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**Easter tide**

**FIRST CHURCH  
IN CAMBRIDGE**

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC

April 10, 2016

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY  
Bach

*Prelude in E Minor*

J. S.

\*HYMN 404

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

\*GREETING

Robb Morgan

- L: Grace and peace to you, dear friends.  
C: **And grace, mercy, and peace to the whole world!**  
L: Christ has risen, a new dawn revealed.  
C: **Christ is risen, risen indeed!**  
L: Rejoice and be glad!  
C: **Hallelujah! All praise and honor to God.**

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

*Rejoice in the Lord Always*

Anon. 16th.C

CONFESSING

INVITATION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- L: Let us ask for healing, pardon and peace:  
C: **Holy one, in the light of your glory  
we see the harm we have done,  
the suffering we have caused,  
the good we have refused,  
and the truth we have denied.  
Heal us: wash us in your mercy,  
and feed us with your grace,  
so that we may follow in your way**

*\*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.*

**and tell the good news of the gospel. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

\*GREETING OF PEACE

*All children from Preschool to 7th grade are now invited to leave for church school. Teachers will meet children at the side door or in the narthex to accompany them to their classrooms. Parents can meet their children in Lindsay Chapel (through Margaret Jewett Hall and to the left) after worship.*

\*HYMN 436

*Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Taj Smith

RESPONSIVE PSALM 30

- L: I will extol you, O God, for you have drawn me up,  
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.
- C: O God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.**
- L: O God, you brought up my soul from Sheol,  
Restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.
- C: Sing praises to God, O you faithful ones,  
and give thanks to God's holy name.**
- L: For God's anger is but for a moment; God's favor is for a lifetime.
- C: Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**
- L: As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."
- C: By your favor, O God, you had established me as a strong mountain;  
you hid your face.**
- L: I was dismayed. To you, O God, I cried, and to you I made supplication:
- C: "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit"  
Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?  
Hear, O God, and be gracious to me! O God, be my helper!"**
- L: You have turned my mourning into dancing;  
You have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,
- C: so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.  
O God, I will give you thanks forever.**

READING

Acts 9:1-20

SERMON

Karin Case

\*HYMN 473

*O Jesus, I Have Promised*  
SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Katie Omberg

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Kate Layzer

L: God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray... (*silence, intercessions, and The Lord's Prayer*)

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

*Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*

Mark Schweizer

\*EASTER DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**O Jesus, risen now to bless,  
do thou thyself our hearts possess;  
that we may give thee all our days  
the willing tribute of our praise! Amen.**

GOING FORTH

\*HYMN 474

*Rise Up, O Saints of God!*

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

*Sending Forth*

Paul Sawyer

*We have been gathered from the world to be judged and received.  
Now we are sent forth into that world,  
to be the scattered church of Jesus Christ,  
declaring through our word and deed,  
"The Lord is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!"*

## **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](http://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 Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach, Katie Omberg, Ministerial Intern, and Taj Smith, Ministerial Intern. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir. Our liturgist today is First Church member Robb Morgan, who serves on the Building & Grounds Committee. Dan Smith, Senior Minister, is away this week.

**YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED** Please pray for all those impacted by the recent terrorist attacks in Pakistan, Turkey, Belgium, and the Ivory Coast. We pray for all members of the LGBTQ community who face discrimination, especially those affected by the recent law passed in North Carolina dismantling protections for LGBTQ people. 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](mailto:parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org) or by calling 617-547-2724.

## **TODAY'S HAPPENINGS**

**FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE** It was a joy to be together with so many of you a few Sundays ago as we began our Holy Week observance with a Palm Sunday procession and celebration. At that time, we received and dedicated financial pledges to support our 2016 *for such a time as this* capital campaign. We have received an extraordinary response thus far of over \$1.7 million! This expression of faith and generosity is a clear affirmation of our shared ministry and vision. In the coming weeks, we will be meeting with our Finance Team and our Executive Council to consider how these preliminary campaign results will shape our proposal for building enhancements and preservation. We will also be requesting support from our building users as well as those in our community who have not had a chance to pledge yet. Please know that you are still welcome to pledge online at [www.firstchurchcambridge.org](http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org). Stay tuned about our next steps with this campaign. For now, we can and should celebrate the collective faith and effort that has brought us thus far on the way. God is good! All the time, God is good!

**OUR MINDS AND THE STATES THEY'RE IN** Today at 10:00 a.m., **Hastings Room** This two-session workshop explores the ways we talk about our mental states, bringing awareness to the health of our minds. We will examine the ways we restrict personal introspection and how those restrictions turn into stigma. Each session will be part personal reflection and part discussion. Please join us! For more information contact ministerial intern Taj Smith, [taj@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:taj@firstchurchcambridge.org).

**MINDFULNESS, RACISM, EMBODIMENT** Today at 12:30 p.m., **Hastings Room** Join Lama Rod Owens for an introduction to mindfulness as a way of thinking about anti-racism. Our bodies hold so much of what we can't express through words. This will be a short introduction to tapping into what all our bodies hold. He will guide us through a short meditation with time for questions and reflections afterward. For more information, contact Taj at [taj@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:taj@firstchurchcambridge.org).

**JOIN WEEKEND OF FAITH FOR TRANSGENDER NON-DISCRIMINATION!** On April 9 and 10 congregations and people of faith across the Commonwealth will be participating in a weekend of prayer and action to support the passage of SB 735/HB 1577, legislation that would extend non-discrimination protections to transgender Bay Staters in public places like movie theaters, sports stadiums and shopping malls. Please take a moment today to show your own support, perhaps through prayer or writing a letter to your congressperson.

**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.

## **FUTURE HAPPENINGS**

### **“BACK TO THE GARDEN CLUB” April 16, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. outside or in the Well**

Is your idea of Paradise a garden? Do you have a green thumb or wish you did? Or would you just like to get your Martha on with some church friends? Come join us for muffins, coffee and gardening on Saturday, April 16, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. For our first meeting we will focus on introductions and a walk around the current FCC grounds to make a list of to dos, and some preparation for the kids to plant annuals on Sunday, May 29. Weather permitting, we will meet outside, or begin in The Well. All ages and abilities are welcome! Sponsored by the Building and Grounds Committee. For more information, contact Laurie Friedman or Jim Rissling.

**LITURGICAL DANCE Next Sunday, April 17 at 10:00 a.m., Sage Hall** Have you been curious about Liturgical Dance at First Church? Now is your chance to join us! No dance experience needed - all ages and abilities are welcome. Just bring yourself and a curious, moving spirit. Rehearsals have started and will continue until our offering on May 8th. Come dance with us!

**I WAS A STRANGER Sundays, April 17 and 24 at 10:00 a.m., Hastings Room** *I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me." Then they themselves also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' - Matthew 25:43* Displaced refugee families and individuals are being turned away in Europe. Here in Massachusetts, homeless and poor families among are struggling to survive in unsafe, unsanitary and undignified shelters. How can we make real the good news of the gospel for those who lack the basic necessities and accommodations most of us take for granted? Join Phil Jones, Molly Baker, Devin Hansen and Jim Stewart for two sessions on what resources and guidance our faith and tradition provide us with as we consider this pressing, current challenge.

**HEALING SERVICE Sunday, April 17 at 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary** At next Sunday'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.

**NEWCOMERS LUNCH Sunday, April 17 at 12:30 p.m., McKenzie Library** Interested in learning more about First Church? About our history? Or our community? Or our denomination? Or our ministries? Interested in meeting other folks who are new to First Church? Karen McArthur and other church leaders will host newcomers lunches following Morning Worship on Sundays, February 21. Please RSVP to Karin Case, [karincase@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:karincase@firstchurchcambridge.org), if you'd like to attend.

**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, those who struggle to maintain mental health, practitioners, friends, partners or family. Check it out at [www.fccmentalhealth.org](http://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](mailto:mhawareness@firstchurchcambridge.org) or, if you would like to speak to someone directly, you can contact Taj at [taj@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:taj@firstchurchcambridge.org).

**COVENANT FRIENDSHIP MEAL HOST NEEDED FOR LATE APRIL** Would you like to meet and get to know more folks at First Church? Do you have room to host a few people for a potluck meal? Contact Hilary Hopkins at 617-491-8369 or [hopkinsjh@verizon.net](mailto:hopkinsjh@verizon.net) if you can be a host in late April.

### **SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITIES**

**CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION ABOUT ISRAEL AND PALESTINE Sunday, April 17, 12:30 p.m., Hastings Room** The 2015 UCC General Synod adopted a resolution "Toward a Just Peace in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict." This resolution calls for numerous actions by the larger church to promote an end to the Israeli Occupation of Palestinian territory, including boycotts and divestments from certain companies. Join us as we continue the conversation, inviting a Jewish voice into the dialogue. On April 17, join the PI Task Team, Rev. Dan Smith, and our guest Rachie Lewis, a young Jewish woman who lives in Somerville. Rachie works closely with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, cares deeply about peace and justice in Israel and Palestine, and has many family members who live in Israel. Come hear her perspective on the conflict and on the UCC Resolution.

**GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION (GBIO) COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT INFORMATIONAL MEETING, Monday, April 24, 2016, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.,** location TBA. GBIO congregations are considering what level of support they can bring to a campaign to persuade Boston residents to approve the CPA (Community Preservation Act), if it is on the ballot in November. This meeting is an opportunity for attendees to learn about the benefits and issues regarding the CPA and discuss with representatives of other GBIO congregations what GBIO's role should be. For more information, contact Will Erik-

son (will.erickson@theshareunion.org), Ann McCann (ann.mccann44@gmail.com) or Dan Smith (dsmith6@firstchurchcambridge.org).

**GBIO SPRING ACTION Meeting, May 24, 2016, 7:00 p.m., location to be announced** Save the date (May 24) to join congregations of GBIO (Greater Boston Interfaith Organization) in a major meeting with Boston Mayor Marty Walsh and other VIPs, who will be asked to respond to GBIO's suggestions and demands concerning four priority areas: affordable housing; criminal justice reform; *Do Not Stand Idly By*, a campaign for gun violence prevention; and health care cost containment. Be a part of another great First Church turnout, in line with our outstanding showing in 2015 at Trinity Church. For more information, contact Will Erickson (will.erickson@theshareunion.org), Ann McCann (ann.mccann44@gmail.com) or Dan Smith (dsmith6@firstchurchcambridge.org).

**INTERFAITH DIALOGUE OPPORTUNITIES** In these challenging times, it is good to build community across faith traditions. Here are some wonderful opportunities to do this, sponsored by our partner Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries.

**Human Dignity and Religious Diversity: A Workshop for Religious Leaders**

*Monday, April 11, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Hebrew College, 160 Herrick Rd., Newton*  
Laity and clergy welcome. You will be equipped to counter defamation of religious minorities and gain strategies to promote interfaith understanding.

**Dialogue Dinner: Interfaith Perspectives on Spirituality as a Resource for Chronic Illness**

*Monday, April 11, 6:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Israel, 25 Harvard St., Waltham*

**Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries 50th Anniversary Celebration**

*Thursday, May 5, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Temple Ohabei Shalom, 1187 Beacon St., Brookline*  
The Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries' 50th Anniversary Celebration will include a dinner and an address by Sister Simone Campbell, leader of "Nuns on the Bus," entitled *Change from the Inside Out: Civil Rights and Obligations*. A limited number of scholarship tickets are available. For ticket information, please call Alice Kidder at 617 276-6227. First Church is a member of CMM.

*The bulletin cover image is from a series of tile mosaics designed by Perry Neubauer and created by the children of the church in 2007.  
You can view the artwork in Margaret Jewett Hall.*

**MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE, May 8, 2016.** Join First Church Cambridge's team, along with thousands of others from all over Massachusetts and from many walks of life, in demonstrating for peace and in support of families who have lost loved ones to violence. This inspiring Walk for Peace is sponsored by the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, an organization that develops and sustains programs promoting peace and healing, including aiding families of victims of violence, educating young people in nonviolence and assisting prisoners getting ready to return to their families and society. The Walk is a fundraiser for the LDB Peace Institute, so every walker is asked to register and make a gift to support the Institute's work. SEE NOTE BELOW about the website.

Because the 2016 Walk is the 20th anniversary of the Mother's Day Walk for Peace, which has grown from several hundred participants in 1996 to 15,000 walkers in 2015, organizers have designed a new walk with two starting points - walkers are to chose between the two - and a super celebratory closing rally at Boston City Hall Plaza.

**LEG 1: Begins at Town Park Field, Fields Corner, 1520 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester.** Opening Remarks, 8 a.m.; Walk begins, 8:30 a.m. *Fields Corner Stop on the Red Line.* This leg starts where previous Walks have started and will join the Leg 2 starters at Madison Park High School. All walkers will proceed together to City Hall. Total distance to City Hall is 6.8 miles, about 2.5-3 hours.

**NOTE: FCC leader needed for this segment.** Talk to Jean Bellow or Ann McCann if you are interested and could do this.

**LEG 2: Begins at Madison Park High School, 75 Malcolm X Blvd., Roxbury Crossing.** Opening Remarks, 9:15 a.m.; Walk begins, 9:45 a.m. *Roxbury Crossing Stop on the Orange Line, connects to the Red Line at Downtown Crossing.* Walkers from Fields Corner will join this group. Distance to City Hall is 3 miles, about an hour to an hour and a quarter.

**PEACE RALLY & CLOSING CEREMONY,** Boston City Hall Plaza. Opening Remarks, 10 a.m.; Walkers arrive, about 11 a.m.; Closing, about noon.

**REGISTRATION:** We have established a First Church Cambridge team with the Peace Institute (thank you, Gaylen Margan), but the Walk website may have been hacked. **Until further notice, we are advised NOT TO GO TO THE WEBSITE.** Please contact either Jean Bellow (jean\_bellow@comcast.net) or Ann McCann (ann.mccann44@gmail.com) to register and for more information, and plan to send a check to the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute as your gift.

We'll be organizing walkers to meet at First Church on the morning of May 8 to travel together on the T to different starting points. Please let Jean or Ann know the following: 1) your interest in participating, 2) where you plan to start and 3) whether you would like to travel to the site with others from First Church. Questions? Contact Jean or Ann (emails above).

## The Week Ahead

### Sunday, April 10

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 10:00 a.m. "Our Minds and the States They're In," Hastings Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Karin Case, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Classes (presch.-Grade 7)
- 12:30 p.m. Mindfulness, Racism, Embodiment, Hastings Room
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

### Tuesday, April 12

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

### Wednesday, April 13

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 2:00 p.m. Building Beloved Community, Dan Smith's office
- 6:00 p.m. Building & Grounds Committee, The Well

### Thursday, April 14

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

### Friday, April 15

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

### Saturday, April 16

- 9:00 a.m. "Back to the Garden Club," The Well

### Sunday, April 17

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. I Was A Stranger, Hastings Room
- 10:00 a.m. Liturgical Dance, Sage Hall
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, A Service of Healing, Dan Smith, leading
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Classes (presch.-Grade 7)
- 12:30 p.m. Continuing the Conversation about Israel and Palestine, Hastings Room
- 12:30 p.m. Newcomers Lunch, Library
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

## The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

Senior Minister	Rev. Dan Smith, 617-547-2724, ext. 23 dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org
Minister	Rev. Dr. Karin Case 617-547-2724, ext. 26 karincase@firstchurchcambridge.org
Minister of Stewardship & Finance	Rev. Karen McArthur, 617-547-2724, ext. 22 karenmc@firstchurchcambridge.org
Minister of Street Outreach	Rev. Kate Layzer, 617-851-5074 klayzer@gmail.com
Ministerial Interns	Katie Omberg, katie@firstchurchcambridge.org Taj Smith, taj@firstchurchcambridge.org
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**FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL**

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