



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC

February 7, 2016

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele

J. S. Bach

*HYMN 313

I Come with Joy

*GREETING

Joanne Paul

L: Beloved of God, whether you are here for an hour or a lifetime
welcome to this household of grace!

C: Here, where our lives are grounded in the hope and healing of God.

L: Here, where we grow together in community and belonging.

C: Here, where we act together in daring love for a better world.

L: Sisters, brothers, siblings in the Spirit, come, gather in.

C: And may God's light shine upon us, even now!

WELCOME

ANTHEM

Let Us Break Bread Together

Traditional spiritual
arr. Robert Lehman

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**C: By what we have done
and what we have left undone,
we confess that we have failed to love you, O God,
and our neighbor as ourselves.
Forgive our deliberate sins,
strengthen our weaknesses,
and mend our broken hearts.**

**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.*

**Fill us again with the spirit of Jesus,
so that with new courage and lasting joy
we may serve you well
by serving the ones you love.
In his name we pray. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN C-27 *Now in Love We Come Together*

All children from Preschool to 7th grade are invited to leave at this time to make sandwiches for today's Outdoor Church offering. The children will make the sandwiches in Margaret Jewett Hall, and return to the service in time for the sandwiches to be blessed with the weekly offering.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF DEACONS

THE CANDIDATES' PROMISES

Dan Smith

*THE CONGREGATION'S PROMISES

L: Do you affirm these deacons' gifts of care and leadership?

All: We do.

L: Will you receive, respect and respond to their ministry among you?

All: We will.

L: Will you uphold and enfold them and all the deacons of this church with your prayer and gratitude?

All: We will.

*THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

The laying on of hands is an ancient practice by which, through human touch, the Holy Spirit consecrates ("sets apart") and confirms persons called to particular ministries in a community. It is also a sign that these leaders stand in a long and living line of servants who have been called from within their communities for this same ministry.

*ORDINATION PRAYER

*DECLARATION

*INSTALLATION

L: Deacons of the church, since you have been called to this ministry by grace,
by grace alone will you be able to carry it out.
I charge you to rely on God's grace!

**All: We welcome you in this ministry with hope,
and we install you in joy!
Trust God, seek the Spirit's consolation,
love this congregation with all your hearts,
serve, forbear, witness, and lead,
in the name of the good and gracious God. Amen.**

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Katie Omberg

READING

Exodus 34:29-35

READING

Luke 9:28-36

SERMON

Karin Case

*HYMN (insert)

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Ego Sum Pans Vivus

Giovanni Pierlugi da
Palestrina

I am the living bread.

*Your ancestors ate manna in the desert and are dead;
this is the living bread from heaven: whoever eats it shall not die. (John, vi.)*

*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

SHARING THE FEAST

*INVITATION

Kate Layzer

- L: Dear friends, come now to the Welcome Table!
C: **Taste and see that God is good!**
L: Drink together the Cup of Joy.
C: **Filled to the brim with hope.**
L: Jesus loves you. Come, eat the feast he has made for you.

*PRAYER OF PREPARATION

- L: How good it is to praise you, Holy One
Your beauty ushers in the dawn,
and in your light we see light—
C: **justice for the nations, mercy for the broken-hearted,
safety for the poor, belonging for the outcast,
strength for the weak, and forgiveness for the sinner.**
L: You reveal your love in joy and sorrow,
and we know your wonder even in the shadow of death.
C: **All your creatures behold your works
and testify to your faithfulness**
L: And so we too, fragile lamps in your holy house,
raise our hearts in praise.

REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

- L: Now, O God, with grateful joy, we remember Jesus,
his daring love, his open table.
(*Silence*)
L: We remember that he called us friends.
C: **He told us everything you placed in his heart.**
L: We remember that he gave us peace.
C: **A peace no one else can give.**
L: We remember that he did not leave us bereft.
C: **He sent us a Helper – the Spirit who dwells in our hearts!**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT 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 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.**

*SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

All who seek to follow Jesus' way of compassion, justice and peace are welcome at this table. Today, we will serve communion by intinction, which means that the community will be invited to come to the servers at one of several stations at the front of the sanctuary to receive the bread and dip it into the cup. The cup is filled with grape juice and the bread is gluten free. Persons who for any reason are not able to come forward will be served in the pews. Young and old alike are welcome to share in the gift of holy communion!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: Let us give thanks!

**All: Thank you, God,
for the gladness in this bread and cup,
for love that cannot die,
for peace the world cannot give,
for joy in the company of friends,
for the splendors of creation,
and for the mission of justice
you have made our own.
Give us the gifts of this holy communion -
oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies,
and the will to serve you all the days of our lives.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 371

Living God, Your Joyful Spirit

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Benediction

Beverly Taylor

The Word is flesh and dwells among us! Glory to God in the highest!

VOLUNTARY

Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele

Johannes Brahms

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, Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach, and Katie Omberg, Ministerial Intern. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir. Our liturgist today is First Church Deacon Joanne Paul.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED Please pray for all the children in the world who are suffering terribly, especially those affected by the water in Flint, MI, refugees from Syria, victims of the Boko Haram in Nigeria, and those affected by Zika virus in Brazil. Please hold our nation in your prayers as we confront an epidemic of fear and violence against Muslims and persons of color. Please keep in your prayers people struggling with grief, illness, addiction or mental health concerns, job related transitions, marital or relationship troubles, or loneliness.

Portions of the **YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED** section of the bulletin are 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.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

EARTH STEWARDSHIP TASK TEAM SPEAKER Today at 9 a.m., Tower Room The Earth Stewardship Task Team has invited Ben Underwood of Co-op Power to tell us about an innovative plan to bring community-shared solar power to up to 20 houses of worship in Boston. Come and learn about this opportunity for climate justice.

OUT OF MY MIND: A MULTIGENERATIONAL BOOK & BIBLE STUDY WITH THE MIDLERS Today at 10 a.m., Hastings Room Join the Middlers, our 5th-7th grade class, for a discussion of Sharon M. Draper's middle reader novel *Out of My Mind*. Explore the compelling story of 11-year-old Melody. She's the smartest girl in her class, but nobody knows it because of her inability to speak and control her body. Learn how the Middlers studied the novel side-by-side with stories of friendship from the Bible. Copies of the novel are available for a donation of \$5.

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION TODAY! The pantry is looking for breakfast items this month. Please place your donations in the basket in the narthex. Be sure that nothing is expired, opened, or breakable (the pantry staff are required to toss things that don't meet those criteria!). Thanks so much for your generous help.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HEALING PRAYER Every Communion Sunday, the deacons and ministers offer prayers for healing, peace, and reconciliation for anyone who desires them. The healing prayer teams will be positioned in the chancel (near the baptismal font). If you would like to share a healing prayer, receive an anointing or laying on of hands, please approach one of the teams at the end of the service and make your need known. In addition to healing prayers offered after the service today, members of the First Church community are welcome to contact a minister at any time for prayer or conversation about what is on your mind and heart.

OUTDOOR CHURCH OFFERING On Communion Sundays, it is our practice to prepare 3 dozen lunches for the Outdoor Church to distribute to those in need on the streets of Cambridge. The children of the church lead us in this discipline, leaving worship at 11:20 a.m. on the first Sunday of the month and return with the lunches in time for multigenerational Communion. As always, people of all ages are encouraged to participate by volunteering to deliver the lunches to the Cambridge Common at 1:00 p.m. Speak with the Deacon serving as Head Greeter today if you'd like to get involved in this ongoing mission project.

THE FIRST CHURCH DEACONS FUND is one of the many ways in which our community cares for one another. Church members in need of financial assistance for a one time or short-term emergency may make a confidential request to one of the deacons or clergy. This fund belongs to us and relies on our contributions. We hope people will take advantage of this aid. You are also invited to make a gift (beyond your pledge) to the Deacons Fund, if able. Please mark on your check or online contribution "Deacons Fund."

COVENANT TO CARE FOR OUR KIDS 2.0 Today at 12:30 p.m. Hastings Room In 2005 the Executive Council endorsed “Our Covenant for a Safe and Welcoming Community.” The outlined how we as a community would set loving and respectful boundaries regarding the supervision and behavioral expectations of our children. A decade later we find ourselves still full of children, praise God! It’s time to see how we might update our covenant and spread word of it among the congregation yet again. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend this session, as we hope to include the input of many in our covenant revision. All members and friends of First Church who care about our multigenerational community — whether you have small children or not — are also most welcome.

NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Tonight at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary Join us for these contemplative and spiritually transporting candle-lit experiences of choral literature, ancient and contemporary chant, and instrumental music. There is no spoken word, no sermon— just the opportunity to experience the Divine through music, being still, and silent meditation. Tonight: Gregorian chant, Psalm 134, set by Patricia Van Ness, Motets by Byrd and Victoria Contemplative instrumental improvisations. Alison LaRosa Montez and Michael Teranova, altos. Jason Connell, tenor. Daryl Bichel, bass.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

MARDI GRAS PANCAKE SUPPER Tuesday, February 9, 5:30 - 7:30 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 9, from 5:30 to 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. RSVP to Sarah Higginbotham so she can plan the pancake production.

THE FRIDAY CAFÉ IS GROWING! And our need for good, nutritious food is growing too. It doesn’t have to be fancy: a few dozen sandwiches; a pot of chili or chowder; a lasagna or other hearty pasta or grain dish; a tray of chicken wings or assorted pieces—any of these would help us keep up with the need. (Vegetarian entrées welcome!) We are already offering 2 kinds of soup, so we are looking for solid food options. If cooking is a spiritual practice for you, or if you would enjoy getting some friends together once a month to cook as a social activity, please get in touch with Kate Layzer (klayzer@gmail.com).

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP February 24, 6 - 7:30 p.m. (eight consecutive Wednesdays) Any adult who has experienced the death of someone significant is welcome. For more information contact Beth Loomis at 617-775-8606 or eloomis@mah.harvard.edu.

BUILDING A CULTURE OF FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION: A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO REDUCING VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES February 3 - March 30 (10 consecutive Wednesdays, from 4 until 6 p.m.) at The Walker Center (144 Hancock St, Newton, MA) This a program of Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries (CMM), The Protestant Chaplaincy Council Community Chaplain Program, and The Walker Center for Ecumenical Exchange, which focuses on the need to address the emotional issues stemming from violence: the anger and rage felt by victims, perpetrators and even witnesses. Come for one session or more. If interested or if you have questions, contact Alice Kidder at 617 276-6227 or flintkiddr@aol.com. There is a suggested donation of \$15 per session with possible dinner arrangements.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE! Ellen Rohan Ball's ordination and installation will be held at First Congregational Church Chelsea (Yes, Chelsea!) on May 15th at 3pm. Reception immediately following in the church hall. All are welcome to share Ellen's joy in her first call to ministry in the Metropolitan Boston Association! Please RSVP to firstcongchelsea@gmail.com.

LENTEN ACTIVITIES AND OFFERINGS

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP Wednesday, February 10, at 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary On Ash Wednesday we will acknowledge our origins in the dust, our brokenness, and our dependence on God, and receive ashes as a sign of mortality.

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS: LENTEN PRACTICES FOR FAITH, HOPE AND COURAGE Sundays, February 14, 21, 28, and March 6 and 13, 10:00 a.m., Hastings Room Headlines got you down? Join us for five sessions of our Lenten 10:00 a.m. study, as we examine together what our tradition can teach us about sustaining our faith, hope, and courage “for such a time as this.” With the Book of Esther as a touchstone, we will explore how our faith both challenges and sustains us in this pluralistic age, a time so often characterized by fear, hatred, and unaccountable political power, and extremes of poverty and wealth. Through shared reading, conversation and practice, we’ll reflect on the opportunities of this moment in our spiritual lives and our life together as a community.

LENTEN MEDITATION PRACTICE Mondays, February 15 through March 14, 6:00-7:15 p.m., in The Well (Room 22). This Lent, set aside an hour of your week to gather with First Church friends and explore the age-old practice of centering meditation. Discover an oasis of calm, a quiet center at the core of your being, and a way to simply “be” in the presence of God. Each evening will include a brief Lenten reading and guided meditation. All are welcome; no prior experience necessary. To for more information or to register, e-mail Karin Case: karincase@firstchurchcambridge.org or follow the link on our homepage: <http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/>

FAMILY NIGHT LENTEN SERIES During Lent in the four weeks of February 23 through March 15 our Tuesday Family Night suppers, at 5:30 p.m., in Sage Hall, will be held every Tuesday instead of bi-weekly. Pasta and sauce are provided; you are invited to bring a dish to share. Salads, veggies, meatballs, garlic bread, or desserts are most welcome. Following the supper we’ll offer a four-week series of Lenten conversations for parents. These conversations will begin with a soulful check-in and then shift to a time of shared reflection centered around a book of daily Lenten devotionals called *Seasons for the Spirit*, by Martin Smith. Copies of the book are available for a suggested donation of \$20. We’ll have additional childcare and children’s activities in Sage Hall on these four Tuesdays, so that parents can enjoy a bit of “grown-up time” together in the Well (Room 22). Please RSVP to Sarah Higginbotham if your family plans to attend.

“NOT IN GOD’S NAME” PARSONAGE BOOK STUDY Wednesdays, March 2, 9 and 16, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m., at the Parsonage As people of faith, what are we to make of the phenomenon of religious extremism and violence committed in the name of God? Join us as we share soup and bread by the fire and then dig into a conversation about *Not in God’s Name: Confronting Religious Violence*. In this new book, former Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the British Commonwealth Jonathan Sacks explores the roots of violence and its relationship to religion. The book is a rebuke to all those “who kill in the name of the God of life, wage war in the name of the God of peace, hate in the name of the God of love” and focuses on the tensions between the three Abrahamic religion, Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. Join us for a time of mid-Lenten nourishment for your body, mind and soul — Wednesdays, March 2, 9 and 16, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m., at the Parsonage, 44 Garden Street.



Greater Boston
Interfaith Organization

Undivided: Rejecting the Rhetoric of Otherness The GBIO Interfaith Conversation Continues...

Last week, we welcomed more than 200 committed interfaith partners from area houses of worship to the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center for an extraordinary opening event. Following a day-long fast, we shared a meal and thoughtful table conversations to counter the hateful discourse of our time. The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization is now delighted to invite you to three more opportunities to unite in challenging the rhetoric of division and prejudice within our larger society. The next conversations will be held as follows:

February 11 at Temple Israel, Boston from 7-9 p.m.
477 Longwood Avenue, Boston, MA (Longwood Medical Area)
RSVP to: susanm@tisrael.org, 617-566-3960

March 15 at Bethel A.M.E. Church (time TBD)
40 Walk Hill St., Boston, MA 02130 (Jamaica Plain)

Light refreshments will be served at each of these events.

Each session will include a keynote, but the emphasis will be upon smaller group conversations and the opportunity to build relationships.

The Week Ahead

Sunday, February 7

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:00 a.m. Earth Stewardship Speaker, Ben Underwood, Tower Room
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, Margaret Jewett Hall
- 10:00 a.m. Book & Bible Study with the Middlers, Hastings Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Multigenerational Holy Communion, Ordination of New Deacons, Karin Case, 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. Covenant to Care for Our Kids 2.0, Hastings Room
- 1:00 p.m. Outdoor Church, Cambridge Common
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class, The Well
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

Tuesday, February 9

- 5:30 p.m. Mardi Gras Pancake Supper, MJH

Wednesday, February 10

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary

Thursday, February 11

- 7:00 p.m. GBIO Interfaith Conversation, Temple Israel, Boston
- 7:45 p.m. Choir rehearsal, Hastings Room

Friday, February 12

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

Sunday, February 14

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. "For Such a Time as This" Lenten Series
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Dan Smith, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Classes (presch. -Grade 7)
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

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