stand. Hymns proceeded 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 in Cambridge.

our weak resolve, and our need for you. Forgive us, heal us, and keep before us always the light of justice and joy—your will for all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 108 Come, Christians, Join to Sing

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Katie Omberg

READING Mark 9:2-9

SERMON Rev. Rosemary Lloyd

*HYMN 445 Be Thou My Vision

SHARING OUR LIVES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS FOR 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 and address God in words most meaningful to your heart.)

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 415

When We Are Living

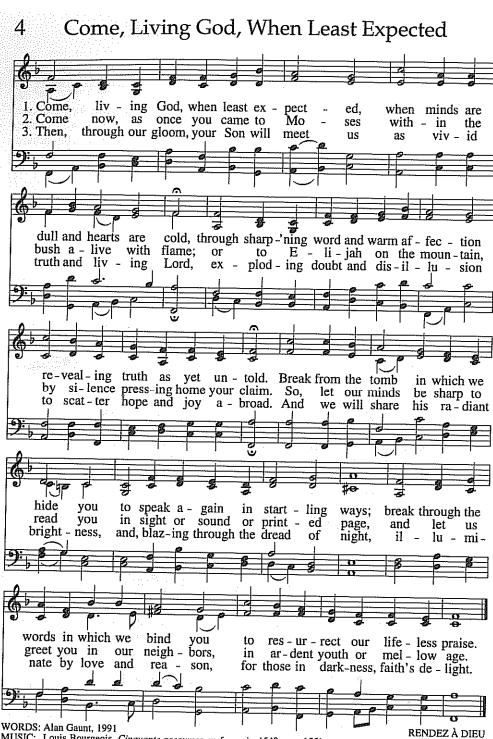
*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

J. Maclure Howland

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with us all forevermore. Amen.

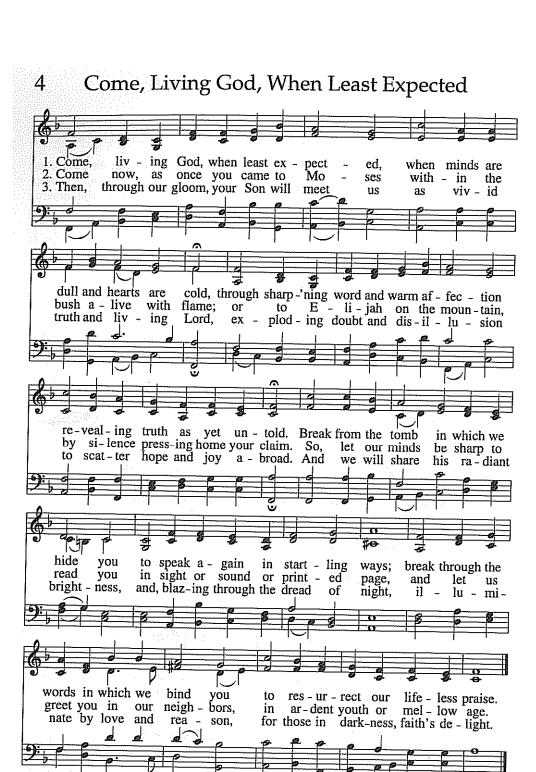
VOLUNTARY



MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois, Cinquante pseaumes en francois, 1543, rev. 1551 The tune is from the 1543 Geneva Psalter, the earliest of psalters prepared by Louis Bourgeois for reformer John Calvin.

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98.98 D



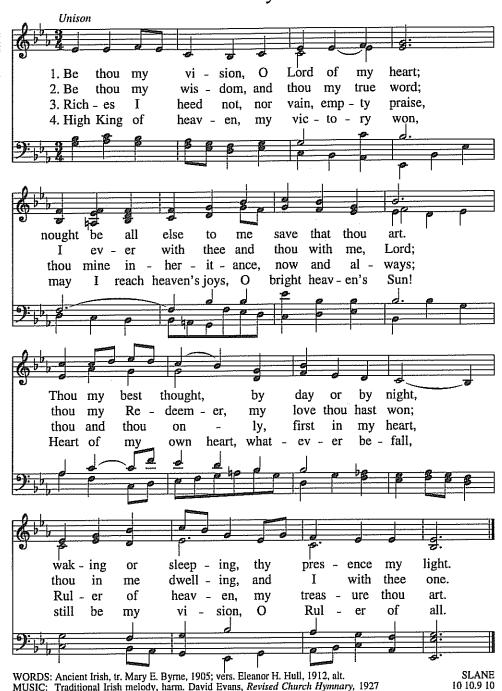
WORDS: Alan Gaunt, 1991
MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois, Cinquante pseaumes en francois, 1543, rev. 1551
The tune is from the 1543 Geneva Psalter, the earliest of psalters

prepared by Louis Bourgeois for reformer John Calvin.

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RENDEZ À DIEU

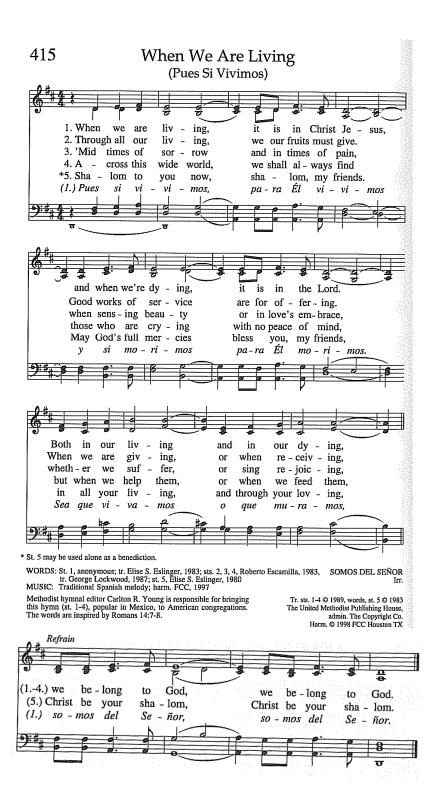
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The original Irish text dates from c. A.D. 700. SLANE is an ancient ballad tune named for the hill where St. Patrick lit Easter fires.

MUSIC: Traditional Irish melody, harm. David Evans, Revised Church Hymnary, 1927

Harm. © 1927, by permission of Oxford University Press



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.**

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 and toddlers 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 Rev. Rosemary Lloyd, Advisor to Faith-Based Communities for The Conversation Project and a leader in GBIO. Assisting with worship are Dan Smith, Senior Minister, and Katie Omberg, Ministerial Intern. Our liturgist is First Church member Marc O'Brien. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for Taj Smith, who grandfather Bill Smith, died this week, and for Jocelina Teixiera who lost 3 people who were close to her—Steven & David Afonso, killed in Brockton, and Lola who died in Cape Verde. Please pray for Peter Sykes' brother Mark as he is in the hospital for a leg amputation. Please also pray for the UCC colleagues Tony Kill and Karen Fritz, who lost their house in a fire on Thursday night. Please hold in your prayers three Muslim students, Deah Shaddy Barakat, 23; his wife, Yusor Mohammad Abu-Salha, 21; and her sister Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha, 19, who were murdered this week in Chapel Hill, and for the Muslim community, as officials investigate the motivation behind the killings. We lift up in prayer those most affected by this week's record snowfalls, particularly those with physical disabilities and those without adequate shelter. Please keep in your prayers our nation as we continue to work towards peace and racial justice in cities across the country. We pray for all those directly impacted by the violent threat and reality posed by ISIS, Al Queda, and Boko Haram, and by ongoing turmoil in the Ukraine, Israel, Palestine and throughout the region. We pray also that God's wisdom and peace be a prevailing guide for us and for our nation's political and military leaders. Please keep in your prayers people struggling with grief, illness, addiction or mental health concerns, marital or relationship troubles, or loneliness. IN THIS SPACE we share personal, congregational, national, and global prayer requests. If you would like us to include a prayer request, please contact Dan Smith, Karin Case, or Kirsten Manville by Wednesday morning or fill out one of the prayer request cards found in your pew.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

RSVP NOW to the MARDI GRAS PANCAKE SUPPER Tuesday, February 17, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall The First Church Family Night regulars invite you to join them for an all-church pancake supper on Mardi Gras, Tuesday, February 17, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Come celebrate with pancakes and maple syrup, a traditional sweet treat on the eve of the Lenten season. We'll decorate our "Alleluia" banner and bury it in the Sanctuary, where it will await its unveiling on Easter morning. Pancakes will be provided; please bring fruit or breakfast meats (ready for serving) to share. **Please RSVP to Sarah Higginbotham** (shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org) if you plan to attend.

YOUTH JOBS RALLY, STATEHOUSE MEETINGS Thursday, Feb. 19, 11:30 a.m-2:30 p.m. Join forces with the Youth Jobs Coalition and the Mass Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence in a rally for effective youth jobs and mentoring programs to be funded in the upcoming state budget. We'll begin at Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., Boston, to meet and hear from some impressive young people, march to the Statehouse around 1 p.m., then meet with our legislators around 2 p.m. Please join any part of the program, or all of it. In addition to monitoring the implementation of new gun legislation, the Mass Coalition is focusing on budget advocacy in support youth and alternatives to violence as a way to address fundamental causes of gun violence. Support from citizens of all ages and from all over the state will be crucial for success in a challenging budget year. Please let Ann McCann (ann.mccann44@gmail.com) know if you're interested in attending part or all of the program or if you'd like more information.

MARCH 1 FOOD BANK COLLECTION! Add a few items to your shopping lists in the next two weeks for the Rindge Towers food bank: proteins, veggies, fruits, pb, cooking oil, cookies, instant coffee. Remember: <u>not</u> opened, breakable, or expired. Many thanks!

"THE CONVERSATION PROJECT" COMES TO FIRST CHURCH March 1 and 22 at 12:30 p.m., Hastings Room. As we prepare for the Lenten season which, among other things, invites us to face our mortality, we are excited to announce a new partnership between the Conversation Project and Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, of which First Church is a part. Started by the well-known writer Ellen Goodman, the Conversation Project is an award winning project, the goal of which is to have everyone's wishes for care through the end of life expressed and respected. How we die is part of our legacy to our loved ones and our communities. Most Americans express the hope that as they near the end of their lives they will not be a burden for their families and friends. Yet, if we avoid having values-centered conversations about our unique hopes and wishes for care through the end of life, we may be leaving family members in the dark. This omission may result in strife at the bedside and cause lasting damage in the relationships between the people we love the most. This workshop, led by the Rev. Rosemary Lloyd, Advisor to Faith-Based Communities for The Conversation Project and a leader in GBIO, will introduce participants to The Starter Kit. Through guided reflection and small group sharing, the Starter Kit will support and motivate you to have a values-based, relationship-building conversation about an ex-

perience that touches us all. Don't wait until it's too late. Join The Conversation Project on March 1 and March 22nd at 12:30 pm in the Hastings Room. For more information about The Conversation Project, please visit the website at www.theconversationproject.org. Any questions, please talk to Rev. Dan Smith.

2015 WOMEN'S RETREAT Saturday March 7 at the Congregational Church of Weston, 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Women of First Church: Come for Lenten spiritual renewal at the 2015 Women's Retreat! We will be working with the Congregation's Lenten question posed by Jesus, "Who do you say I am?", while also considering the many stories about Jesus and women in the Gospel of Mark. The retreat will include: a guided meditation and creative workshop centered on the music of Hildegard von Bingen with Karin Case; a Labyrinth walk and response guided by Katie Omberg; and a movement workshop by Rachel Balaban. There is no charge for the retreat. Bring a coffee time treat; lunch will be provided, and let us know if you have dietary or carpooling needs. Childcare will be provided. Please RSVP by March 2 to Chris Reynolds rdandm@comcast.net or Jacqui Gates higates@comcast.net.

WEDNESDAY CHRISTIAN MEDITATION Christian Meditation is the ancient practice of opening the heart in silence to the indwelling presence of God. Join the circle any Wednesday from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Lindsay Chapel. No experience is required, but all experience is welcome. Reach Kate Layzer at klayzer@gmail.com if you'd like to know more.

SIGN UP FOR THE FRIDAY CAFÉ Did you see the Mass Conference Spotlight article on the Friday Café earlier this month? First Church is making waves with our community-building approach to homeless outreach! (See "SPOTLIGHT: Offering a Homey Atmosphere to the Homeless" at MACUCC.org) We have quite a few openings available in the coming weeks for members to help set up and host. If you have been thinking of volunteering and have some time, or if you know someone who would be interested in participating, please let Kate Layzer know. Many hands and hearts help things go smoothly.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE 2014 Contribution statements have been mailed or e-mailed to all contributors. The statements also list the 2015 pledge amounts that we have received. If you didn't receive a statement, or if you notice any errors or omissions, please contact Karen McArthur at treasurer@firstchurchcambridge.org.

DAY SHELTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Volunteers critically needed at the Day Shelter for the Long Island Refugees to open at Old South Church (Copley Square, Boston). Shifts are short (a few hours) and very important for the wellbeing of the refugees from Long Island Shelter. The shelter opened recently, and will run daily for approximately 8 weeks. You can now sign up for volunteer shifts by following the link at this page: http://bostonwarm.weebly.com/join-us.html. Volunteer training will be provided by Starlight Ministries.

INTERFAITH MEDITATION EXPERIENCE ON THE TUESDAYS OF MARCH

All are invited to a four-week series on "Meditation: Exploring our Spiritualities" that will feature opportunities to learn Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim, and Christian forms of Meditation. The series will be held at Grace Church, 76 Eldredge Street in Newton, at 7:00 pm and will feature Rabbi Moshe Waldoks of Temple Beth Zion and Jewish Meditation on March 3, Yenkuei Chuang and Buddhist Meditation on March 10, Shua Arshad and Muslim Meditation March 17, and the Rev. David Killian and Christian Meditation on March 24. You may register at http://ccmmeditation.eventbrite.com Fee: \$100; \$75 if you register by February 17; scholarships available. For information, please contact Alicen Roberts at Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries at 617-244-3650. To download the flyer, please navigate here: http://www.coopmet.org/Programs.html

Today's bulletin cover is inspired by First Church's Epiphany celebration, which includes a candlelight procession throughout the church, culminating with a special renewal service in the sanctuary. Linocut by Perry Neubauer.

BOSTON WARM: How You Can Help

The Boston Warm Day Center at Old South Church is open! The atmosphere has been peaceful. Guests have rested, read, slept, chatted. We've gone through a lot of coffee and snacks! And we've filled 60 storage lockers with people's possessions, so far. This is a HUGE service we've been able to offer to those who otherwise would have to carry all of their possessions with them to doctor's appointments, job interviews, and work, and people have been so thankful for it. If that weren't enough, the Boston Warm Day Center at Emmanuel Church opens this Monday! So, we need your help...

Donations:

Financial resources are critical. With your \$43 donation, we can purchase a storage bin (\$40) and a padlock (\$3), where those people displaced from Long Island can store their belongings. You can literally take some weight off of another persons shoulders. Address checks to: City Mission Society, 14 Beacon Street, #203, Boston MA 02108 with *Boston Warm* on the memo line.

Material needs:

Boston Warm day centers are in need of the following material donations:

- Food: sandwiches, hard-boiled eggs, fruit, baked goods, granola bars and other non-perishable snacks, juice boxes, canned food with pop-top lids.
- **Bulk Items:** ground coffee, sugar packets, coffee cups, plates, napkins, wet wipes.
- Water cooler water jugs.
- Pillowcases and fleece blankets for the nap room.
- \$5.00 CharlieCards to help guests get to appointments and job interviews
- Hygiene kits (in ziploc bags, containing items like soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, washcloth, deodorant, comb, shampoo, tissues, hand sanitizers, feminine hygiene products.
- Socks, and warm hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves.
- Due to space limitations, we cannot accept other clothing donations.

Do you or someone you know work for a company that could do nate in-kind to the Boston Warm day center? Please consider requesting the above donations.

You can drop off donations (marked #BostonWarm) at **Old South Church**, **First Church Cambridge**, **or Emmanuel Church**.

Follow our progress: bostonwarm.weebly.com or www.facebook.com/bostonwarm

LENTEN PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

(for detailed information, please see the purple Lenten insert)

Christian Formation

Havruta Study of the Gospel of Mark

Sundays, 7:45 am in the Hastings Room, February 22 and Mar 1, 8, 15 and 22

Who Do You Say That I Am? Lenten Study

Sundays, 10 am in the Hastings Room, starting on February 22 and Mar 1, 8. 15 and 22

Lenten Study and Sharing for Family Night Adults

Tuesdays, 5:30 to 7:15 pm Sage Hall and the Well (room 22), February 24 and March 2, 10, 17 and 24

"Christ Actually" Book Study

Wednesdays, 6 to 8 pm at the Parsonage, February 25 and March 4, 11, 18 and 25.

Weekly Reflections

Fellowship

Mardi Gras Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 17, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

Palm Sunday Breakfast

Sunday, March 29, 10 a.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

Special Services

Ash Wednesday February 18, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Palm Sunday March 29, 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship. The last Sunday of Lent. (Service begins on the front lawn at 10:55 with procession into the Sanctuary.)

Maundy Thursday *April 2, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary*

Good Friday April 3, 7:30 p.m., Lindsay Chapel

Easter Sunday April 5, 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship

The Week Ahead

Sunday, February 15

10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Sacrament of Baptism

Monday, February 16

First Church building and office closed in observance of Presidents Day

Tuesday, February 17

5:30 p.m. Mardi Gras Pancake Supper, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)

Wednesday, February 18

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's office
6:00 p.m. Christian Meditation, Lindsay Chapel
7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary

Thursday, February 19

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

Sunday, February 22

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, MJH

10:00 a.m. Christian Formation: Lenten Series, Hastings Room

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Multigenerational Healing Service, Karin Case, preaching

11:20 a.m. Church School: Creative Arts (presch.- 7)

12:30 p.m. Last Sunday Lunch, MJH

2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room

3:00 p.m. Cambridge Concentus concert, Sanctuary

6:00 p.m. Our Whole Lives, Choir Room

7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

First Church Covenant Testimony

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.

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE CONGREGATIONAL 378 YEARS ON-THE-WAY

Adopted 1990

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