



A Service of Healing

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 capella 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

Dear God,
I do not know all of the challenges that face me this day,
but still I pray:
If I should be tempted by desire for earthly gain,
remind me of my citizenship in heaven.
If I should be distracted by hunger,
satisfy me with your Holy Spirit
until I hunger no more.
Let me walk in the way of Christ
so that my life testifies to your love
in deed and in word. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Dear God,
great is your mercy to me,
even when I have not remembered you.
Where I have strayed from your path,
forgive my sins and show me the way to salvation.
Grant me rest this night
that I may rise refreshed in my commitment
to the way of Jesus
in whose name I pray. Amen.

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC
February 24, 2013
THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

VOLUNTARY *By the Waters of Babylon* J. S. Bach

INTROIT *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

GREETING Susan Gere

L: Sisters and brothers, come in and be at home!
C: Here, where there is rest for the weary,
L: comfort for the troubled,
C: well-being for the sick,
L: and for the lost way, light.
C: Come in and be at home,
L: where God welcomes us when life is hard,
C: soothes our aching bodies with fragrant oil,
L: and heals our hearts with the medicine of hope.
C: Come in and be at home,
L: and let us gather in God's house with thanks and praise!

*HYMN 417 *All My Hope On God Is Founded*

WORDS OF WELCOME Julie Rogers

MOMENT OF CONCERN Bob Kelley, Joanne Paul

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

CHORAL KYRIE *Kyrie, K. 33 (1766)* W. A. Mozart

Kyrie, eleison. Kyrie, eleison.
Christe, eleison.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

**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.*

LENTEN PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us confess our sins,
asking for healing, wholeness 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,
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 a creative arts project. 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.

*HYMN 302

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Reebee Girash

RESPONSIVE PSALM 27: 1-4, 11-14

L: The Holy One is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
God is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**C: When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh-- my adversaries and foes--
they shall stumble and fall.**

L: Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

**C: One thing I asked of God, that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Holy One, and to inquire in God's temple....**

L: Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

**C: Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out
violence.**

L: I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
C: **Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for God!**

READING Luke 13: 31-35
Text can be found on the next page.

HOMILY Dan Smith

INVITATION TO A TIME OF HEALING PRAYER Terry McKinney

BLESSING OF OIL AND HANDS

HYMNS

400 *There is a Balm in Gilead*
395 *We Yearn, O Christ for Wholeness*
415 *When We Are Living*
470 *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*
401 *Amazing Grace*

CONCLUDING PRAYER AND 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 *Wondrous Love* Traditional, arr. P. Sykes

*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.**

*HYMN C-3

Psalm 23

*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

Blessed Jesus, We Are Here

J. S. Bach

Luke 13: 31-35

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

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 Dan Smith, Senior Minister. Assisting with worship are Reebee Girash, Interim Minister, Terry McKinney, Minister of Mental Health & Healing, and Julie Rogers, Affiliate Minister of Youth & Young Adults. Our liturgist is First Church member Susan Gere. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, 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

HEALING SERVICE TODAY At today's worship service, we will have an opportunity to reflect together on God's healing peace, and to participate in a simple healing ritual involving a brief prayer, laying on of hands, and for those who wish, anointing with oil — an ancient Christian practice now being revived across the ecumenical spectrum of churches. The morning service will follow the normal order, but at the time of the sermon, we will offer instead a brief introduction to the ritual, and then invite forward all who would like to participate. For those who prefer to remain seated, there will be music and a time of silence for individual prayers.

LITURGICAL DANCE FOR ALL AGES Today at 10 a.m., Choir Room 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. All are welcome to participate. Please join us in the choir room today and on March 3, 10, & 17.

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).

CONFIRMATION CLASS (8th - 9th graders) Today at 4:00 p.m., Hastings Room This year the 8th and 9th graders of the church are walking together on the journey of Confirmation.

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, darylbichel@aol.com.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

FAMILY NIGHT Tuesday, February 26, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. First Church families gather every other week in **Sage Hall** for a simple potluck supper and a chance to share the joys and challenges of family life together. The main dish (usually pasta and sauce) is provided; bring a side dish, dessert, or drink to share. Upcoming Family Nights are March 12 and 26.

MEN'S BREAKFAST Saturday, March 2 at 7:30 a.m. in the Hastings Room Gentle men of First Church! Join us for a hearty breakfast and even heartier conversations about topics that connect our faith to our lives and our world. One-time visitors, friends, and newcomers are always welcome. Questions? Contact Paul Efthim, pwefthim@verizon.net. If you'd like to sign up for the Men's Breakfast e-mail list to receive monthly reminders, contact Kirsten Manville, parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org.

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS Sundays, March 3, 10, and 17, 12:30 p.m., in Margaret Jewett Hall Join staff and lay leaders for three after Morning Worship conversations (and lunches!), as we seek to discern where God is leading us next as a congregation. Now that Dan is back from his sabbatical, we'll use this time to consider anew our mission and purpose for this next chapter of our life together. We will also be seeking wisdom and clarity about what staffing models will be most sustainable and sustaining for us all, as we step into our shared future. Child care will be available. Please note: these sessions will build on Scripture-based reflections shared in the preceding 10 O'clock Hours and Morning Worship services.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION WITH REEBEE GIRASH 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.

◆ **Friday, March 15, 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.**

Harvard Divinity School Rock Café

◆ **Tuesday, April 23, 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.**

Porter Square Panera

PASTORAL CARE TEAMS SUMMIT, Sunday, April 7, 12:30 p.m., Hastings Room Our Pastoral Care Teams are vital for reminding those of our First Church family who are going through especially difficult or especially joyful times, or are just unable to be with us on Sundays, that they are not alone. The Teams do so by their amazing dedication and generosity of time. On April 7, following Morning Worship, we'll be having a Pastoral Care Teams Summit for Team members — new and old — to share and compare what their experiences have been like, to ask questions, and to talk about ways we can fine tune the work we do. And if you haven't been on a Pastoral Care Team and would like to find out more, this is a great opportunity to do so! If you have questions, contact Terry McKinney, tmckinney@firstchurchcambridge.org.

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 a.m. 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.

PRACTICING 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.

IMMIGRANT VOICES ON IMMIGRATION REFORM On Monday, March 4, from 4:30 - 9:00, at BU School of Theology at 745 Commonwealth Ave (next to Marsh Chapel) a coalition of faith-based and immigrant groups will present an evening of immigrant voices on immigration reform. The program is free. At a time when immigration is at the center of national debate, this event will offer church, seminary, and university communities a chance to hear directly from those most affected by current policies, and will place that conversation within a biblical and theological framework. There will be ample time for Q&A with presenters. The program starts at 5 p.m. with the film *Brother Towns/Pueblos Hermanos*, a documentary of the stories of people from a town in Guatemala and one in Florida, linked by immigration. From 7:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. a panel of religious and immigrant rights group leaders in this region will discuss Immigration Reform. For more information: 617-686-2452.

The Week Ahead

Sunday, February 24

- 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
- 10:00 a.m. Liturgical Dance, Choir 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, Room 204
- 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, Hastings Room
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

Monday, February 25

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

Tuesday, February 26

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

Wednesday, February 27

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Senior Minister's office
- 6:30 p.m. Deacons Dinner, Parsonage

Thursday, February 28

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

Saturday, March 2

- 7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Hastings Room

Sunday, March 3

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. Lenten study series, Hastings Room
- 10:00 a.m. Liturgical Dance, Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Reebee Girash, preaching, Installation of Deacons, Communion in Pews
- 11:20 a.m. Outdoor Church sandwich-making (PreK-Grade 7)
- 12:15 p.m. Light Lunch, MJH
- 12:30 p.m. Congregational Conversation, MJH
- 1:00 p.m. Outdoor Church, Cambridge Common
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower 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.



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
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FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL

United Church of Christ

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