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**Lent**

**FIRST CHURCH  
IN CAMBRIDGE**

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

**FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC**

**March 18, 2012**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

*Today, the fourth Sunday in Lent, is Laetare Sunday. Laetare means “rejoice” in Latin. Because the midpoint of Lent is the Thursday of the third week of Lent, Laetare Sunday has traditionally been viewed as a day of celebration, on which the austerity of Lent is briefly lessened.*

VOLUNTARY

*Lament*

J.J. Johnson

*Carolyn Wilkins, piano; John Voigt, bass, Bill Thomson, saxophone*

INTROIT

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

\*GREETING

Jim Cairns

L: Sisters and brothers, gather together in this house of grace!

**C: Come, you who long for justice and freedom.**

L: Come, you who are bound by doubts and cares.

**C: Here is courage, bolder than our fears!**

L: Here is wisdom, older than life!

**C: Here, there is room and hope and voice for us all!**

L: Come then, let us feel the spirit now and sing praise to our ever living God.

\*HYMN

*Every Time I Feel The Spirit*

*Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.  
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.*

*Upon the mountain, when my Lord spoke, out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.  
Looked all around me, it looked so fine, I asked my Lord if all were mine.*

*O Jordan river is chilly and cold, it chills the body, not the soul.  
There's only one train upon this track; it runs to heaven, then right back.*

*O I have heartache and I have woe, and I have trouble here below.  
But while God leads me, I'll never fear, for I am sheltered by God's care.*

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan Smith

ANTHEM

*Freedom*

Duke Ellington

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

*\*You are invited to stand. Hymns preceded by a “C” may be found in the beginning section of the hymnal.*

SUNG PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Kyrie Eleison (Lord, Have Mercy)*

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

\*GREETING OF PEACE

\*HYMN

*There is A Balm in Gilead*

*There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;  
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sinsick soul.  
Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain.  
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.  
Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,  
And if you look for knowledge he'll ne'er refuse to lend.  
If you can't preach like Peter, if you can't pray like Paul,  
Just tell the love of Jesus and say he died for all.*

*Children from PreK to 8th grade are invited to leave after the hymn for a creative arts project. Parents can meet their children in Margaret Jewett Hall after worship.*

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READINGS

2 Samuel 6: 12 - 22  
1 Corinthians 14: 25-26  
2 Corinthians 3: 17-18

SERMON

Dan Smith

LENTEN TESTIMONY

Deejay Robinson

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Nancy Weil

*Carolyn will lead us into the prayer time with song.*

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 THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*I Don't Feel in No Ways Tired*

\*A JAZZ DOXOLOGY

*The Welcome Table Song*

One: We're gonna sit at the welcome table,  
We're gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days.  
We're gonna sit at the welcome table,  
Gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days!

**All: All kinds of people around that table...  
We're gonna share the bread of heaven...**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN

*I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

*I'm gonna live so God can use me anytime, Lord, and anywhere.  
I'm gonna live so God can use me anytime, Lord and anywhere.*

*I'm gonna work ...*

*I'm gonna pray ...*

*I'm gonna sing ...*

\*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

*Carolyn will invite us to join her for part of the 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 hope that you will stay for a bit after worship for refreshments and conversation. (Follow the crowd.) 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 speak to one of the ministers after church, or visit us on the web at [www.firstchurchcambridge.org](http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org)

**Large print bulletins and assistive listening devices are available.**

**Please ask a greeter for assistance.**

Activity packets for children's use during worship are also available near the sanctuary doors. Nursery care for infants and toddlers (through age 4) is located down the hallway and up four stairs to the door on the right. The worship service is also broadcast in the Hastings Room, across from the sanctuary entrance.

**PREACHING TODAY IS** Dan Smith, Senior Minister. Assisting with worship is First Church member and Jazz Worship leader Nancy Weil. Our liturgist is First Church member Jim Cairns. Singing the Lenten Testimony is First Church member DeeJay Robinson. We are pleased to warmly welcome our musicians this morning: pianist and Jazz Worship leader Carolyn Wilkins, bassist John Voigt, and saxophonist Bill Thomson. We are grateful to them for sharing their gifts with us today.

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](mailto:parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org) or 617-547-2724 and we'll get the information to you

**THIRD-SUNDAY JAZZ WORSHIP Today, March 18, 11:00 a.m.** This morning, Carolyn Wilkins, Dan Smith, Nancy Weil, and others will be leading a jazzed up version of our Morning Worship Service, sharing music and parts of the liturgy from our usual Third Sunday Jazz Vespers. As part of today's service we will be looking back at Duke Ellington's Concert of Sacred Music, performed in the First Church sanctuary on March 29, 1967. Sing out and celebrate the Fourth Sunday in Lent with a jazz and gospel feel.

**FAMILY CHOIR WILL SING ON EASTER SUNDAY** The Family Choir will sing in Morning Worship on **Easter Sunday, April 8**. Rehearsals will take place at **10:00 a.m.** in the **Choir Room today and March 25**. Voices of all parts, all ages, and all experience levels are most welcome. No need to read music; we'll learn by ear and support one another in the harmonies. This will be the last Family Choir offering until next fall, so if you've thought about joining, this is your time! Contact Sarah Higginbotham for more information.

**MEMORIAL FLOWERS FOR EASTER** If you wish to donate memorial flowers for loved ones this Easter, please send the names of those to be remembered to Amy Click in the First Church office as soon as possible, at [aclick@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:aclick@firstchurchcambridge.org). Contributions of \$20 to help defray the cost of flowers can be included in the offering plate, checks payable to First Church in Cambridge, with a memo line of Easter Flowers. On Easter Sunday, the congregation is invited to take a plant to a homebound parishioner to spread the joy of Easter.

**DOXOLOGY CANTATA BY PATRICIA VAN NESS ON YOUTUBE** A video of the world premiere of Staff Composer Patricia Van Ness's *Doxology Cantata* can now be viewed on YouTube. The piece was performed during morning worship on January 29, Annual Meeting Sunday. *Doxology Cantata* was composed in honor of First Church's 375th Anniversary.

**COVENANT DINNERS – SIGN UP AND HOSTS NEEDED** Potluck "Covenant Dinners" are a great way to meet and get to know people from First Church. We hope you will join us for an enjoyable meal, spiced with good company and new friends. Sign up today during coffee hour, or contact Marian Smith at [msmith829@gmail.com](mailto:msmith829@gmail.com) or 607-748-0853. Choose the day and time that work best for you. Let us know if you have special needs (e.g.: accessibility, dietary needs (vegetarian, vegan, allergies), and if you need a ride. Children are welcome, and you are encouraged to come as a family. Your host will contact you a few days before your meal with details and to coordinate the menu. If you have the gift of hospitality and you are interested in hosting a dinner, please contact Marian for more information.

**LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SUNDAY SERVICE?**

Each week the deacons invite people to participate in the Sunday service as greeters and to help collect the offering. Please speak to a deacon -- Mark Destler, Martha Dyer, Dick Harter, Barbara Hume, Rachelle LaMaster, Lindsay Miller, Susie Neubauer, Chris Reynolds, or Karen Anne Zee -- if this interests you.

**TRAUMA AND GRACE** What faith practices do we have that can help us to hold and make meaning of current and past traumas? What role can forgiveness play and what are some other options for healing? Some resources have been prepared to help individuals deal with these very issues. If you would like a copy of these resources or would like to explore the subject further, please contact Dan Smith ([dsmith6@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:dsmith6@firstchurchcambridge.org)) or Terry McKinney ([temckinney@msn.com](mailto:temckinney@msn.com))

**DISABILITY FORUM FOLLOW-UP** Whether or not you were able to participate in the Disability Forum a few weeks ago we would like to invite you to be part of future discussions about disability and access issues here at First Church. We need your questions, suggestions, and interest in some sort of Disability/Access group that can take the lead on these issues. To share your ideas and get involved, please contact Carolyn R. Thompson at [carolynrt@verizon.net](mailto:carolynrt@verizon.net).

**WOMEN'S RETREAT REGISTRATION** is now through Palm Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. Please swing by the table at the entrance to Library to register, sign up for snack items, and a Sunday to assist with invitation handout or registration. The retreat is the weekend after Easter, April 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> at The Lodge, Craigville Conference Center, Cape Cod. We would love to have you join us to get to know other women for a time of fellowship, reflection & renewal. Come for the weekend or Saturday. Deposit is \$20. This is a pay what you can retreat. The Janyce Jennings Fund was set up solely to assist with registration expenses for individual women. It is accepting donations.

**ASSIST THE GUESTS EXITING FIRST CHURCH SHELTER** All guests exiting the First Church Shelter to housing, receive a starter "kit" of house-hold linens from the Material Assistance Program of the Cambridge Friends Meeting (down the street from First Church). The kit contains sheets, pillow cases and towels for the bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen. This Lent-Easter season, the shelter asks you to consider making a donation to the Material Assistance Program to help ensure that shelter guests, and others served by the program, have continued access to these items. A donation of \$50 provides all the items mentioned, but whatever you can afford would be greatly appreciated. For more information about the Material Assistance Program visit <http://afsc.org/program/cambridge-material-assistance-program>. Questions? Contact Shelter Director Jim Stewart at [jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org) or 617-661-1873.

**WELCOME SPRING AND SUPPORT REFUGEE IMMIGRATION MINSITRY** with a planting of colorful pansies. RIM-Cambridge is selling boxes of six plants for \$3.00. Order by March 30 and pick them up at First Church on April 21 and 22. Contact Ann Curby (617-876-6255) with questions or to place an order.

**375th EXHIBITION** Come see 375 years of First Church history through the lens of the six meeting houses where this congregation has worshiped. The exhibition, "Keeping the Covenant in Harvard Square," is in the Tower Room, just off the narthex, or main entrance, to the church.

**DISRUPTING THE SCRIPT: RAISING TO LEGAL CONSCIOUSNESS SEXUAL ASSAULTS ON BLACK WOMEN**

The UCC and First Church have made a commitment to becoming multi-racial, which involves taking on the driving concerns of those not currently part of the majority. The Mission & Social Justice Committee particularly urges you to pay attention to inequality in our criminal justice system. As potential jurors, voting citizens, and caring Christians, we can address these issues. The U.S. justice system's response to rape is affected by the race of the rape survivor. We urge you to attend a conference at Brandeis University that we're co-sponsoring: "Disrupting the Script: Raising to Legal Consciousness Sexual Assaults on Black Women" on Monday, March 19, 2012 from 12:00 noon until 5:30 PM in the Levin Ballroom, Usdan Student Center. First Church fellow-worshipper, Professor Bernadette Brooten, is co-convener along with Professor Anita Hill. The conference begins with a powerful theatrical performance. Please ponder how institutional racism is supported by the dominant culture, and what each of us can do to disrupt the script. For more information on the conference and its message, see: <http://www.brandeis.edu/projects/fse/conferences/disrupting-the-script/about.html>. Wheelchair accessible. If sign language interpretation is needed, please call to find out availability. Need a ride? Contact Dave Kidder at (617) 276-6227. Brandeis is also easy to reach by public transportation.

**KIDS4PEACE BENEFIT CONCERT March 22, 2012. 6-8 pm.** Come enjoy the ever-evolving sound of the Annette Philip Quartet against the backdrop of Grand Circle Gallery's stunning collection of original vintage travel posters promoting warm and cold weather escapes all the while providing valuable support for Kids4Peace Boston's 2012 program! The Annette Philip Group seeks to explore the music and ideologies of different countries, traditions, and cultures from around the globe. Each musician brings a different perspective, and currently draws from jazz, funk, Latin, Indian, and Middle Eastern influences. Silent Auction items include stunning and unique handcrafted Jewelry set with authentic 2000 year old Roman Glass found in archeological diggings throughout the Holy Land. Tickets may be purchased online for \$25 at [www.kids4peaceboston.org](http://www.kids4peaceboston.org) or at the door: Grand Circle Gallery, 3351 Congress St., Boston, MA 02210.

**EARTH STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES Saturday, March 24th from 9 am to 1 pm.** St. John /St. James Church is a historic gorgeous building at 149 Roxbury Street, Roxbury. Unfortunately its heating bill is over \$30,000 per year and there are only 50 people in the congregation. Help the congregation lower these crippling bills. You will be taught how to do the work by experienced team leaders, while you learn how to lower your own bills at home. Another weatherization workday at The Friends Meeting House, on Sunday, April 22nd from 1 to 5 pm, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge. What a great way to celebrate Earth Day. There will be food at the end of each event. Come along, make new friends, meet old ones, help out. Sign up for both or either at <http://www.heetma.com/>

**UAFA (THE UNITING AMERICAN FAMILIES ACT)** is a proposed revision to the existing Immigration and Naturalization Act to insert the words “or permanent partner” everywhere the term “spouse” appears. Its purpose is to enable U.S. citizens to sponsor a non-U.S. citizen for permanent residency (a “Green Card”) if the two people are a same-sex couple in committed, long-term relationship. Please write or call your federal representative and senators to support this bill. The Mission and Social Justice Committee would like to hear back from you. Contact Jean Miller at [jeanmiller.miller37@gmail.com](mailto:jeanmiller.miller37@gmail.com), for giving feedback.

*The 2011-2012 bulletin cover art series was designed by Perry Neubauer and constructed by many hands, large and small. This Lenten bulletin cover was created by Emma Blanc, Abby McArthur Keith, and Sarah Higginbotham.*

## WORSHIP AND SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

**NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE** Every Sunday through April 29 at 7 p.m. in the 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 new opportunity at First Church.

**THIRD-SUNDAY JAZZ WORSHIP** Today, March 18, 11:00 a.m. This morning, Carolyn Wilkins, Dan Smith, and others will be leading a jazzed up version of our Morning Worship Service, sharing music and parts of the liturgy from our usual Third Sunday Jazz Vespers. Sing out and celebrate the Fourth Sunday in Lent with a jazz and gospel feel. There will be no jazz service this evening.

**MENTAL HEALTH & SPIRITUALITY GROUP** 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 (temckinney@msn.com) or Carter West (stbosal@arczip.com).

**TUESDAY FAMILY NIGHT** First Church families gather every other Tuesday night from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. 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. Family Nights during Lent – March 6, 20, and April 3 – will include discussion of excerpts from Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore's *In the Midst of Chaos: Caring for Children as Spiritual Practice*, facilitated by Rachele LaMaster and Sarah Higginbotham. Sarah will send pdf copies of the (short!) readings to the church family email list one week before each discussion. Even if you can't attend Family Night, parents are welcome to join our informal book study by following along from your computer screen.

**MONTHLY NEWCOMER SESSIONS ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH, 12:15 P.M.** Today, March 18 at 12:30 p.m. in the Hastings Room 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. Hopefully this will allow newcomers to get to know one another and to enter into engaging dialogue around topics ranging from our faith journeys to basic tenets of the Christian journey. We will also continue to share information about First Church and the UCC. Current members are also encouraged to attend to get to know people and share in the dialogue. Please fill a plate with lunch in Margaret Jewett Hall, and bring it with you to the Hastings Room.

## The Week Ahead

### Today, Sunday, March 18

#### The Fourth Sunday in Lent

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:00 a.m. *Havruta* Small Group Text Study, Tower Room
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation for Adults, Hastings Room
- 10:00 a.m. Family Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Jazz Service with Carolyn Wilkins and her band, Dan Smith, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Creative Arts (PreK-Grade 8)
- 12:30 p.m. All Church Gathering and Lunch, MJH
- 12:30 p.m. Newcomers Lunch, Hastings Room
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

### Monday, March 19

- 10:00 a.m. *Havruta* Small Group, Hastings Room\*

### Tuesday, March 20

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

### Wednesday, March 21

- 7:00 a.m. *Havruta* Small Group, Hastings Room\*
- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 7:30 p.m. Spiritual Formation Small Group, Dan Smith's office\*

### Thursday, March 22

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

### Sunday, March 25

#### The Fifth Sunday in Lent

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:00 a.m. *Havruta* Small Group Text Study, Tower Room
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation for Adults, Hastings Room
- 10:00 a.m. Family Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Karen McArthur, preaching, Lenten Testimony
- 11:20 a.m. Church School Classes (PreK-Grade 8)
- 12:30 p.m. All Church Gathering and Lunch, MJH
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

\*Registration required. Please see related announcement in Lenten insert.

## 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.



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## The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

Senior Minister	Dan Smith, 617-547-2724, ext. 23 dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org
Director of Music	Peter Sykes, 617-661-0570 psykes@aol.com
Director of Creative Worship & Arts	Sarah Higginbotham, 617-547-2724, ext. 42 shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org
Shelter Director	Jim Stewart, 617-661-1873 jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org
Parish Administrator	Kirsten Manville, 617-547-2724, ext. 21 parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org
Administrative Assistant	Amy Click, 617-547-2724, ext. 41 aclick@firstchurchcambridge.org
Affiliate Minister of Mental Health Outreach	Terry McKinney, 781-643-7324 temckinney@msn.com
Affiliate Minister of Stewardship and Finance	Karen McArthur, 617-547-2724, ext. 22 treasurer@firstchurchcambridge.org
Affiliate Minister to the Outdoor Church	Jed Mannis, 978-456-0047 jedmannis@charter.net
Sextons	William Glass, Tina Quimby, George Williams, Kacy Williams, 617-642-3980



**FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL**

*United Church of Christ*

11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138

617-547-2724