



Lent

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**

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

A NOTE ABOUT LENTEN WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

Lent is the liturgical season given especially to contemplation and to the cultivation of prayer, study and spiritual discipline. Inspired by the story of Jesus' 40 days of fasting and preparation in the desert wilderness, we are invited on a path of self-awareness and self-engagement with the suffering and separation in our lives, our relationships and in our world. In reflection of this, our worship for the coming weeks will have a more contemplative feel than usual.

*We will begin our services with our now-traditional Lenten Introit, an a cappella version of the African-American spiritual, *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me*. Instead of a first Anthem, and just following our confessional silence, the choir will sing the Kyrie, each week by a different composer. (Kyrie is Greek for "Lord, Have Mercy"). After the reading of scripture, we will offer a few moments of silent attentiveness to God's still-speaking word. At least one of the readings will be printed in the bulletin so that you can read on your own.*

In addition, each week we will offer a different set of household prayers, for morning and evening. You are invited to read these alone or with your families, throughout the 40 days of Lent. You may wish to follow them with a time for silent reflection or perhaps a short conversation about what they inspire in you. This week's prayer suggestions are as follows:

Household Prayer: Morning
(based on Ps. 91:1, Deut. 28:8; Rom. 10:12)

Loving God, all night I slept in your shadow,
sheltered by you,
As I enter into the gift of this day,
I trust that you are with me.
May I see signs and wonders of your presence
in the world today,
for you alone are God.
I ask that this day
afford me opportunities to celebrate
and share with others
the abundance of your grace and love.
Help me to be open to all people you bring my way,
for you yourself make no distinctions,
but are Lord of all.
In Christ's name, I pray. Amen.*

Household Prayer: Evening

God, my dwelling place, as the shadows fall,
I rest in you.
Thank you for the faith that held me fast this day.
Thank you, too,
for every person who offered me grace,
and for those to whom I could also show grace.
I pray this night for all who long to see
a sign of your power
in the darkness that surrounds them.
Be near to them and show them your salvation.
And in the morning when I rise,
give me your work to do for another day;
in Jesus' name. Amen.*

*From *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2012)

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC

February 17, 2013

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

VOLUNTARY

INTROIT

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

GREETING

Mark Destler

L: Grace and peace to you, brothers and sisters.

C: **God's spirits us meets us here.**

L: God's love knows us now.

C: **In the silence of our hearts,**

L: In the depths of our needs,

C: **In the potential of our love,**

L: In the beauty of our togetherness,

C: **Come, let us worship God.**

*HYMN 441

Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ

WORDS OF WELCOME

Reebee Girash

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

CHORAL KYRIE

Kyrie Dixit Maria Hans

Leo Hassler

LENTEN PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us confess our sins,
asking for pardon, healing and peace.

All: **Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your son, Jesus Christ,**

**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.*

**have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

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 Lindsay Chapel (through Margaret Jewett Hall and to the left) after worship.

*HYMN 271

Lead Me, Lord

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Terry McKinney

READING

Deuteronomy 26: 1- 11

RESPONSIVE PSALM 91: 1-2, 9-16

L: You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust.'

**C: Because you have made God your refuge,
the Most High your dwelling-place,
no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.**

L: For God will command the angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.

**C: On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.**

L: You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

**C: Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.**

L: When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honor them.

**C: With long life I will satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.**

READING

Luke 4: 1-13

Text can be found on the next page.

SERMON

Brent Coffin

*HYMN 74

Not for Tongues of Heaven's Angels

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Almighty and Everlasting God

Orlando Gibbons

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**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.**

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Dan Smith

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.**

*HYMN 485

Bless, Now, O God, the Journey

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

O Spirit of the Living God

Constance Pyle

O spirit of the living God, be with us now and forever, amen.

VOLUNTARY

Luke 4: 1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone." '

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written,

"Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." '

Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." ' When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The bulletin cover is an image of a ceramic mosaic created by the children of the church and designed by Perry Neubauer.

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, 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 Brent Coffin, our *Havruta* Scholar-in-Residence. Assisting with worship are Dan Smith, Senior Minister, Reebee Girash, Interim Minister, and Terry McKinney, Minister of Mental Health & Healing. Our liturgist is First Church deacon Mark Destler. Louise Munding is playing the organ and directing the choir.

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 or 617-547-2724 and we'll get the information to you.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

LESSONS FROM THE FIELD: REPORTS FROM CIVIL RIGHTS DELEGATION TO PALESTINE Today at 12:30 p.m., **Hastings Room** The Palestine-Israel Task Team of First Church invites you to an event featuring four members (Rev. Osagyefo Sekou, Rabbi Joseph Berman, Alice Rothschild and Paula Rayman) of a October 2012 delegation to Israel/Palestine. Their delegation visited with leaders of the Palestinian nonviolent resistance movement and their Israeli allies. The presentation will be followed by Q &A and discussion. Lunch provided. For more information please contact Rev. Reebee Girash at rgirash@firstchurchcambridge.org or Karlene Griffiths Sekou at karlene.griffiths.sekou@gmail.com.

SPIRITUALITY AND MENTAL HEALTH 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) or Carter West (stbosal@arczip.com).

MONTHLY NEWCOMER SESSIONS Today at 12:15 p.m., **Margaret Jewett Hall** 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. This month we will gather at a table during coffee hour to talk about First Church and get to know each other a little better. Current members are also encouraged to attend to get to know people and share in the dialogue.

FIRST CHURCH ENSEMBLE-IN-RESIDENCE CAMBRIDGE CONCENTUS Today at 3 p.m., **Sanctuary** Cambridge Concentus reveals the multi-faceted (and famously “mysterious”) music of the seventeenth-century Bohemian master Heinrich Biber today at 3p.m. in the Sanctuary. The program features his virtuosic works for violins in unusual tunings, duos for natural trumpet, and arias from his only extant opera *Arminio*, premiered for American audiences by Jacob Cooper (bass). A wine and cheese reception follows the program. For more details, please visit cambridgeconcentus.org or call (617) 952-4050.

THIRD-SUNDAY JAZZ WORSHIP Today at 5:00 p.m., **Margaret Jewett Hall** Come one and all for lively worship in a jazz and gospel style. Whether you are a Jazz regular or a curious newcomer to our afternoon worship, join us for communal prayer and Holy Communion, led by Nancy Weil and Dan Smith, as well as soulful singing and stirring music led by Carolyn Wilkins and her band.

NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Today at 7 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, darylbianchi@aol.com.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

YOUNG ADULT POTLUCK Friday, Feb 22 at 7:30 p.m. All young adults (20 and 30-somethings) are invited for conversation, sharing a meal, and deepening our faith in community at Julie's house. In addition to enjoying delicious food and company,, we'll also take some time to share about this time of Lent, our memories of Lent as children and what it means to us now as adults. Can't make it this time? No worries! Future potlucks will take place on Friday, March 22 and Friday, April 26. Please email Affiliate Minister for Youth and Young Adults, Julie Rogers at JRogers@firstchurchcambridge.org to RSVP and to join the young adult mailing list!

NEXT WEEK - LITURGICAL DANCE FOR ALL AGES Valerie Blanc - a First Church member, parent, and dance therapist - is putting together a multigenerational liturgical dance troupe to offer a moment of creative movement in our Palm Sunday worship on March 24. Folks interested in joining should mark their calendars for the 10 o'clock hour on February 24, March 3, 10, & 17. All are welcome to participate. More details can be found in the upcoming EVENT newsletter .

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

LENTEN CARBON FAST 2013 will be the third year UCC will have provided a day-by-day opportunity to fast from carbon as a Lenten discipline. Initiated by the UCC and endorsed by other denominations and faith groups, people of every Christian perspective – and people who are not Christians – have benefitted from this opportunity to become more conscious and conscientious in their daily lives. We invite you to join us as we commit to fasting from carbon during Lent. Beginning Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent, participants will receive a daily email with the day's suggested carbon-reducing activity. When possible, this will include a quantitative measure of the carbon reduction resulting from the activity. Each daily email will also have a section suggesting a weekly focus for the congregation. The activities range from the very simple: eliminate “vampire” electrical use; to the moderately challenging: take “military showers;” reduce your driving speed; to more long term: buy local produce and consider getting involved in a community garden. To sign up to receive the emails, please visit macucc.org/carbonfast,

HOMELESS LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAY Make your voice heard at the State House on Wednesday, February 27 at 9 AM. Join Alice Kidder and others from First Church at the Mass Coalition for the Homeless Legislative Action Day in conjunction with our inaugural Youth on the Hill Day. Call your state legislators to let them know you will visit their offices between 11 and 2. See the Mass Coalition website to register or come anyway. For information call Alice Kidder at (617) 276-6227. or flintkiddr@aol.com.

EXPLORING HOSPITALITY: PEW CLIP BOARDS Visitor cards/prayer request cards and temporary nametags are on the clipboard at the end of your pew. Please pass the clipboards down the pew so that everyone can view them. Completed visitor cards/prayer cards can be put into the offertory container. And, as always, please wear your name tag. If you have questions, contact Karen McArthur or Reebee Girash.

The Week Ahead

Sunday, February 17

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 10:00 a.m. Lenten study series, Hastings Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Brent Coffin, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School for grades PreK-7
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, MJH
- 12:30 p.m. Interfaith Peace Builders, Hastings Room (lunch for attendees)
- 12:30 p.m. Newcomers Table, MJH
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality & Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 3:00 p.m. Cambridge Concentus Concert, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Jazz Worship, MJH
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

Monday, February 18

First Church Building and Office closed in observance of Presidents Day

Wednesday, February 20

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

Thursday, February 21

- 9:30 a.m. Friends of Fellowship Kitchenette Clean Up, Kitchenette
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Hastings Room

Friday, February 22

- 7:30 p.m. Young Adult Potluck, home of Julie Rogers

Sunday, February 24

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. Lenten study series, Hastings Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Dan Smith, preaching, Healing Service
- 11:20 a.m. Creative Arts Project for grades PreK-7
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, MJH
- 12:30 p.m. Fellowship Committee, Hastings Room
- 12:30 p.m. Christian Formation for Children & Youth, Library
- 12:30 p.m. Ministry & Discernment Committee, Dan Smith's office
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality & Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class, Senior Minister's Office
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

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.



The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

Senior Minister	Rev. Dan Smith, 617-547-2724, ext. 23 dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org
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
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FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL

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