



Eastertide

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC
April 12, 2015
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY *Prelude in G Major* J. S. Bach

*HYMN 215 *Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day*

*GREETING Jenn McManus-Goode

- 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

MOMENT OF CONCERN Leslie Pelton-Cairns and Moana Bentin

ANTHEM *Now the Green Blade Riseth* Traditional carol, arr. P. Sykes

CONFESSING

INVITATION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- L: Let us pray for healing, pardon, and peace.
C: **Risen Christ, the light of your resurrection surrounds us,
shining brightly through the shadows of our hearts.
We are not always aware of your light,
We lose ourselves in the business of the day,
letting worry and fear consume us.
God, Our doubts cast shadows over us,
obscuring the love that you bring.
Show us that love now by**

**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.*

**helping us to remember
your message of forgiveness and peace
as we carry on. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 257

This is the Day

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.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Katie Omberg

READING

1 John 1:1-3

READING

John 20: 19-31

SERMON

Taj Smith

*HYMN 424

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Karin Case

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Dan Smith

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.)

L: Hear us now as we pray in the spirit of our brother Jesus:
Our Creator, our Mother...

**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

*This joyful Eastertide,
away with care and sorrow!
My Love, the Crucified,
hath sprung to life this morrow.*

*Refrain:
Had Christ, that once was slain,
ne'er burst his threeday prison,
our faith had been in vain;
but now is Christ arisen,
arisen, arisen, arisen.*

*Death's flood hath lost its chill,
since Jesus crossed the river:
Lover of souls, from ill
my passing soul deliver.*

*My flesh in hope shall rest,
and for a season slumber,
till trump from east to west
shall wake the dead in number.*

OFFERTORY

This Joyful Eastertide

Vernon Hoyle

*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 216

The Day of Resurrection!

*APPRECIATION AND BLESSING OF RACHELLE LAMASTER

*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!"*

VOLUNTARY

Fugue in G Major

J. S. Bach

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 Taj Smith, Ministerial Intern. Assisting with worship are Dan Smith, Senior Minister, Karin Case, Minister, and Katie Omberg, Ministerial Intern. Our liturgist is First Church member and member of the Pre-Capital Campaign Planning Committee Jenn McManus-Goode. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir.

The **YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED** section of the bulletin is 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.

IN THIS SPACE we share personal, congregational, national, and global prayer requests. If you would like us to include a prayer request, please contact Dan Smith, Karin Case, or Kirsten Manville by Wednesday morning or fill out one of the prayer request cards found in your pew.

CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

The First Church Executive Council has approved hiring Kairos and Associates, a national resource development firm, to help our congregation discern its readiness and willingness for a significant capital campaign to strengthen and sustain the many ministries of First Church in Cambridge.

We begin with a Listening Phase, just launched this week. The goal of this phase is to get a deeper sense of how our church community engages our current ministries and imagines our future, as well as to discover the level of willingness to partner with us as we move forward into God's future.

The first step is an online Church Assessment Tool (CAT), which provides indicators of our congregational health as well as areas of challenge and potential growth. We are inviting every member of our church community who is 16 and older to participate. It should take no more than 15-20 minutes to fill out. Hard copies will be available for those not comfortable using computers.

All survey responses are anonymous.

You should have received an email this past week with a link to the survey. Please take the time to help us with this crucial first step. If you did not receive an email and would like to fill out a survey, please contact Karen McArthur. The survey link will stay open for response through Wednesday, April 22.

We hope that participating in the assessment will get you thinking about where God is calling First Church into the future.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

YOU AND EVIL Today and Sunday, April 19 and at 10:00 a.m., Hastings Room Join First Church members Stephanie Paulsell, Susan Gere and Shelter Director Jim Stewart for a two-session presentation on you and Evil. Drawing from various resources, including the Bible; sacramental and other Christian practices; Hannah Arendt; and psychological theory we will try to begin an investigation of this urgent, difficult and enduring issue.

LITURGICAL DANCE REHEARSALS Today and Sundays, April 19, 26, and May 3 at 10:00 a.m. Have you enjoyed the Liturgical Dance offerings in worship over the past few years? Ever dreamed of joining in? Now is your chance! Valerie Blanc will be leading a liturgical dance ensemble piece during Morning Worship on Sunday, May 10, finding inspiration in the *sijo* form of poetry introduced to First Church by Dave McCann. No dance experience necessary, just a desire to connect with others and offer a creative expression in worship.

SPIRITUALITY & MENTAL HEALTH GROUP Today at 2:00 p.m., Tower Room Our Spirituality & Mental Health support group provides a safe, confidential environment where questions of mental well-being can be addressed in a context of faith, drawing upon each other's gifts. S&MH meets every Sunday

afternoon from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. The group is co-facilitated by Mary Setterholm and Carter West, both theological school graduates. Contact Carter (cartergw24@gmail.com) or Mary (mis541@mail.harvard.edu) with your questions.

OUR WHOLE LIVES Today at 6:00 p.m., Friends Meeting House This year our 7th and 8th graders are collaborating with other Harvard Square congregations in this comprehensive sexuality education program with a strong faith component.

A VISION OF THE BELOVED: BUILDING SOLIDARITY IN THE AGE OF FERGUSON Sunday, April 12 at 4:30 p.m., Hope Central Church in Jamaica Plain Please join us on April 12 at Hope Central Church in Jamaica Plain, MA at 4:30 p.m. for a critical conversation with Rev. Traci Blackmon. As people of faith we are called to love one another as Christ has loved us. What does this mean for the church in the 21st century when the problem of American democracy is still the color line? In the wake of the recent flashpoint events of Ferguson, we recognize the need for faithful response, and to bear witness to the justice and love of Christ against violence, dehumanization, and racialized social inequality. Rev. Traci Blackmon is a nationally recognized preacher and speaker, ordained in the United Church of Christ and the African Methodist Episcopal Church, a licensed registered nurse, and a mother of three. She currently serves as the 18th installed and first woman pastor in the 156-year history of Christ the King United Church of Christ in Florissant, MO (also in St. Louis metro area). Rev. Blackmon has been ministering on the front lines of the Ferguson demonstrations since the beginning, helping the families and friends of those who have been affected by the events in both Ferguson and St. Louis. She has organized community gatherings at Christ the King UCC that have included Gov. Jay Nixon, Co-sponsored by MACUCC Justice & Witness Council and Hope Central Church/Iglesia Hispana.

NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Tonight at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary Night Song is based on Compline, the last daily service of Christian worship, dating back to monastic life in the Middle Ages. Offered in the quietness of the evening, Night Song invokes a sense of protection and peace for the night that is to come. Tonight Night Song men's schola, Beneficia lucis, directed by James Busby, will continue exploring the sacred motets of Carlo Gesualdo, singing the following four: Illumina nos, Hei mihi, Domine, Illumina faciem tuam, Da pacem Domine. Two of these pieces have voice parts unfinished by Gesualdo, and we'll sing versions completed by Igor Stravinsky. Where there are chants with the same texts from the Liber Usualis, we'll sing them prior to singing the motet. We will be using incense this Sunday.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

WEDNESDAY CHRISTIAN MEDITATION Christian Meditation is the ancient practice of opening the heart in silence to the indwelling presence of God. Join the circle any Wednesday from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Lindsay Chapel. No experience is required, but all experience is welcome. Reach Kate Layzer at klayzer@gmail.com if you'd like to know more.

FAMILY NIGHT Tuesday, April 14 at 5:30 p.m., Sage Hall Families with young children will gather for a simple supper and some time to connect and share our stories with each other. Pasta and sauce will be provided; you bring something to share, such as a salad, fruit, bread, or a dessert. All families with young children are welcome - RSVP to Sarah Higginbotham if you can join us this time.

NEWCOMERS EXPLORATION LUNCH April 19, 12:30 p.m., Hastings Room 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? Clergy and other church leaders will host a newcomer exploration gathering following Morning Worship on April 19. Please RSVP to Dan Smith, dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org, or Karin Case, karincase@firstchurchcambridge.org, if you'd like to attend.

GOT BAPTISM? Are you thinking about a possible baptism for you or your child? During the morning service on **Sunday, April 26**, we will celebrate the sacrament of baptism for all those who desire to receive it. If you have baptism in mind for yourself or your child, and if you have not already spoken with one of the ministers or scheduled a date, please contact Karin Case or Dan Smith to discuss the possibility of participating in this (or a future) baptism Sunday. If you are curious about baptism and what it means, please come to a **baptism informational session** led by Karen McArthur at **12:30 p.m. on April 19** in the McKenzie Library.

FEEDING SUNDAY MAY 3 Every year on the first Sunday of May First Church celebrates our relationship with the Outdoor Church by bringing the children's practice of sandwich-making into the Sanctuary for our Communion worship. On Sunday, May 3, the tables will be laid with sandwich fixings, bananas, and chocolate treats, and the congregation will be invited to participate in this social justice ministry. Follow the lead of our children, who have faithfully prepared lunches for homeless men and women every Communion Sunday for almost a decade. Community Minister Kate Layzer, founder of The Friday Café, will lead, and we will also take a moment during worship to celebrate Kate as Community Minister for Street Outreach, and her ongoing commitment to aiding people experiencing homelessness.

SIGN UP FOR THE FRIDAY CAFÉ If you have been thinking of volunteering for the Friday Café and have some time, or if you know someone who would be interested in participating, please let Kate Layzer (klayzer@gmail.com) know. Many hands and hearts help things go smoothly.

REGISTER NOW FOR THE 216TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CONFERENCE **Friday, June 12, 2015 to Saturday, June 13, 2015 at University of Massachusetts, Amherst (Hotel UMass)** The Annual Meeting is one of those rare opportunities to gather together with brothers and sisters of faith from places beyond our local church setting. Come to re-connect with friends, for the dynamic preaching, fellowship, and the business of the Conference. The keynote speaker and preacher will be the **Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber**, founding pastor of House for All Sinners and Saints, a Lutheran mission church in Denver, Colorado. She is a leading voice in the emergent church movement, and author of *Pastrix: the Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner & Saint* (Jericho, 2013). Please register now at <http://www.macucc.org/eventdetail/189516> as this public event is sure to fill up very soon!

SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS

HARVARD HEAT WEEK: A WEEK OF ACTION CALLING ON HARVARD UNIVERSITY TO DIVEST FROM FOSSIL FUELS **April 12–17** Students, faculty, alumni, and members of the Harvard community will come together on campus to speak out for climate justice, learn from one another, and take principled action. The climate crisis leaves no room for neutrality — tell Harvard to stand on the right side of history. On April 12 Heat Week launches at 6 p.m. at First Parish in Cambridge. Wednesday April

15 is Faith Day, with an evening interfaith service at 7 p.m. at First Parish Church. And on April 17 the Closing Rally will be at the Science Center Plaza at Harvard at 6 p.m. For more information, go to: <http://harvardheatweek.org>

JOIN THE FIGHT FOR \$15 IN 2015! Tuesday, April 14, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., near Northeastern and Ruggles MBTA Stops Join us and stand for economic justice! Too many low wage workers are trapped in poverty. We are tired of being pitted against each other in a race to the bottom. Rain or shine. Family-friendly. For more information, please go to wageaction.org

COMMON UNITY/Common Harmony Evening Thursday, April 16, 7:30 p.m. Temple Beth Elohim, 10 Bethel Road, Wellesley Join new and familiar friends for an evening of music, dance and stories by youth from TBE and Roxbury Presbyterian Social Impact Center (where First Church's Nancy Kilburn serves as Director.) The Rev. Liz Walker will also be a speaker. Voluntary contributions will support CommonUnity: Nights for Youth Peace in Roxbury, a program by and for teens and young adults that promotes peace and opportunity through moderated, open dialogue, inspirational speakers, employment and more. Sponsored by TBE Congregants to Prevent Gun Violence. For more information, see Ann McCann.

YOUNG ADULTS, LET'S MEET! April 23rd at 7pm. We will have a small gathering at the home of Julie Pridham. These gatherings serve as an intimate setting to share more about your spiritual journey and formation. Snacks will be provided. Please RSVP to Julie at julie.pridham@gmail.com by April 22nd for the address. Please include any dietary restrictions you may have. If you have any questions about the Young Adult group, contact Julie at the above address or Taj at taj@firstchurchcambridge.org. See you there!

YOUTH HOUSING INITIATIVE GALA Friday, April 24, 7:00 - 11:00 p.m., Oberon (Harvard Square) The Youth Housing Initiative (YHI) is a new initiative coming from the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter, a program of the Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA) the non profit at Harvard College that involves students in community work in and around Cambridge/Boston. YHI will be a safe space for young people ages 18-24 experiencing homelessness in their lives. The new site will house an overnight shelter that will offer overnights, hot meals, laundry facilities, and advocacy during the coldest months of the year. The program will be staffed by undergrads, creating the first peer-to-peer shelter model. Currently there are only 12 dedicated beds in the greater Boston area for young people under the age of 24 and statistics are showing at least 600 young people experiencing homelessness. The YHI program would double the number of beds available for young people. The YHI is hosting a gala and the evening will include great music, cash bar, dancing, personal stories, door prizes and more. We are seeking sponsors for this great event, folks who feel compelled to help young people in a unique way. Tickets for the event and sponsorship can be found at: youthhousinggala.eventbrite.com

KIDS4PEACE BOSTON: INTERFAITH FUNDRAISING WALK – CHRISTIAN, MUSLIM, AND JEWISH TEENS WALK TO RAISE FUNDS FOR PEACE IN BOSTON AND JERUSALEM. April 26, 2015 12:45 to 4:30pm. Kids4Peace Boston is a community of Christian, Muslim, and Jewish teens committed to learning about and respecting those who are different from themselves and working together to make a more peaceful Boston and Jerusalem. This interfaith walk is a 3.5 mile fundraising walk in which Jewish, Muslim, and Christian teens and adults walk from the Islamic Society of Boston - Cam-

bridge to Temple B'nai Brith in Somerville with a stop at First Church in Cambridge in the middle. If you would like to walk with the group (suggested donation of \$25) or volunteer to support the event, please email Matt Loper, K4PB Executive Director, at mloper@kids4peaceboston.org or Peggy Stevens, Program Director at peggy@kids4peaceboston.org To find out more and to get involved, please visit: <http://kids4peaceboston.org/steppingtowardpeace/partners/> Peace, Salaam, Shalom!

COOPERATIVE METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES (CMM) ANNUAL DINNER Thursday, May 7, 6:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall All are invited to attend this year's CMM Annual Dinner, hosted by First Church in Cambridge, Thursday, May 7, at 6:00 p.m., in Margaret Jewett Hall. Guest speaker will be the Minister of Harvard Memorial Church, the Rev. Dr. Jonathan L. Walton, on the topic "Religion and Justice in America." The program will include in addition a performance by the Boston Children's Choir. Come and enjoy a hearty dinner, and meet with a diverse interfaith, spiritual, and friendly group of concerned people.

MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE Sunday, May 10 at 8:00 a.m. (approx.), Town Field Park, Fields Corner, 1520 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester (Fields Corner Station on the Red Line) Join with people from all over Greater Metropolitan Boston in *Walking the Walk to End Violence*, sponsored by the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. The route of 3.6 miles winds through the bustling neighborhoods of Dorchester; participants can walk part or all of the route. Fellow walkers will represent every faith, ethnicity and age, all gathered to support survivors of violence and work toward a non-violent community and world. A First Church Cambridge team of walkers is forming and seeks participants. See David or Ann McCann or Jean Bellow for more information and to join the team. Also visit mothersdaywalk4peace.org. Proceeds will benefit the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, an organization serving victims' families and survivors of violence as well as presenting antiviolence programs in schools and communities.

SAVE THE DATE — GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION GUBERNATORIAL ACTION May 12, 7:30 p.m. Trinity Church in Boston's Copley Square Over 1500 GBIO leaders will gather for an inspiring evening of love, power and justice! After many months of building cross-class, cross-cultural, interfaith relationships, GBIO is now ready to launch a new platform for public action. We've heard our members' stories and struggles concerning housing affordability, healthcare, public education, gun violence and the need for criminal justice reform. On May 12, we are putting our faith into action by inviting city and statewide leaders to work with us around specific next steps. Governor Baker, Speaker DeLeo, Mayor Walsh, Attorney General Healy and other power players have already confirmed their attendance. **First Church has committed to bringing 80 of our own members and friends** to this important and powerful evening that you don't want to miss. We might even hire a bus to get us there together. If you're interested in attending or have any questions, please contact Ministerial Intern, Taj Smith at taj@firstchurchcambridge.org.

DAY SHELTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Volunteers critically needed at the Day Shelter for the Long Island Refugees at Old South Church (Copley Square, Boston). Shifts are short (a few hours) and very important for the wellbeing of the refugees from Long Island Shelter. The shelter opened this winter and will run daily until April 30. You can now sign up for volunteer shifts by following the link at this page: <http://bostonwarm.weebly.com/join-us.html>. Volunteer training will be provided by Starlight Ministries.

The Week Ahead

Sunday, April 12

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation
- 10:00 a.m. Liturgical Dance Rehearsal, Sage Hall
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Taj Smith, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Classes
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 4:30 p.m. A Vision of the Beloved, Building Solidarity in the Age of Ferguson, Hope Central Church, Jamaica Plain
- 6:00 p.m. Our Whole Lives, Friends Meeting House
- 6:00 p.m. Harvard Heat Week Launch, First Parish Church
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

Tuesday, April 14

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

Wednesday, April 15

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 6:00 p.m. Christian Meditation, Lindsay Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Harvard Heat Week Interfaith Service, First Parish Church

Thursday, April 16

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

Friday, April 17

- 6:00 p.m. Harvard Heat Week Closing Rally, Science Center Plaza at Harvard

Sunday, April 19

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Dan Smith, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Classes
- 12:30 p.m. Newcomers Gathering, Hastings Room
- 12:30 p.m. Baptism Prep Session, McKenzie Library
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

The bulletin cover image depicts our sanctuary on Easter morning. The butterfly has been used by Christians for centuries as a symbol of the Resurrection of Jesus. Drawing by Perry Neubauer.

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.

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE
CONGREGATIONAL
378 YEARS
ON-THE-WAY

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FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL

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