



A Service of Healing

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC

April 17, 2016

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Concerto in A Minor

Vivaldi/Bach

*HYMN 417

All My Hope on God Is Founded

*GREETING

Bappu Antony

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

Lord, Grant Thou Me a Quiet Mind

Arlen Clarke

*Lord, grant Thou me a quiet mind,
in depths of Thee and thought inclined.
O gaze upon this wounded heart,
and with thy sweet and piercing Dart
prick this soul with Love's embrace,
And heal these wounds with saving grace.
Within this heart and soul reside
and drown me in Thy healing tide. Amen.*

CONFESSING

INVITATION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us ask for healing, pardon and peace:

C: Holy one, in the light of your glory

**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.*

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

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 302 *Come to Me, O Weary Traveler*

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

Ezekiel 34:11-16

READING

John 10:22-30

REFLECTION

Dan Smith

A TIME OF HEALING PRAYER

INVITATION

BLESSING OF OIL AND HANDS

Kate Layzer

HYMNS

88 *My Shepherd, You Supply My Need*
394 *I Have No Bucket, and the Well Is Deep*
399 *From the Crush of Wealth and Power*
424 *We Walk by Faith and Not By Sight*

CONCLUDING 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.**

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

For I Am Persuaded
Text - Romans 8

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 C-3

Psalm 23

*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

Concerto in A Minor

Vivaldi/

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.

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY is Dan Smith, Senior Minister. Assisting with worship are 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 member Bappu Antony, who also serves on the Missions & Social Justice Committee.

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 laws passed in North Carolina and Mississippi 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 or by calling 617-547-2724.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

HEALING SERVICE TODAY During today'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.

I WAS A STRANGER Today, April 17 and Sunday, April 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.

LITURGICAL DANCE Today 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 will continue at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays until our offering on May 8th. Come dance with us!

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION ABOUT ISRAEL AND PALESTINE Today at 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. 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.

NEWCOMERS LUNCH Today at 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? Kate Layzer and other church leaders will host a newcomers lunch following Morning Worship. Our next joining Sunday

will be May 22. Please email Karin Case, karincase@firstchurchcambridge.org, if you think you would like to join First Church in May.

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 from the Liber Usualis, Motets by Hassler, Victoria and Palestrina, Psalm 23 set by Patricia Van Ness, Lydian plainchant setting for compline by Daryl Bichel. Katie Yosua, soprano, Michael Terranova, alto, Matt Dorman, tenor and cantor, Daryl Bichel, bass. With Ben Schwendener, piano, Dan Shaud, French horn and Elodi Rose Schwendener, dancer. *We will not be using incense this Sunday, nor will we use it from now throughout the summer.*

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

FOR SUCH A TIME THIS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE AND CONGREGATION-WIDE CONVERSATION Sunday, May 1 at 12:30 p.m. Please join us after church on Sunday, May 1st for an important congregation-wide lunch and conversation about our *for such a time as this* capital campaign. Having received over \$1.7 million dollars in pledges thus far, our Appeal Advisory Team, Finance Team and Executive Council have been meeting this month and refining our building plans. On May 1, we will share a meal together and discuss more specific project and funding proposals. Our architect, Rob Olson, will be with us to speak to our questions and comments. No formal congregational votes will be taken at this meeting. This is a time for listening and further reflection on where God is calling us *for such a time as this*. Also, please be sure to check out a new “story board” that lays out our almost 2-year campaign process that is now on display in Margaret Jewett Hall.

FEEDING SUNDAY Sunday, May 1 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 1, 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 preach.

CELEBRATING PENTECOST! And Confirmation Sunday! And Peter Sykes's 30th Anniversary! Sunday, May 15 in Morning Worship Mark your calendars! Sunday, May 15, will be a day of great celebration for First Church! Its Pentecost Sunday! Its Confirmation Sunday! And, its Peter Sykes's 30th Anniversary as First Church's Organist and Director of Music! Not only will we celebrate the gift of holy Spirit to the early church, we will honor the culmination

of a year of learning and growth by our confirmation class, and we will celebrate 30 years of Peter Sykes sharing his incredible musical gifts with us.

CELEBRATING PETER SYKES Sunday, May 15 at 10:00 a.m. in the Hastings Room

On May 15, 1986, Peter Sykes was hired by First Church in Cambridge as Organist and Director of Music. For 30 years, Peter has accompanied and led countless iterations of our choir and of Sunday morning congregation. Sunday after Sunday, Peter has revealed to us God's wisdom and beauty through his profound ministry of music. Please join us on May 15th, 2016, Pentecost Sunday, as we give God thanks for the gift of the Spirit that is Peter Sykes and as we celebrate Peter's many gifts to us. Join us before the service at 10 a.m. for a special conversation with Peter and a chance to thank him directly for the ways his ministry has touched you. The celebration will continue through the service with special acknowledgements and musical offerings by Staff Composer Patty Van Ness and others.

A FAREWELL CONVERSATION WITH KATIE AND TAJ Sunday, May 22 at 10:00 a.m. in the Hastings Room

Our fabulous ministerial interns, Katie Omberg and Taj Smith are graduating from their respective Masters of Divinity programs at Boston University School of Theology and Harvard Divinity School. They may not be leaving Boston just yet but their time at First Church is sadly coming to a close. For the past two years, they have shared their gifts of preaching, teaching, worship leadership, pastoral care and more. Don't miss this chance to say farewell and to send Taj and Katie off with our best wishes for their futures, wherever God should lead them next. At 10 a.m., we will have a time of appreciation about what we have learned together over these past two years. We will also celebrate and honor their ministry in morning worship on May 22 with a reception to follow in Margaret Jewett Hall.

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.fcccmentalhealth.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.

FRIDAY CAFÉ WISH LIST The Friday Café is currently accepting donations of:

- *Used clothing:* men's and women's pants (L & XL preferred), large unisex shirts, sturdy shoes in good condition
- *White socks* (new only, please)
- *Underwear* (men's and women's, M-XL, new only)

- *Hygiene kits* containing a toothbrush, razor, and travel-sized toothpaste, deodorant, & shampoo in a ziplock bag)
- *Foot powder and sunscreen*

Supplies may be handed to Kate Layzer at church or dropped off at the church office. Thank you for supporting homeless neighbors!

SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITIES

GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION (GBIO) COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT INFORMATIONAL MEETING, Monday, April 25, 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 Erickson (will.erickson@theshareunion.org), Ann McCann (ann.mccann44@gmail.com) or Dan Smith (dsmith6@firstchurchcambridge.org).

A SUMMIT ON HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION: STANDING WITH FAMILIES MOVING BEYOND THE STATUS QUO Tuesday, April 26, 2016, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. **Trinity Church Boston, 206 Clarendon Street Copley Square** City Mission and Trinity Church Boston invites you to join community leaders, service providers, advocates and those who have experienced housing insecurity.

COOPERATIVE METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION Thursday, May 5, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., Temple Ohabei Shalom, 1187 Beacon Street, 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.

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).

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 choose 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 Morgan), 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 17

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation: "I Was A Stranger," Hastings Room
- 10:00 a.m. Liturgical Dance, Sage Hall
- 10:00 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal, Lindsay Chapel
- 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

Monday, April 18

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

Wednesday, April 20

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

Thursday, April 21

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

Friday, April 22

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

Sunday, April 24

- 9:00 a.m. Sustainable Investments Group, Dan Smith's office
- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation: "I Was A Stranger," Hastings Room
- 10:00 a.m. Liturgical Dance, Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Taj Smith, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Creative Arts (presch.-Grade 7)
- 12:30 p.m. Poetry Workshop, Hastings Room
- 1:30 p.m. Affordable Housing Team, Dan Smith's office
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

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