



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 7, 2013

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EASTER

VOLUNTARY

Wir glauben all'an einen Gott

J. S. Bach

*HYMN 204

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

*GREETING

Dick Harter

L: The blessing of Martha's welcome,

C: the blessing of Mary's listening.

L: The blessing of action,

C: the blessing of reflection.

L: The blessing of a God who is in each of these,

C: and in each one of us.

L: Grace and peace to you from the Lord God, who is, and who was,
and who is to come, the Almighty.

All: Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Sarah Higginbotham

ANTHEM

Now the Green Blade Riseth

Traditional carol
arr. Peter Sykes

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray for healing, pardon, and peace.

**C: Risen Savior, we stand in the light of Resurrection,
and cast our own shadows.**

**We do not expect our lives
to be changed by your presence.**

**We focus on discouragement and disappointment,
rather than sharing good news.**

**We let our doubts overwhelm us,
rather than helping us grow.**

**Lighten our spirits with your forgiveness,
and let us rise into your peace. Amen.**

**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.*

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

All children from PreK to 7th grade are invited to leave at this time to make sandwiches for today's Outdoor Church offering. The children will make the sandwiches in Margaret Jewett Hall, and return to the service in time for the sandwiches to be blessed with the weekly offering.

*HYMN 300

I Bind My Heart This Tide

*PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

John 20:19-23

SERMON

Bob Kelley

*HYMN 65

Many and Great, O God

EARTH STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONY

Laury Hammel

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Jesu, Dulcis Memoria

Tomas Luis da Victoria

*Jesu, dulcis memoria,
Dans vera cordis gaudia:
Sed super mel et omnia
Ejus dulcis praesentia.*

*Jesus, the very thought of Thee,
With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far Thy Face to see
And in Thy presence rest.*

*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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

*INVITATION

- L: Dear friends, come now to the Welcome Table!
C: The Spirit presides at this Feast!
L: Eat together the Bread of Life!
C: Taste and see that God is good!
L: Drink together the Cup of Joy!
C: Filled to the brim with hope!

*PREFACE

Terry McKinney

REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

Reebee Girash

- L: Now, grateful to you, O God, we remember Jesus.
Silence
L: We remember that he died a terrible death
and was laid in a borrowed grave.
C: A stone sealed up the tomb.
L: We remember that the women came,
early in the morning, on the third day.
C: They did not find him among the dead.
L: We remember that two disciples met him on the road.
**C: He opened the scriptures, explaining everything;
and their hearts burned within them.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

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 BREAD AND CUP

All who seek to follow Jesus' way of compassion, justice and peace are welcome at this table. Today, we will serve communion by intinction, which means that the community will be invited to come to the servers at one of several stations at the front of the sanctuary to receive the bread and dip it into the cup. Red wine will be offered in a clear glass. White grape juice will be served in a ceramic chalice. Please approach the communion stations from the center aisles, and return to your pews via the side aisles. In the North Transept (opposite the choir), please approach via the aisle closest to the door and return via the other aisle. Persons who for any reason are not able to come forward will be served in the pews. Young and old alike are welcome to share in the gift of holy communion!

*THANKSGIVING

L: Let us give thanks!

**C: Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus –
for gladness in this bread and cup,
for love that cannot die,
for peace the world cannot give,
for joy in the company of friends,
for the splendors of creation,
and for the mission of justice you have made our own.
Give us the gifts of this holy communion –
oneness of heart, love for neighbors,
forgiveness of enemies,
the will to serve you every day,
and risen life that never ends.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

*HYMN 512

Let There Be Peace on Earth

*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

Christ Lag in Todesbanden

J. S. Bach

Household Prayers

During each Sunday in Lent we offered a different set of household prayers, for morning and evening. As space permits we will continue to do so through the Easter season. You are invited to read these alone or with your families. You may wish to follow them with a time for silent reflection or perhaps a short conversation about what they inspire in you. This week's prayer suggestions are as follows:

Household Prayer: Morning

Gracious God,
you are the God
who is and was and is to be.
Thank you that Christ has freed us
to be a kingdom of priests
serving you and your world.
Give me a deeper sense, as I move through this day,
of what it means to say
that you are my "alpha and Omega," my A to Z.
Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Jesus, tonight I remember
that your gospel gives me
the power to forgive any and all,
through the gift of your Holy Spirit,
and that includes forgiving myself.
Breathe your peace into me
so that even if I pierced you today,
I can still see you coming to embrace me
with your freedom and love this night.
Amen.

**From *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2012)*

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, toddlers and preschoolers 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 Bob Kelley, First Church member and seminarian at Andover Newton Theological School. Assisting with worship are Reebee Girash, Interim Minister, Terry McKinney, Minister of Mental Health & Healing, and Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts. Our liturgist is First Church deacon Dick Harter. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir. Dan Smith, Senior Minister, is away this week. Pieces of the liturgy have been adapted from Nathan Nettleton, Neil Paynter (*50 Great Prayers of the Iona Community*) and from Maren Tirabassi & Joan Jordan Grant

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 or 617-547-2724 and we'll get the information to you.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HEALING PRAYER Every Communion Sunday, the deacons and ministers offer prayers for healing, peace, and reconciliation for anyone who desires them. The healing prayer teams will be positioned in the chancel (near the baptismal font). If you would like to share a healing prayer, receive an anointing or laying on of hands, please approach one of the teams at the end of the service and make your need known. In addition to healing prayers offered after the service today, members of the First Church community are welcome to contact a minister at any time for prayer or conversation about what is on your mind and heart.

OUTDOOR CHURCH OFFERING On Communion Sundays, it is our practice to prepare 3 dozen lunches for the Outdoor Church to distribute to those in need on the streets of Cambridge. The children of the church lead us in this discipline, leaving worship at 11:20 a.m. on the first Sunday of the month and return with the lunches in time for multigenerational Communion. As always, people of all ages are encouraged to participate by volunteering to deliver the lunches to the Cambridge Common at 1:00 p.m. Speak with Sarah Higginbotham or the Deacon serving as Head Greeter today if you'd like to get involved in the ongoing mission project.

HAVRUTA AT FIRST CHURCH AND BEYOND Today at 10 a.m., Hastings Room Many by now have had a chance to experience *havruta* learning -- a dialogical way of engaging in text study that has roots in ancient Jewish practice. Whatever your experience of *havrutua*, come learn about how it has taken hold at First Church and with other religious leaders through the *Havruta* Learning Initiative of which First Church is a founding congregation. Rev. Dr. Brent Coffin, our current Scholar-in-Residence, will share some of his personal story and offer reflections on the need for spiritual practices like *havrtua* to sustain us in the religious context of our time.

PASTORAL CARE TEAMS SUMMIT Today at 12:30 p.m., Hastings Room Our Pastoral Care Teams are vital for reminding those of our First Church family who are going through especially difficult or especially joyful times, or are just unable to be with us on Sundays, that they are not alone. The Teams do so by their amazing dedication and generosity of time. On April 7, following Morning Worship, we'll be having a Pastoral Care Teams Summit for Team members — new and old — to share and compare what their experiences have been like, to ask questions, and to talk about ways we can fine tune the work we do. And if you haven't been on a Pastoral Care Team and would like to find out more, this is a great opportunity to do so! If you have questions, contact Terry McKinney, tmckinney@firstchurchcambridge.org.

SPIRITUALITY AND MENTAL HEALTH GROUP NOT MEETING TODAY Our group which meets weekly on Sundays at 2 p.m. in the Tower Room to explore where our lives of faith and our emotional or mental health struggles inform each other will not be meeting today. You are encouraged and invited to join us at 2 p.m. next Sunday when our regular schedule resumes. For further information, contact Terry McKinney (tmckinney@firstchurchcambridge.org).

NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Today at 7 p.m., Lindsay Chapel

Tonight, the vocal quartet Canticum vespertinum from Night Song will sing an hour of Renaissance polyphony at 7 p.m. in the First Church chapel. The program will include works by Byrd, Handl, Hassler, Isaac, Guerrero, Palestrina and Tallis. 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. If you have any interest in singing, ushering or helping with publicity for Night Song, contact Daryl Bichel at 617-312-8328, daryl**bichel@aol.com**.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

FAMILY NIGHT Tuesday, April 9, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., Sage Hall First Church families gather every other week 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. The next Family Night will be April 23.

BOOK GROUP GOD HAS A DREAM: A VISION OF HOPE FOR OUR TIME, Tuesday, April 9, and Wednesday, April 24, at 7:30 p.m. Reebee will be leading a book group in April on one of Desmond Tutu's *God Has a Dream* writings. E-mail Reebee, or sign up at Coffee Hour if you would like to join this book group. We will meet Tuesday, April 9, and Wednesday, April 24, both at 7:30 p.m. Books will be available in Margaret Jewett Hall during coffee hour

WOMEN'S RETREAT REGISTRATION The Women's Retreat will take place this coming weekend at Craigville Conference Center, Cape Cod. This annual tradition is a wonderful way to spend with other women a time of fellowship, reflection and renewal. If you are newer feel free to ask others about the event. We'd love to have you join a relaxing weekend overlooking the ocean. The *Janyce Jennings Fund* allows all women to attend regardless of ability to pay. Car pools are organized that all may attend. Register on the First Church website by clicking on "Worship, Music & Spiritual Life," then "Small Groups". Registration continues during coffee hour today.

NEW HAVRUTA BIBLE STUDY - SEARCHING FOR WHOLENESS, ALONE AND TOGETHER These past weeks our congregation has been asking ourselves a deep set of questions. How do we sustain ourselves with renewed balance? How do we sustain ourselves toward greater wholeness? How do we do so alone and together? This conversation will continue to unfold in many ways. One place it will continue is in a *havruta* group that will meet Thursday mornings, 7:00-8:45 a.m., for six weeks starting April 18th. If there's a text that captures our focus, it comes from John's Gospel: *Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. We invite you to come and sit by the well. Come once. Come twice. Come every week. Come if you've done havruta before. (Havruta is Hebrew for "befriend.") Come if you've never tried it. Simply come and sit with us. We begin with breakfast. Several members of the group will take turns sharing a text, not necessarily biblical, perhaps a*

poem or short reading. We explore the text through dialogue and conversation. And we listen for insights, images, common language to recognize more fully the grace of balance and wholeness, alone and together. For more information, contact Brent Coffin at brentbcoffin@gmail.com or Gaylen Morgan at photongm@comcast.net.

MISSION 4/1 EARTH The Earth Stewardship Team invites everyone to participate in **Mission 4/1 Earth** from **April 1 to May 19**, fifty days of powering down, greening up, and shouting out for the environment. During these fifty days from Easter to Pentecost we will plant trees, write advocacy letters on environmental concerns, build food gardens, and create ways of caring for the earth and our neighbors. On **Sunday April 21**, we will celebrate Mission 4/1 Earth with liturgy about what it means to be stewards of the earth, a blessing of the bicycles, inter-generational singing, and more. We may also have some service opportunities on April 20. Excited? Read more at <http://www.ucc.org/earth/>, and for further information contact Susan Redlich (susan.redlich@gmail.com) or Reebee Girash (rgirash@firstchurchcambridge.org). Read more on the First Church website at <http://firstchurchcambridge.org/first-church-in-the-world/earth-stewardship-team>.

HILDA SILVERMAN MEMORIAL LECTURE Tuesday, April 16 at 7:30 p.m. in Margaret Jewett Hall All are invited to the Hilda Silverman Memorial Lecture on Tuesday evening, April 16 at 7:30 p.m. in Margaret Jewett Hall. Hilda, a tireless local advocate for justice in the Middle East will be honored by a Lecture entitled "Community and Ideology: What Will It Take for American Jews to Walk Away from Zionism?" by Philip Weiss, the creator and editor of the popular blog *Mondoweiss*. The event is sponsored by American Jews for a Just Peace Boston and the Palestine-Israel Task Team of First Church.

FAMILY CHOIR ON APRIL 21 Singers of all ages and abilities are invited to a one-off, rehearse-and-sing Family Choir experience on Sunday April 21. Sarah Higginbotham and Peter Sykes will join forces to lead rehearsal of a simple anthem at 10:00 a.m., and then we'll sing it in our Earth Stewardship Sunday worship at 11:00. All are welcome!

GBIO SENATE CANDIDATE ACCOUNTABILITY ACTION Sunday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m., St. Mark's Parish (1725 Dorchester Ave, Dorchester, MA) First Church in Cambridge is an active member in the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization which will be hosting a US Senate Candidate Accountability Action on Sunday, April 21st from 7 - 9 p.m. Congressman Ed Markey and Representative Stephen Lynch have confirmed their participation. The candidates for John Kerry's Senate seat will be engaged around current GBIO concerns including Immigration, Gun Violence Prevention and the Affordable Care Act. The location will be announced next week. If you have questions or concerns about the action, please talk to Dan Smith or Carolyn White or visit www.gbio.org.

CAMBRIDGE CONCENTUS PERFORMS BACH WITH PETER SYKES, ORGANIST

Sunday, April 28 at 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary Cambridge Concentus with soloists Leon Schelhase, Dylan Sauerwald, Marika Holmqvist, and Emily Rideout perform an all-Bach program on Sunday, April 28 at 3 p.m. at First Church in Cambridge, Congregational (11 Garden Street). The program features the C-Major Double Harpsichord Concerto, Brandenburg Concerto VI, and the cantata *Wo soll ich fliehen hin?*. First Church's Peter Sykes will perform a masterpiece by J.S. Bach on the magnificent organ. A wine and cheese reception follows the concert. For more information, please visit cambridgeconcentus.org or call (617) 952-4050. \$20 suggested donation at the door.

NEXT JOINING SUNDAY ON APRIL 28 Are you a newcomer to First Church? Interested in joining First Church? If you answered yes to either of these questions and would like to know more about our community, please join church leaders for our next Third-Sunday Newcomer Gathering on April 21. A light lunch will be served in Margaret Jewett Hall; please make a plate and bring it into the Hastings Room. This session will be in preparation for the joining service on April 28; we'll go over the liturgy and discuss what it means to live in covenant. If you would like to join First Church on April 28, please let Dan Smith know at dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org.

SUMMER FAMILY WEEK AT CRAIGVILLE, August 4-10 Spend a week on Cape Cod with your family this August at PACE (Parent and Child Experience) hosted by Craigville Retreat Center. Families of all ages and sizes stay together in the Inn and take advantage of a private beach, programs for children, intergenerational activities, and easy access to all the Cape has to offer. Many First Church families have made this a summer vacation tradition. Scholarship are available to help families attend. Contact Rev. Joanne Hartunian, PACE Director, at familycampvacation@yahoo.com to learn more and to register for this year's program.

GET INVOLVED

CALLING ALL WALKERS. YOUNG AND OLD (AND IN BETWEEN): THE ANNUAL WALK FOR HUNGER is but five weeks away on May 5th. This year our very own First Church Shelter will be fielding its flagship walk team, comprised of shelter guests, staff members, friends and whomever in the congregation would like to sign on. Did you know that The Walk For Hunger, through its parent sponsor, Project Bread, contributes a sizeable grant that helps to fund the shelter's food and meal operating budget? And that they also help to fund upwards of 500 other Emergency Food Programs in greater Massachusetts? The Walk itself is a scenic stroll starting and ending at the Boston Common and traversing Brookline, Newton, Watertown and Cambridge. Also, one needn't trek the entire route - there are multiple checkpoints along the way at which to register. One can walk as far as they are physically comfortable. Shelter Overnight Supervisor Steve Brown will be on the scene after services today and over the upcoming Sundays with pledge materials and to answer any questions. For more information, please visit www.projectbread.org.

HARVARD SQUARE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION PARTNERS WITH LEAF TABLETS

"Walking around the Square, you can't help but notice people in need. But even if you have spare change to put 'in the cup' you can't be sure how it'll be spent," said Denise Jillson, executive director of the Harvard Square Business Association. "We've been working with the business community to help solve this dilemma and considered donation boxes, but for many reasons, dealing with cash or change ourselves was less than ideal. When we learned about Leaf and the charitable component to its business, we knew it was a perfect match." Starting this month, Leaf tablets will be available in many Harvard Square businesses including Black Ink, Brattle Square Florist, Concepts, Curious George, Market in the Square, Tistik and The Tannery, enabling patrons to donate with the swipe of a credit card. HSBA will work directly with local charities including the First Church Shelter, Youth on Fire, Harvard Square Meals Program, On The Rise, Bread and Jams' Self Advocacy Center, CASPAR, Spare Change, and The Harvard Square Homeless Shelter to ensure that the money is put to good use. Donors can select the amount they wish to give - starting at one dollar - and will know exactly how their money will be spent. For example: \$1 can provide a pair of socks, \$5 can provide three hot meals, \$10 can provide one onsite medical visit, \$20 can provide one meeting with a counselor, \$50 can provide a living wage (3.5 hours of paid work), and \$100 can provide shelter for a week. Please look for Leaf tablets and support this program.

DONATE TO THE PRISON BOOK PROGRAM The Mission and Social Justice Committee urges you to donate books to the Prison Book Program, an affiliate of the City Mission Society. There will be cartons in the narthex of First Church to receive the books today. A big thank you to Gay Harter and Norm Bendroth for transporting the books to their destination. Paperbacks will be made available to prisoners; hardbacks will be sold to support the Prison Book Program. (Prisons exclude hardbacks.) Dictionaries are a priority, but all books welcome. Thank you for your contribution of books. For information, contact Gay Harter at asharter@verizon.net.

REFUGEE IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (RIM) PANSY PICK-UP AND CHOCOLATE SALE Those of you who supported RIM by order pansies, may pick up your flower orders at First Church today from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. Contact Ann Curby (617-876-6255) with questions. During the pick-up time RIM/Cambridge is also selling Fair Trade chocolate to support refugees arriving in Boston. There is a choice of milk or dark chocolate, for \$3/bar or 2/\$5.

PRACTICING HOSPITALITY: PEW CLIP BOARDS Visitor cards/prayer request cards and temporary nametags are on the clipboard at the end of your pew. Please pass the clipboards down the pew so that everyone can view them. Completed visitor cards/prayer cards can be put into the offertory container. And, as always, please wear your name tag. If you have questions, contact Karen McArthur or Reebee Girash.

The bulletin cover is an image of a ceramic mosaic created by the children of the church and designed by Perry Neubauer. The sunrise depicted recalls the morning of Jesus' resurrection when the women disciples visited the empty tomb at dawn. The sunrise theme also symbolizes Jesus' life and ministry as the Light of the World.

BUILDING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY - UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS

*Living into our Vision of a Multicultural, Multiracial First Church: Balancing the Present with Lessons from the Past. See the Building Beloved Community page on our website!
Please be part of our Beloved Community and its outreach!*

Tuesday, April 9, 7:30 p.m. and Wednesday, April 24th, 7:30 p.m. “**God Has a Dream**” **(Desmond Tutu)** Reebee Girash will lead a discussion of this book by this world-renowned advocate for human rights and love for neighbor. Copies available from Reebee.

Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m. Carpools leave First Church for a **gardening opportunity in Dorchester** cosponsored by the Sustainability Guild Intl, our Mission and Social Justice Committee and Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries. Bring your lunch, gardening gloves and your love of all of God's creation. Please sign up with Nancy Kilburn at nkkilburn@comcast.net. Project ends at 3 p.m. A link for more information about the garden project can be found at www.coopmet.org. Please note that we are leaving at 10 a.m., not 9:30 as previously stated.

Tuesday, April 23, please attend **Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries' Annual Meeting, at First Church – this year's theme is “Racial and Religious Healing: Grounding Humanity.”** A panel, including Phyllis and Eugene Unterschuetz (authors of “Longing: Stories of Racial Healing”), Omar Abdul-Malik, Executive Director of the Cambridge Center for the Study of Religion and Public Policy will discuss the theme of racial and religious healing. The panel moderator, Dr. Michelle Cromwell, is founder of the Multicultural Village, Inc and a lecturer at Regis College. Please sign up on EventBrite at <http://cmmanualmeeting2013.eventbrite.com/#>. To get the event-Brite link you may also go to www.coopmet.org. An evening of music, interfaith and interracial dialogue, and a nationally renowned panel make up an event not to be missed.

April 27, Concert to benefit “Tremendous Hearts” Marilyn Votaw, a First Church member, has a program of bringing technical assistance to women in South Africa who are caring for AIDS orphans. She is presenting this concert event (Boston Community Choir) at First Church on Saturday evening, **April 27**. For information, speak to Bob Kelley of the Mission and Social Justice Committee, or email rkelly@gmail.com.

Thursday, May 2: 7 – 9 p.m. Please join First Church member **Arleigh Prelow** who will be **screening (at First Church) her life-long work, a film, entitled “The Psalm of Howard Thurman”** Rev. Howard Thurman (1899 – April 10, 1981) was an influential American author, philosopher, theologian, educator and civil rights leader. He was the Dean of Chapel at Howard University and Boston University for more than twenty years. He wrote twenty-one books, and in 1944 helped found a multicultural church. (Choir members note the choir will meet at a different time so you can attend the film.)

To add your name to the Building Beloved Community discussion group, please contact Jean Bellow at jean_bellow@comcast.net. (note underscore between the two names.)

mission
M O M E N T S
U N I T E D C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

“This is the day that God has madeBind the festal procession with branches...” Psalm 118: 24,27*

“Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’” John 20:22

Today we sing a song of joy and thanksgiving for a new day. The psalmist calls the people to rise up and rejoice as branches bursting with renewed life. After the night of persecution, confusion and death, there is new light and hope! The risen Jesus enters our fearful lives, offers us peace, and sends us to cooperate with God’s abundant grace throughout the whole of creation. **Mission 4/1 Earth** calls us to the care of the earth and its people, beloved by God, called to be Christ’s body, filled with Spirit. On this new day, may we rejoice in the light as God’s living branches—sharing life in the vine of the resurrected Christ.

MISSION 4/1 EARTH

Already underway since last Monday, our United Church of Christ mission emphasis until Pentecost this year is nothing less ambitious than saving God’s creation and our home, Planet Earth. It’s called MISSION 4/1 EARTH: 50 Great Days (April 1-May 19, 2013).

Climate scientists tell us that the window of opportunity for reducing threats to our environment is closing, which is a fearful prospect. But fear doesn’t have to lead to paralysis. It can lead to action. If individuals can still make a difference, imagine what together, more than one million strong, we in the UCC can do!

Here are three goals we can reach during the next few weeks:

1 MILLION HOURS of engaged earth care, including clean up, advocacy, and education.

100,000 TREES planted locally and globally.

100,000 LETTERS of environmental advocacy written and sent to elected officials and media.

Divide those goals up among our more than 5,000 congregations and they are no longer just dreams but realistic objectives that we can accomplish together.

We are ONE UNITED CHURCH on a shared resurrection witness for Planet Earth during 50 great days of digging in, pitching in, teaching in and shouting out for the environment!

For the next five Sundays in this space, look for stories and messages about what we and our partners can do—and are doing—to save God’s creation and our home, Planet Earth.

The Week Ahead

Sunday, April 7

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation for Adults
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Bob Kelley, preaching, Communion in Stations
- 11:20 a.m. Outdoor Church sandwich-making (PreK-Grade 7)
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, MJH
- 12:30 p.m. Pastoral Care Teams Summit, Hastings Room
- 12:30 p.m. Fellowship Committee, Library
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Lindsay Chapel

Tuesday, April 9

- 5:30 p.m. Family Night, Sage Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Staff Configuration Team, Dan Smith's office
- 7:00 p.m. Palestine/Israel Task Team, Room 204
- 7:30 p.m. Book Group, Reebee Girash's office
- 7:30 p.m. Gifts Discernment/Nominating Committee, McKenzie Library

Wednesday, April 10

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting, Hastings Room
- 7:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee, Dan Smith's Office

Thursday, April 11

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

Friday, April 12 - Sunday, April 14

Women's Retreat, Craigville Conference Center

Sunday, April 14

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation for Adults
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Dan Smith, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School Classes (PreK-Grade 7)
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, MJH
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class, Room 204
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

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.



The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

Senior Minister	Rev. Dan Smith, 617-547-2724, ext. 23 dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org
Interim Minister	Rev. Reebee Girash, 617-547-2724, ext. 26 rgirash@firstchurchcambridge.org
Minister of Mental Health & Healing	Rev. Terry McKinney, 617-299-1617 tmckinney@firstchurchcambridge.org
Affiliate Minister of Stewardship and Finance	Rev. Karen McArthur, 617-547-2724, ext. 22 treasurer@firstchurchcambridge.org
Affiliate Minister of Youth & Young Adults	Julie Rogers, 617-547-2724 jrogers@firstchurchcambridge.org
<i>Havruta</i> Scholar-in-Residence	Rev. Brent Coffin
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
Staff Composer	Patricia Van Ness
Shelter Director	Jim Stewart, 617-661-1873 jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org
Parish Administrator	Kirsten Manville, 617-547-2724, ext. 21 parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org
Administrative Assistant	Jim Tomlinson, 617-547-2724, ext. 41 jtomlinson@firstchurchcambridge.org
Sextons	Ronaldo dos Santos, Tina Quimby, George Williams, Kimmel Williams, 617-642-3980



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL

United Church of Christ

11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138

617-547-2724