



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC

May 8, 2016

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Fugue in C Major

Dietrich Buxtehude

*HYMN 89

Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

*GREETING

Faith Ross

L: Sing to our God a new song!

C: God has done marvelous things!

L: Make a joyful noise to the Creator!

C: Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

L: God has gone up with a shout.

C: Let the world and its people sing and dance together for joy!

WORDS OF WELCOME

CONFESSING

INVITATION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**C: Gracious God,
we have not loved you
or each other with our whole hearts.
Forgive us, we pray,
and lead us toward wholeness,
that we may be filled with your joy.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

**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.*

*HYMN 32

God of Grace and God of Laughter

DANCE OFFERING

Valerie Blanc

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

Karin Case

RESPONSIVE PSALM 47

- L: Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.
C: **For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great leader of all the earth. God has made us a great and powerful people.**
L: The Holy One chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob and his wives, whom God loves. *Selah.*
C: **God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to our Heavenly Queen, sing praises; sing praises to our Heavenly King, sing praises.**
L: For God is the champion of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm. God is ruler over the nations; God sits on the holy throne.
All: **The leader of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham and Sarah. For the shields of the earth belong to God; the Holy One is highly exalted.**

READING

Acts 1:1-11

SERMON

Katie Omberg

*HYMN 110

Jesus Shall Reign

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kate Layzer

MOMENT OF CONCERN

Bappu Antony

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.)

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

A Wreath

Arlen Clarke

*A wreathed garland of deserved praise,
Of praise deserved, 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 leads 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 practice them; then shall I give
for this poor wreath, give Thee a crown of praise.
- George Herbert*

*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 51

All Creatures of our God, Now Sing

*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

Toccata

Dietrich Buxtehude

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

LITURGICAL DANCE PSALMS

Psalm 30:1-3

I waited patiently for the Lord;
 who inclined to me and heard my cry.
God drew me up from the desolate pit,
 out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
 making my steps secure.
The Lord put a new song in my mouth,
 a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear,
 and put their trust in the Lord.

Psalm 30:11-12

You have turned my mourning into dancing;
 you have taken off my sackcloth
 and clothed me with joy,
so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.
 O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you for ever.

Psalm 149:1, 3-4

Praise the Lord!
Sing to the Lord a new song,
 God's praise in the assembly of the faithful.
Let them praise the Holy One's name with dancing,
 making melody to God with tambourine and lyre.
For the Lord takes pleasure in the people;
 God adorns the humble with victory.

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 Katie Omberg, Ministerial Intern. Assisting with worship are Dan Smith, Senior Minister, Karin Case, Minister, and Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach. Giving the Moment of Concern is Bappu Antony, member of the Mission & Social Justice Committee. First Church member Valerie Blanc is leading the Liturgical Dance, and Chris, Emma, and James Blanc are the accompanying instrumentalists. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir. Our liturgist today is First Church member and Choir Member Faith Ross.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED in gratitude for all mothers on this Mothers Day, mindful also of many women and men who long to be parents but are unable to do so. May God also bless everyone who has been like a mother to us in our lives. We pray in solidarity with the 1000 plus walkers who are participating in today's Mothers Day Walk for Peace in Boston, and we lift up all mothers and parents who mourn the loss of their children to violence. Please also pray for all those affected by the cross-border raid in Ethiopia. We pray for all members of the LGBTQ community who face discrimination, especially those affected by the state laws passed or under deliberation that are debating and dismantling protections for LGBTQ people. Please pray for all refugees and immigrants, for Syrians, and all who live with the threat of escalating violence. Please pray for a spirit of wisdom and understanding in this season of divisive election politics. 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

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY AT FIRST CHURCH: WHY RACE MATTERS FOR US AT FIRST CHURCH Today at 10:00 a.m., in the Hastings Room

How do we speak about racism? How does it touch us personally? We will explore some common language and concepts we can use to understand *what racism is*, how it is connected with other forms of oppression, and why it matters to the spiritual health of our congregation and our community. What are the Christian values that support and challenge us to become more and more the “beloved community” we are called to be? We will seek to create a “safer” space for conversation about the societal dimensions of racism and, more specifically, the spiritual costs for all of us. Led by members of the Beloved Community Group.

NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Tonight at 8:30 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, Plainchant setting for compline in the Lydian mode by Bichel
Psalm 121, plainchant/Anglican chant by Bichel, Six and eight part motets by Hassler and Victoria. Soprano: Jennifer Lester, Beth Spaulding, Katie Yosua. Alto: Alison Larosa Montez, Michael Terranova. Tenor: Matt Dorman, Dan Schenk. Bass: Daryl Bichel, Bill Leonard.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

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! It's Pentecost Sunday! It's Confirmation Sunday! And, it's 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 the music 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 15, 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 Patricia Van Ness and others.

ELLEN ROHAN BALL ORDINATION Sunday, May 15 at 3:00 p.m., First Congregational Church in Chelsea (26 Country Road, Chelsea) All are invited to attend Ellen's ordination. A reception will follow the service in the church hall. Please be sure to rsvp at firstcongcelsea@gmail.com to help the church prepare for food. First Church attendees are invited to bring desserts! All varieties welcome, and bring to the lower level fellowship hall as you arrive. PARKING may be found on street, or simply drive to the church and a greeter will give directions to a parking lot a few minutes away off of the Parkway. Any questions email the website, and we will respond to your query! We are looking forward to this celebration. See you on May 15!

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHURCH SCHOOL CREATIVE ARTS, MAY 29 Front lawn The Church School will be spending their Creative Arts Sunday in May on the front lawn, planting colorful annuals in our flower beds. Several adult volunteers are needed to supervise and assist the children; please contact Sarah Higginbotham, shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org, if you can help on May 29 during Morning Worship.

MEN'S RETREAT June 4-5 We will be having a Men's Retreat in Jaffrey, NH, co-hosted by Marc O'Brien and David Torrey. We will share rides, outdoor activities and meals to refresh the body and the spirit. To sign up and learn more, please email davidtorrey@comcast.net.

SAVE THE DATE FOR CHILDREN'S SUNDAY, JUNE 12 We'll celebrate the end of the Church School year with a multigenerational worship service full of gratitude and celebration for our experiences of Christian Formation throughout the year. After worship we'll head to the lawn for the annual All-Church Picnic. Don't miss it!

FAITH AND LIFE GROUP: GARDENING AND SPIRITUALITY What does dirt under your fingernails have to do with purity of the soul? Come find out at the **Gardening and Spirituality** group. As a small group meeting for six weeks, we will explore gardens and our relationship to them in Scripture, with a little music and literature stirred in. Come to share what draws and keeps you in the garden with others seeking to cultivate the soul. Please note that this is not a "how to" or "what to plant" class. Contact Jan Jeffers Lo, janjeflo@gmail.com, for more information.

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)
- *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

"SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 529 May 15 *"The second part of the Great Commandment -- to love our neighbors as ourselves- shames us all when we allow the poor and homeless to be treated in this way, to live below the poverty line"* -Jim Stewart, FCC Shelter Director, April, 2016. The Mission and Social Justice Committee urges you to support House Bill 529, by signing the card in next week's bulletin. Whether or not you sign, kindly return the cards in the baskets provided as you exit the church for use elsewhere. For more information on the bill, go to the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless website. www.mahomeless.org. **"Put Your Faith Into Action. Make A Difference! Support House Bill 529 to Strengthen EAEDC (Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children) Assistance."** EAEDC is a state funded program that provides cash assistance to people who are unable to work because of a disability.

GBIO SPRING ACTION MEETING, Tuesday, May 24 at 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 (wericks2002@yahoo.com), Ann McCann (ann.mccann44@gmail.com) or Dan Smith (dsmith6@firstchurchcambridge.org).

The Week Ahead

Sunday, May 8

- 8:30 a.m. Mothers Day Walk for Peace in Dorchester
- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation: Building Beloved Community Workshop, Hastings Room
- 10:00 a.m. Liturgical Dance, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Katie Omberg, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Classes (presch.-Grade 7)
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

Tuesday, May 10

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

Wednesday, May 11

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

Thursday, May 12

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

Friday, May 13

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

Sunday, May 15

Pentecost Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. A Conversation with Peter Sykes, Hastings Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Multigenerational Pentecost Celebration, Confirmation Sunday and Celebration of Peter Sykes's 30th Anniversary at First Church, Dan Smith, preaching
- 12:15 p.m. Reception in honor of Confirmands and Peter Sykes, MJH
- 12:30 p.m. Newcomers Lunch, Hastings Room
- 3:00 p.m. Ordination and Installation of Ellen Rohan Ball, First Congregational Church of Chelsea
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

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Minister	Rev. Dr. Karin Case 617-547-2724, ext. 26 karincase@firstchurchcambridge.org
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