

Palm Sunday

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC

March 20, 2016

PALM SUNDAY

GATHERING

Our service will begin in the yard outside the main door, weather permitting.

***GREETING**

Kate Layzer

L: People of God, sing Hosanna!

C: Hosanna! God is near! Our healing is at hand!

L: People of God, lift high your palms!

C: The Servant comes, lowly and kind!

L: Even the stones cry out:

C: Hosanna! Glory!

L: The lips of children honor him!

C: They welcome the One who comes in God's name!

L: Assemble now to follow him, and sing God's endless praise!

***PRAYER OF PRAISE**

All: Hosanna, hosanna, God of Love!

You sent Jesus to serve and to save.

By his hand you heal us, feed us,

Console, and give justice to the poor.

For his ministry in the world, we praise you!

For your faithfulness to him, we praise you!

All glory, laud and honor

to the One who comes in your name!

***HYMN (insert)**

All Glory, Laud and Honor

During the hymn, the congregation proceeds into the sanctuary.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Kate Layzer and Taylor Green

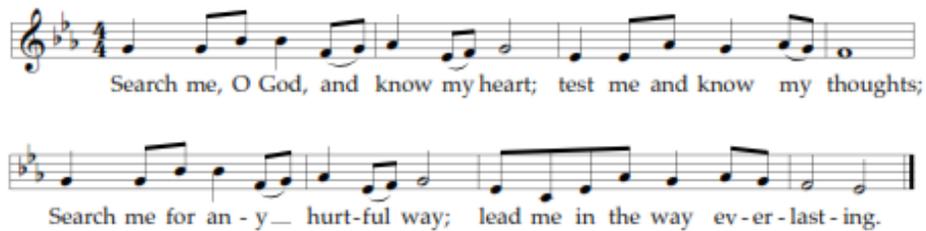
CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

**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.*

SUNG PRAYER OF CONFESSION



DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 179 *Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!*

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING Luke 19:28-40

SERMON Karin Case

*HYMN 456 *God of the Fertile Fields*

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS Katie Omberg

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Hosianna* Samuel Scheidt

Beth Spaulding, Susie Neubauer, sopranos

Hosanna! Blessed be the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

*DOXOLOGY

**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.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Karen McArthur

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.**

A SIGN OF COMMITMENT AND FAITH

Dan Smith and Sarah Higginbotham

(The congregation is invited to come forward, bringing your gifts, your intentions, your commitments. You are invited to lay down a palm as a symbol of your commitment, to place your capital campaign pledge card in the basket, or simply to spend a moment on the path as a symbol of your intention to walk with Jesus.)

CONCLUDING PRAYER

*HYMN 183

What Wondrous Love Is This

*BENEDICTION

The new banners celebrating First Church's mission statement were designed and created by Sarah Higginbotham and Sarah Fujiwara, with skillful assistance from Kate Layzer, Joanne Paul, Becky Moyer, Kelsey Peterson, Linda Ziebell, Karin Case, Caitlin Anderson, and Hannah Erickson.

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, Karen McArthur, Minister of Stewardship & Finance, Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach, Katie Omberg, Ministerial Intern, and Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir. Other musicians are Mike Plum, french horn, Madeleine Morgan, french horn, and Matt Hanna, trombone. Our liturgist today is Taylor Green, member of the First Church Young Adult Group.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED Prayers for the family and friends of Berta Caceres, Lenca Indigenous woman of Honduras and internationally recognized leader, who was assassinated last week for fighting against the installation of the private Agua Zarca hydroelectric dam on the Gualcarque River in Honduras. Please also pray for Monica Maher, our Latin American community minister. Berta was a beloved colleague of hers. Please pray for a spirit of wisdom, compassion, and justice as we move through a divisive presidential election season. Please also pray for all refugees, all immigrants, and all those living in Syria and other war-torn nations. 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

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST Today at 10 a.m. in Margaret Jewett Hall Join us as we participate in one of the most ancient and common and sustaining of Christian practices - sharing a meal together, in atmosphere where strangers are guests, guests are friends, and friends are family. The Friends of Fellowship are providing the breakfast food, and the menu includes: homemade quiche, fresh fruit, muffins, bagels, and juice. Just come, join the buffet line and enjoy! Breakfast at 10 a.m. in Margaret Jewett Hall will nourish us in body and spirit for our 10:55 Palm Sunday procession from the lawn into the sanctuary.

WELCOME TABLE Today at 12:15 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall New to First Church and interested in learning more? Stop by the welcome table during coffee hour, and meet other new folks as well as long time attendees and staff!

MEMORIAL FLOWERS FOR EASTER - DEADLINE TODAY If you wish to donate memorial flowers for loved ones this Easter, please send the names of those to be remembered to Kirsten Manville in the First Church office by the end of the day today, at parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org. Contributions of \$20 to help defray the cost of flowers can be made online (check off the Flower Fund category) or 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.

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: *Viriditas*, (the Night Song ensemble of women), directed by Cristi Catt, with Ben Schwendener on piano, will perform music of Hildegard von Bingen, Meredith Monk, medieval polyphony, Latin and Hebrew Psalms, and the premiere of a work by Patricia Van Ness (Psalm 40), and Bird Song by Rumi.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE Sunday, March 27 at 6:30 a.m., Cambridge Common Harvard Square churches are coming together for an Easter Sunrise Service which will take place near the Memorial in the center of the Common. All are invited to attend and start your Easter celebration off in a beautiful way.

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY BLOG NOW LIVE! The Healing Well is First Church's new mental health ministry blog dedicated to the intersections of faith, spirituality, and mental health. You'll find personal stories from people figuring out how to live at these intersections, be they struggling to maintain mental health, practitioners, friends, partners or family. Check it out at www.fccmentalhealth.org. To learn more about how to contribute or how you can be involved, contact the Mental Health Ministry at mhawareness@firstchurchcambridge.org or, if you would like to speak to someone directly, you can contact Taj at taj@firstchurchcambridge.org.

CONSIDERING MATTHEW SHEPARD Saturday, April 2 at 8 p.m., Sanders Theatre
The Harvard Glee Club, Radcliffe Choral Society, and Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum, with Grammy® Award-winning conductor and composer Craig Hella Johnson, present the East Coast premiere of *Considering Matthew Shepard*, a "fusion-oratorio" that tells the story of the 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard, a gay University of Wyoming freshman. Poet and lyricist Lesléa Newman (author of *Heather Has Two Mommies*) will join Jason Marsden (AB, '94), Executive Director of the Matthew Shepard Foundation, Craig Hella Johnson, and Harvard Professor Timothy Patrick McCarthy for a post-concert conversation with the audience. Dr. Michael McGaghie (AB, '01) Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Macalester College will give a pre-concert talk at 7 p.m. This project is sponsored by The Open Gate: A Fund for LGBT Life at Harvard by support from Learning From Performers (Office for the Arts at Harvard). Discounted tickets are available for the First Church community by emailing Andy Clark: agclark@fas.harvard.edu by March 30th.

IMMIGRATION JUSTICE FILM SCREENING Sunday, April 3 at 3 p.m. First Parish, (3 Church St, Cambridge) The First Church Missions Committee is joining Boston New Sanctuary Movement to bring Denver-based Rev. Miguel De La Torre, a national faith-based leader in immigration work to Cambridge. Rev. De La Torre will be screening his documentary **Trails of Hope and Terror** (55 minutes) and leading a panel discussion along with representatives of local immigrant-led groups such as the Chelsea Collaborative and Centro Presente. See: <https://www.facebook.com/events/445433272334093>

MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE MAY 8, 2016 8 a.m., Town Field Park, Fields Corner, 1520 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester (Fields Corner Stop on the Red Line) Join the First Church Cambridge team in the 20th annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace. Organized by the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, the walk supports the Institute's work of peace, reconciliation and healing, particularly with victims of violence. Travel about 3.5 miles through Dorchester with people from many places and walks of life, demonstrating for peace. Contact Ann McCann (ann.mccann44@gmail.com), David McCann (dmccann@fas.harvard.edu), or Jean Bellow (jean_bellow@comcast.net) for more information.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 24, 7:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary

We recall the new commandment Jesus gave his disciples, to love one another as he loved us. We remember his last meal with his friends by celebrating Holy Communion. And in a candle-lit, then darkened, sanctuary we call to mind Jesus' anguish and arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. The service will be led in part by members of our youth group. A ritual of foot washing will be offered for anyone who wishes to participate.

GOOD FRIDAY

March 25, 7:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary

We lament the world's pain and injustice, and we honor the death of Jesus on the cross of shame.

EASTER SUNDAY,

March 27, 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! We celebrate and rejoice in God's gift of new life through the Resurrection of Jesus. With joy-filled worship and special music we lift up the good news that not even death can separate us from the love of God in Christ.

A Word to the Church Holy Week 2016

*From the House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church and co-signed
by the Council of Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ*

We reject the idolatrous notion that we can ensure the safety of some by sacrificing the hopes of others.

On Good Friday the ruling political forces of the day tortured and executed an innocent man. They sacrificed the weak and the blameless to protect their own status and power. On the third day Jesus was raised from the dead, revealing not only their injustice but also unmasking the lie that might makes right.

In a country still living under the shadow of the lynching tree, we are troubled by the violent forces being released by this season's political rhetoric. Americans are turning against their neighbors, particularly those on the margins of society. They seek to secure their own safety and security at the expense of others. There is legitimate reason to fear where this rhetoric and the actions arising from it might take us.

In this moment, we resemble God's children wandering in the wilderness. We, like they, are struggling to find our way. They turned from following God and worshiped a golden calf constructed from their own wealth. The current rhetoric is leading us to construct a modern false idol out of power and privilege. We reject the idolatrous notion that we can ensure the safety of some by sacrificing the hopes of others. No matter where we fall on the political spectrum, we must respect the dignity of every human being and we must seek the common good above all else.

We call for prayer for our country that a spirit of reconciliation will prevail and we will not betray our true selves.

The Week Ahead

Sunday, March 20

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Breakfast, Margaret Jewett Hall (Newcomers Table)
- 10:55 a.m. Processional from the lawn to the sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Palm Sunday Procession, Capital Campaign Response Sunday
- 12:15 p.m. Welcome Table, MJH
- 12:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee, The Well
- 2:00 p.m. Youth Group, Sage Hall
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class, The Well
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

Monday, March 21

- 7:30 p.m. Deacons Meeting, Hastings Room

Wednesday, March 23

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's office

Thursday, March 24

- 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service of Communion, Tenebrae, and Ritual of Footwashing, Sanctuary

Friday, March 25

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH
- 7:30 p.m. Good Friday Service, Sanctuary

Sunday, March 27

- 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Easter Worship, Dan Smith preaching
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

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