



Eastertide

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC
May 17, 2015
THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY *Plein Jeu* Pierre Du Mage

*HYMN 371 *Living God, Your Joyful Spirit*

*GREETING Susie Longfield

L: Sing to God a new song; make a joyful noise to God!
C: **Her steadfast love never ceases.**
L: Her mercies never come to an end;
C: **They are new every morning!**
L: Great is your faithfulness, O Wellspring of life.
C: **Our hope is in you, O Source of love.**

WORDS OF WELCOME

MOMENT OF CONCERN Sarah Higginbotham

A MEDITATION IN POETRY AND DANCE Valerie Blanc and Friends

CONFESSING

INVITATION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray for pardon, healing, and peace.
C: **God of love and justice,
we long for peace within and peace without.
We long for harmony in our families,
for serenity in the midst of struggle,
and for commitment to each other's growth.
We long for the day when our homes will be a dwelling place for your love.
Yet we confess that we are often anxious;**

**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 do not trust each other, and we harbor violence.
We are not willing to take the risks
and make the hard choices that love requires.
Look upon us with kindness and grace,
we pray in the strong name of our brother Jesus. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 366

We Are Walking

*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

READING

Lamentations 3:22-24

READING

Matthew 22:35-40

ANTHEM

A Wreath

Arlen Clarke

*A wreathed garland of deservèd praise,
Of praise deservèd, unto Thee I give,
I give to Thee, who knowest all my ways,
My crooked winding ways, wherein I live,—
Wherein I die, not live ; for life is straight,
Straight as a line, and ever tends to Thee,
To Thee, who art more far above deceit,
Than deceit seems above simplicity.
Give me simplicity, that I may live,
So live and like, that I may know Thy ways,
Know them and practise them : then shall I give
For this poor wreath, give Thee a crown of praise.
-George Herbert*

A MEDITATION IN POETRY AND SILENCE

Jean Dany Joachim and Friends

L: Let us pray.

**C: Speak through us, oh Lord.
May the words we speak or write
on this matter be yours.
Help us understand.
Teach us to listen better
before we condemn.
Make these words bring peace
and give reconciliation.
Blessed be your name, Lord. Amen.**

*HYMN (*insert*)

Great Is Your Faithfulness

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Karin Case

MOMENT OF CONCERN

Hilary Hopkins

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

OFFERTORY

The Lamb

Roland E. Martin

*Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee
Gave thee life & bid thee feed.
By the stream & o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing wooly bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice!
Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee*

*Little Lamb I'll tell thee,
Little Lamb I'll tell thee!
He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb:
He is meek & he is mild,
He became a little child:
I a child & thou a lamb,
We are called by his name.
Little Lamb God bless thee.
Little Lamb God bless thee.
- William Blake*

*DOXOLOGY

**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.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 414

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

*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

Grand Jeu

Pierre Du Mage

Watching Birds

arrange themselves in tear-shaped groups on the sand

nestled in, or standing one-legged, heads
turned, beaks tucked

into soft feathers at the base of the necks

while another group crowding along the ridge
line spills down where the roof reaches,

watching as the weather rises, time to time
shifting points of balance

till one leaps or falls and flies off

until at last all rise into the air at once,
pirouetting, screeching out the hymn

in their fearsome voices at the soul that soars
across the water

Lost

Warm oak woods
too deep for us to penetrate,
we linger instead
in the graceful periphery,
while a dog chases hopelessly after
wooden balls struck so well the mallets sing.

Wave Theory

Apart from the birds
just two solitaries
this foggy morning.

Wait wait!
The little one turns and runs
from one parent to the other,
back up the beach.

Wave jumpers
become a woman left standing,
her small white dog
glimmering in the haze.

The poems are from Dave McCann's collection of sijo poems, Urban Temple, published by Bo-Leaf Books in 2010.

The sijo is a three-line, Korean verse form, often printed with the lines broken into two parts as in the poem "Lost." "Wave Theory" breaks the three lines into three separate stanzas.

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 ARE Karin Case, Minister, Dan Smith, Senior Minister, Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach, Jean Dany Joachim, First Church member and Beloved Community leader, and Fred Brown, guest poet. Our liturgist is First Church member Susie Longfield. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir. Valerie Blanc is leading the Liturgical Dance. Dancers are Melanie Beach, Krysia Burnham, Holly Marple, Susan Redlich, Sue Delaney, and Jan Jeffers Lo.

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.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

GBIO Debrief Session Today at 10:00 a.m., Hastings Room This past Tuesday night, 80 First Church members joined over 1700 interfaith leaders as part of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization's Rededication Assembly and Action. Governor Baker, Mayor Walsh, Speaker of the House Deleo and Attorney General Maura Healey were there as well, making commitments to GBIO's platform for justice. Join Rev. Dan Smith and our First Church GBIO leadership team to debrief what we accomplished together and to share what it was like to be part of the energy and standing room only crowd that packed out Trinity Church in Boston!

SUNDAY'S MORNING WORSHIP AND AFTER-CHURCH SESSION This Sunday's worship features original poetry and meditative reflections on race, violence and the soul's yearning for justice and peace. Following worship, at 12:30 pm in the Hastings Room, Jean Dany Joachim will lead a workshop centered in poetry and intended to open the heart to creative expression and genuine conversation. All are invited!

NEWCOMERS LUNCH Today at 12:30 p.m., 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 a newcomers exploration lunch following Morning Worship. And if you are feeling ready to join First Church, mark your calendars: **our next Joining Sunday will be Sunday, May 31**, during Morning Worship.

CONFIRMATION CLASS Today at 12:30 p.m., Room 22 The 9th and 10th graders of the church are walking the path of confirmation this year.

SPIRITUALITY & MENTAL HEALTH GROUP COMING TO A CLOSE Our Spirituality and Mental Health support group has fulfilled its purpose many times over, and, as we bring it to a close, we're searching out new horizons for First Church's ministry of spirituality and mental health. The group will continue to meet every Sunday through May, with its final meeting taking place on May 31, all in the Tower Room from 2:00 to 3:30 pm, as ever. Co-facilitators Mary Setterholm and Carter West, along with Dan Smith and our Board of Deacons, are considering our next steps in this important witness. We'd love to have your input! If you have a thought as to what themes, issues, or groups you'd like to see us engage, please contact Carter at cartergw24@gmail.com and join the conversation.

NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Tonight at 8:30 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, Canticum vespertinum (octet) sings: Gregorian chant, chant setting for compline in the Lydian mode by Bichel, and motets by Capillas, Cardoso, Tallis and White. We will not be using incense this Sunday.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

CONGREGATION WIDE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN MEETING May 19th, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m., Sage Hall Our consultant, Rev. Jeff Kjellberg, will be with us to share a summary of the results of our congregational survey and also to report what he learned from his visit and meetings with our leaders at the end of April. All First Church members are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be provided. Unfortunately, Sage Hall is not yet an accessible space, and we apologize to anyone for whom this makes attending the meeting difficult.

FURTHERING THE CONVERSATION: AFTER THE CONVERSATION PROJECT Sunday, May 31 at 12:30 p.m., Hastings Room This event was spawned by the Conversation Project workshops held here in March, which dealt with end-of-life decisions and discussions. We'll talk about how the conversations went, as well as the lingering questions from those conversations. Join Taj Smith at this preliminary meeting leading up to a series in the fall.

TASTY SALADS!! Support Palestinian olive oil producers and add fresh, organic olive oil to your summer salads. The First Church Palestinian Israel Task Team will hold a sale on olive oil from Canaan Fair Trade on May 31 during the coffee hour. The sale will be in Margaret Jewett Hall.

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.

FOOD FOR THE FRIDAY CAFÉ Want to help out, but too busy to volunteer on Fridays? Say it with food! Consider dropping a donation off at church toward the end of this or any week:

- A plate of sandwiches
- A dozen hardboiled eggs
- A quiche
- A fruit salad
- A pasta or potato salad
- Sliced cheese or salami
- Hummus
- Veggies and dip
- Baked goodies

Label your donation FRIDAY CAFÉ and place it in the kitchenette refrigerator or freezer. Supplies such as tea, cocoa, creamer, and paper goods are also very welcome, as are white socks and toiletries. Thank you! And be sure and stop by the Café some Friday between 1:00–5:00 to say hello. We're always glad to see you. Speak to Kate Layzer if you'd like to learn more (klayzer@gmail.com).

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!

PATHWAYS TO ORDAINED MINISTRY Sunday, June 14, 10:00 a.m., Hastings Room

Three First Church members who are in discernment for ordination with the guidance of our Discernment and Formation Team will introduce important aspects of their work at the 10'Clock Hour on June 14. Jennifer Stuart, who will graduate from Harvard Divinity School at the end of May, will discuss her thesis topic of personal forgiveness. Maggie Lowe, also graduating from Harvard Divinity School in May, will present the work she has been doing in developing an Institute for Global Religions and Spiritual Pluralism in a Civil Culture. Ellen Rohan Ball will talk about her experiences in working with a Hispanic Church and will describe what it is like to write a pastoral profile. Join us and learn why those who work with women such as these believe that the future of the church is in good hands!

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY IS JUNE 14 - AND A PICNIC! Since September, four teenage Confirmands have met together with Dan, Karin, and Sarah for study and conversation, exploring big topics of Christian theology and examining their own beliefs. On Sunday, June 14, we will celebrate their journey and their personal decisions about being confirmed and joining the church. Morning worship will also include a time to recognize our 4th grade Godly Play “graduates” who will receive Bibles, and a time to celebrate our Church School teachers and Youth Group leaders. We’ll end the morning with an All-Church Picnic on the front lawn, weather permitting - don’t miss it!

NEPAL EARTHQUAKE RELIEF Did you know that the UCC has an International Disaster Relief Fund? Through our denomination you can contribute directly to earthquake relief efforts in Nepal. 100% of your donation will go directly to relief. Information is available at www.uccc.org and here’s the link for donations: http://www.ucc.org/disaster_nepal_earthquake

The Week Ahead

Sunday, May 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
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Liturgical Dance and Poetry Service, led by Valerie Blanc, Jean Dany Joachim, and others
- 11:20 a.m. Church School Classes
- 12:30 p.m. Beloved Community Lunch and Poetry Workshop, Hastings Room
- 12:30 p.m. Newcomers Lunch, Library
- 12:30 p.m. Christian Formation Committee Meeting, Choir Room
- 12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Room 22
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

Tuesday, May 19

- 3:30 p.m. Committee on Ministry Meeting for Jenny Stuart, Second Church, Newton
- 6:30 p.m. Congregation-Wide Capital Campaign Meeting, Hastings Room

Wednesday, May 20

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 6:00 p.m. Christian Meditation, Lindsay Chapel

Sunday, May 24

PENTECOST SUNDAY

- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Multigenerational Pentecost Celebration, Karen McArthur, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School Classes
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, 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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