



Lent

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC
February 22, 2015
THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

HYMN 183

What Wondrous Love Is This

(Please remain seated for the opening hymn. After the choir sings the first verse, the congregation will repeat that verse and all will join in singing the second verse.)

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul?
What wondrous love is this, O my soul?
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul?
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

O let us hear your call to be love, to be love,
O let us hear you call to be love;
O let us hear your call, great servant of us all,
To be the least of all, as your love, as your love,
To be the least of all, as your love.*

OPENING SILENCE

*GREETING

Marianne Jensen

- L: Grace and peace to you in the name of God
who has done wondrous things.
C: Grace and peace to all the world!
L: Gather, O souls, in the presence of the Holy One,
C: who sustains us and refreshes our spirits,
L: who is with us in our faith, in our questions, and our doubts,
C: who leads us through wilderness places.
L: In silence and in song, in worship and in praise
C: let us proclaim God's wondrous love together!

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO LENT

Dan Smith

**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 in Cambridge.*

ANTHEM

Kyrie, K.90

W.A. Mozart

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Jesus, Remember Me

198

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Jesus, Remember Me'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: 'Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.' The first system ends with a repeat sign, and the second system continues the melody and accompaniment.

WORDS: Luke 23:42
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier and the Taizé Community, 1981

REMEMBER ME
68.68
Music © 1981 Les Presses de Taizé

SUNG PRAYER OF CONFESSION

SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

All children from Preschool to 7th grade are now invited to leave now for a creative arts gathering. Teachers will meet children at the side door or in the narthex to accompany them to their the Choir Room. Parents can meet their children in the Choir Room after worship.

*HYMN 410

Just As I Am

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

RESPONSIVE PSALM 25:1-10

L: To you, O God, I lift up my soul.

**C: O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

L: Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

C: Make me to know your ways, O God; teach me your paths.

L: Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

**C: Be mindful of your mercy, O God,
and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

L: Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O God!

**C: Good and upright is the Holy One;
therefore God instructs sinners in the way.**

L: God leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble God's way.

**C: All the paths of the Holy One are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep God's covenant and decrees.**

READING

Mark 8:27-33

SERMON

Karin Case

*HYMN 445

Be Thou My Vision

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO PRAYER AND SILENCE

Katie Omberg

L: ...in the silence, O God,

C: hear our prayer....

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

L: Hear us now as we pray in the spirit of Jesus: Our Creator, our Mother...

**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 OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Faith Begins By Letting Go

David Hurd

*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.**

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 485

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

O Spirit of the Living God

Constance Pyle

VOLUNTARY

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 Karin Case, Minister. Assisting with worship are Dan Smith, Senior Minister and Katie Omberg, Ministerial Intern. Our liturgist is First Church member Marianne Jensen. Louise Munding is playing the organ and directing the choir.

The **YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED** section of the bulletin is omitted in the online version to protect the privacy of those mentioned. To find out who we are praying for this week, please contact the church offices at parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org or by calling 617-547-2724.

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.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM? LENTEN STUDY Today and Sundays, Mar 1, 8, 15 and 22, 10 a.m., Hastings Room Drawing from both the Gospel of Mark and from key passages from *Christ Actually*, we will explore our Lenten theme with an eye to the following topics: the Jewishness of Jesus, the context of the Jewish Roman war in which the gospels were written, claims about Christ's humanity and divinity, the cross and the Resurrection, and especially who is Jesus for us today! Dan Smith and Karin Case will share in leading these discussion sessions.

LIFE TOGETHER LUNCH Today at 12:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall Sundays at First Church tend to be full of many different activities and general busyness. To provide some balance, we celebrate Life Together lunches on the last Sunday of each month. We'll have a chance to connect as a whole community in food, fellowship and fun.

SPIRITUALITY & MENTAL HEALTH GROUP Today at 2:00 p.m., Tower Room Our Spirituality & Mental Health support group provides a safe, confidential environment where questions of mental well-being can be addressed in a context of faith, drawing upon each other's gifts. S&MH meets every Sunday afternoon from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. The group is co-facilitated by Mary Setterholm and Carter West, both theological school graduates. Contact Carter (cartergw24@gmail.com) or Mary (mis541@mail.harvard.edu) with your questions.

CAMBRIDGE CONCENTUS CONCERT Today at 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary First Church's Ensemble in Residents presents *Corelli's Violins and Dancers*. A selection of sonatas and concerti grossi featuring dancers Carlos Fittante and Caitlin Klinger. A \$20 donation is suggested.

OUR WHOLE LIVES Today at 6:00 p.m., Choir Room This year our 7th and 8th graders are collaborating with other Harvard Square congregations in this comprehensive sexuality education program with a strong faith component.

NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Tonight at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary Night Song is based on Compline, the last daily service of Christian worship, dating back to monastic life in the Middle Ages. Offered in the quietness of the evening, Night Song invokes a sense of protection and peace for the night that is to come. Tonight will feature Canticum vespertinum, a mixed octet. With Ben Schwendener, piano, and Sarah Hughes, alto sax. Gregorian chant from the Liber Usualis, Compline setting devised from Lenten plainchant hymns, Motets by Capillas, Cardoso, Mundy and Palestrina Instrumental improvisations. We will not be using incense this evening.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

FIRST CHURCH MEMBERS AND FRIENDS are invited to attend a lunchtime gathering at **noon on Tuesday, February 24, in the Hastings Room.** Dr. Phyllis Starkey, former British Labor MP in charge of Palestine policy, , will lead us in an interesting and timely discussion of **New European Initiatives for Palestine.** Hear why Dr. Starkey believes that “Europe needs to use its economic levers to hold Israel to account.” The lunch is sponsored by our own Palestine-Israel Task Team and by the Palestine/Israel Working Group of Massachusetts Peace Action. RSVP to info@masspeaceaction.org or 617 354 2169 by Monday 2/23 at 5 p.m.

GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION (GBIO) UPDATE Last year, GBIO began an internal organizing effort across its member institutions under the direction of its strategy team and staff organizers. After years of action – with campaigns ranging from health care cost containment, to raising state revenue collections, to local educational initiatives – GBIO has pulled back from some of its external issue work and aim to re-sew the relational fabric that gives the organization its strength. Across our congregations, we hosted over 900 one-to-one meetings and over 200 GBIO House Meetings for the purposes of building our relationships and to hear what issues and stories are most pressing on the lives of our members. Now, GBIO is poised to identify a new set issues it will be acting on in the coming months and years. Please mark your calendars for **two GBIO Delegates Assemblies** to deliberate about our agenda for the future:

When: February 26 from 7:30 – 9:30pm
What: to build consensus about which problem areas resonate most strongly across our congregations
How many: 100 leaders
Where: Bethel AME Church, 40 Walk Hill Street, Jamaica Plain. Short walk from the Forest Hills Orange Line Stop, parking available behind the church.

When: March 26 from 7:30 – 9:30pm
What: to determine the actionable issues that will become part of GBIO’s new agenda
How many: 500 leaders
Where: Our own First Church Cambridge (UCC), 11 Garden Street, Cambridge.

These meetings will be opportunities for increasing numbers of us to deliberate about our issues agenda for the future, and they will propel us forward for our meeting with the Governor and others in late April or early May. The precise date of the Gubernatorial Action is still being negotiated.

“WORKING POOR” HAVE BEEN HIT HARD BY INCOME LOSS DUE TO WEATHER! PLEASE HELP by putting items on your shopping list for our Rindge Towers food pantry collection Sun. 3/1. Proteins, veggies; unopened, unexpired, unbreakable. Thank you!

“THE CONVERSATION PROJECT” COMES TO FIRST CHURCH March 1 and 22 at 12:30 p.m., Hastings Room. As we enter into 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. 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 experience 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. As preparation for those sessions we invite you to read Atul Gawande’s recent best seller, “Being Mortal.” Gawande, who was featured on PBS’s Frontline this past week, is an advisor to The Conversations Project. The themes of his book, and the kind of facing of mortality that the Conversations Project is all about, certainly have a Lenten ring to them! 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 hjgates@comcast.net.

MAKE WORLDS OF CHANGE FOR THE OUTDOOR CHURCH This Lent, the Outdoor Church invites us into the daily practice of charity through the Worlds of Change project. Pick up a coin box in Margaret Jewett Hall, and put your spare change into the box at the end of each day. Return your box to First Church on Easter (write your name on your box if you would like to receive a donation statement). The Outdoor Church will gather and count our coin boxes, joining them with the collections of other local individuals and congregations. Last year, the daily efforts of hundreds of individuals - mostly youths - raised over \$3,500 to help bring food, clothing, and a message of hope to homeless men and women in Cambridge. See Sarah Higginbotham if you have questions.

WEDNESDAY CHRISTIAN MEDITATION ON HIATUS Christian Meditation will be on hiatus for the season of Lent. Please plan to join us again after Easter Sunday, on Wednesday April 8.

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.

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.

The fish is one of the earliest Christian symbols. Dating back to the 1st century, it was often used in covert communication between early Jesus followers who feared persecution by Roman authorities. The Greek word for fish, pictured here, is ichthys. This word is an acrostic for the words Iesous Christos, Theou Yios, Soter which means "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour. It is also one response to our Lenten theme/question Who do you say I am?

The Lenten bulletin cover was created by First Church member Perry Neubauer.

The Week Ahead

Sunday, February 22

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation: Lenten Series, Hastings Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Karin Case, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Creative Arts (presch.- grade 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

Monday, February 23

- 6:30 p.m. Staff Relations Committee, Dan Smith's office
- 7:30 p.m. Executive Council, Hastings Room

Tuesday, February 24

- 5:30 p.m. Family Night with Lenten Conversations, Sage Hall

Wednesday, February 25

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 6:00 p.m. "Christ Actually" Book Study, Parsonage (44 Garden Street)

Thursday, February 26

- 7:30 p.m. GBIO Delegates Assembly, Bethel AME Church, 40 Walk Hill Street, Jamaica Plain

Sunday, March 1

- 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 Holy Communion, Dan Smith, preaching (a time for healing prayer offered immediately following service)
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Outdoor Church sandwich making (presch.-Grade 7)
- 12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Room 22
- 12:30 p.m. The Conversation Project, Hastings Room
- 1:00 p.m. Outdoor Church, Cambridge Common
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 6:00 p.m. Our Whole Lives, Choir Room
- 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.

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

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