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## **FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE**

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

**FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC**  
**January 17, 2016**  
**THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

*I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality.  
This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant.*

Martin Luther King, Jr.

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

\*HYMN 439 *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

\*GREETING

Kryisia Burnham

L: Come, hoppers and seekers, builders and dreamers,  
come to the dawning of God's light.

**C: The light of healing; the light of mercy and grace.**

L: Gather from north and south, from east and west:

**C: Come be at peace in this place where all belong.**

L: Come, children of light:

The world needs what we have come to find.

**C: We will sing the light together, pray the light together,  
do the works of light together for the world God loves.**

WELCOME

ANTHEM *I'm Gonna Sing, Sing, Sing/Just a Closer Walk/Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

*\*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.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**C: By what we have done  
and what we have left undone,  
we confess that we have failed to love you, O God,  
and our neighbor as ourselves.  
Forgive our deliberate sins,  
strengthen our weaknesses,  
and mend our broken hearts.  
Fill us again with the spirit of Jesus,  
so that with new courage and lasting joy  
we may serve you well  
by serving the ones you love.  
In his name we pray. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

\*GREETING OF PEACE

\*HYMN

*Glory, Glory Hallelujah  
Glory, glory hallelujah!  
Since I laid my burden down.  
Glory, glory hallelujah!  
Since I laid my burden down.  
Binding up the brokenhearted,  
Since I laid my burden down.  
Building up the ancient ruins,  
Since I laid my burden down.*

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING Amos 5:21-24

READING Colossians 3:12-17

SERMON

Karin Case

RESPONSE OF FAITH

[Adapted from a sermon by Martin Luther King, Jr., "Our God Is Able,"  
in *Strength to Love*]

L: Let us declare our faith together:

**C: We believe in God, at work in the world,  
transforming death into life.  
We believe that God is able to change  
desolate valleys into paths of joy;  
to give tired feet strength  
for striding toward the city of freedom;  
to create courage in us  
for facing the uncertainties of the future,  
and to give us power to endure  
that which cannot be changed.  
When our days become dreary,  
and our nights darker  
than a thousand midnights,  
we believe that God is able  
to make a way out of no way  
and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows.  
This is our hope for becoming a better people.  
This is our hope for making a better world.  
Amen! Thanks be to God!**

\*HYMN 366

*We Are Walking*

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Smith

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

Phil LaFollette, Clerk

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Kate Layzer

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 by 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

Karen McArthur

OFFERTORY

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**To God, all glorious heav'nly light,  
To Christ revealed in earthly night,  
To God, the Spirit, now we raise  
Our joyful songs of thankful praise! Amen.**

GOING FORTH

\*HYMN 403

*Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

*Benediction*

Beverly Taylor

*The Word is flesh and dwells among us! Glory to God in the highest!*

VOLUNTARY

## **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](http://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 Karin Case, Minister. Assisting with worship are Dan Smith, Senior Minister, Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach, and Karen McArthur, Minister of Stewardship & Finance. Louise Munding is playing the organ and directing the choir. Our liturgist today is First Church member Krysia Burnham, soon to be ordained as a hospice chaplain in Rhode Island.

### **YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED**

Please hold our nation in your prayers as we confront an epidemic of fear and violence against Muslims and persons of color. Pray for the peace of Israel and Palestine in the face of continued violence. Please pray for relief for migrants and refugees from Syria and other regions. 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](mailto:parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org) or by calling 617-547-2724.

## TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

**RACE AT FIRST CHURCH, Today at 10 a.m., Hastings Room** We make a strong statement with our “Black Lives Matter” sign, but has First Church always taken a principled stand on race and racism? Join us today at 10:00 a.m., when Karen Anne Zee will lead an exploration of First Church’s more recent history on race. Also Dan Smith, with Karen Anne and Dave Kidder, will facilitate a conversation guided by two questions: what does this history mean for us now, and where do we go from here? We look forward to a lively discussion. Please join us!

**WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE ON RACE? Today at 12:30 p.m., Hastings Room** In this last of our series of four sessions — the two 10:00 Hours and the two 12:30 events on January 10 and 17 — drawing on the insights from our Black Lives Matter discussions, members of First Church’s Beloved Community will facilitate a conversation guided by two questions: what does this history mean for us now, and where do we go from here? We look forward to a lively discussion. Please join us!

**NEWCOMERS LUNCH Today at 12:15 p.m., McKenzie 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 Lunch following Morning Worship. Also if you are feeling ready to join First Church, mark your calendar: our **next Joining Sunday** is planned for **January 31** during Morning Worship.

**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, Motet: Ecce nunc benedicite Dominum by G.P. da Palestrina, Psalm 121 *Levavi oculos*, Tone 1.7 alternating with Anglican chant by Bichel, Hymn: *Christe, qui lux es et dies*, set by Robert White, Motet: *Alma Redemptoris Mater* by Peter Philips, Contemplative instrumental improvisations. Sung by Canticum vespertinum: Harriet Bridges and Jennifer Lester, sopranos, Michael Terranova, alto, Jason Connell, tenor and cantor John Nesby, bass, with Ben Schwendener, piano.

## FUTURE HAPPENINGS

**FAMILY NIGHT RESUMES Tuesday, January 19 at 5:30 p.m., Sage Hall** Our schedule of Tuesday night family suppers will resume Tuesday, January 19. Pasta and sauce are provided; you are invited to bring a dish to share. Salads, veggies, meatballs, garlic bread, or desserts are most welcome. On **February 2** we'll mark **Candlemas** (40 days after Christmas) with a candle craft led by Nancy Cyr. On February 9 we'll host our annual Mardi Gras Pancake Supper (see Mardi Gras announcement in this *EVENT* for details). In accordance with the usual bi-weekly schedule, there

**Two ways to celebrate Dr. King's Birthday with others from First Church**

**Monday, January 18, 2016**, carpools will leave First Church at 9:15 a.m. for the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Brunch. Tickets cost \$15, and the proceeds of the brunch will be given for books to local students attending college. The brunch will feature talks by Rev. Howard McLendon of the Concord Baptist Church, and First Church member, Karlene Griffiths Sekou. The brunch takes place at Prince Hall, 24 Washington Street, Dorchester MA To let us know you're planning on coming, please notify Ann McCann at 617 924-1580.

**Monday, January 18, 2016**, join volunteers from Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Interfaith Service. Levin Ballroom, Usdan Student Center, Brandeis University, 415 South Street, Waltham MA 02453. 10 AM to 3:30 a.m.. To register, sign up with <http://2016mlkjr.eventbrite.com>. You will be assembling nutritious meal packages which will be given to local food pantries.

Please remember to make this celebration a day "on," not just a day "off."

will not be Family Nights on January 26 or February 16. Stayed tuned to the bulletin and check EVENT for information about Family Night during Lent.

**FIRST CHURCH HISTORY 101, Sundays, January 24 and 31 at 10 a.m., Hastings Room**

Why does our church have two founding years — 1633-1636? And just what is our connection to that once very small college across Cambridge Common? What were the theological differences that led Cambridge and many other towns to have a "First Church" and a "First Parish"? What did First Church look like before 1872, when our current "meetinghouse" was built? Join Dan Smith and some of our resident First Church historians for a "starter course" in First Church's long and robust past. Consider it preparation for our 380th Anniversary, February 1!

**2016 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON Sunday, January 31 at 12:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall** Come one and all to the 380th Annual Meeting of First Church on Sunday, January 31, following Morning Worship! A delicious luncheon will lead into our meeting. We will celebrate another very full year of ministry, honor and thank one another for gifts discerned and shared, celebrate our outgoing and incoming leaders, and share plans and visions. We will also pray and sing!

**OUT OF MY MIND: A MULTIGENERATIONAL BOOK & BIBLE STUDY WITH THE MIDLERS, Sunday, February 7 at 10 a.m., Hastings Room**

Join the Middlers, our 5th-7th grade class, for a discussion of Sharon M. Draper's middle reader novel *Out of My Mind*. Explore the compelling story of 11-year-old Melody. She's the smartest girl in her class, but nobody knows it because of her inability to speak and control her body. Learn how the Middlers studied the novel side-by-side with stories of friendship from the Bible. Copies of the novel are available for a donation of \$5.

### Call to Annual Congregational Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Congregational Meeting of First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, United Church of Christ will be held in its 380<sup>th</sup> year at 12:30 p.m. Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2016, in the Margaret Jewett Hall on Garden Street in Cambridge, Massachusetts, for the following purposes.

1. To receive and act upon the reports of the Staff, Officers, Council, Boards and Committees of the Church.
2. To make appropriations for the ensuing year for the maintenance, program and mission of the Church, and reliable provisions for meeting those expenses.
3. To vote upon the slate of Officers and Committees for 2013 as prescribed in the Bylaws.
4. To consider any other business that may legally come before the meeting

By direction of Executive Council,  
Phil LaFollette, Clerk  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

**STEWARDSHIP UPDATE** As we begin 2016, there are three stewardship updates. 1) 2015 Contribution Statements were emailed this week. If you did not receive yours, please email Karen McArthur [karenmc@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:karenmc@firstchurchcambridge.org). 2) If you requested 2016 offering envelopes, please pick them up from the back table in the sanctuary. 3) If you have not yet made your 2016 pledge, you may do so by leaving your blue 2016 pledge card in the offering plate, or by pledging online. Thank you for your ongoing and faithful generosity!

**THE FRIDAY CAFÉ HAS A NEW WEBSITE!** Check it out: [thefriday.cafe](http://thefriday.cafe). Learn about our community ministry with and for homeless neighbors. Sign up to participate or to receive our weekly e-news, and find out how you can support this vital ministry.

**SERAPHIM SINGERS DISCOUNT TICKETS** The Seraphim Singers ([seraphimsingers.org](http://seraphimsingers.org)) invites the First Church community to its performances of "All Flesh is Grass: Reflections on Death and Eternity" Sunday, Jan. 24 at First Church (Sanctuary) and Sunday, Jan. 31 at St. Paul's Episcopal, Brookline. This a cappella program, including Distler's *Totentanz* and Pizzetti's *Requiem*, meditates on human frailty in the face of mortality and the hope for eternal rest. 25%-off online discount for FCC members: use code FCC25. Visit [seraphimsingers.org](http://seraphimsingers.org) for tickets and info. Daryl Bichel, Night Song Director, is a member of the Seraphim Singers.



Greater Boston  
Interfaith Organization

**A Day of Humility & Unity  
Wednesday, January 20, 2016**

GBIO invites Greater Boston to join in a day of fasting, prayer and humility. Fasting is an honored practice of our many faith traditions, with a notable place in the history of our American democracy. On two occasions, President Abraham Lincoln called the nation to a day of fasting and prayers to restore “a divided and suffering country.”

Participants are invited to break the fast together with a meal at the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center, 100 Malcolm X Blvd., on Wednesday evening, 5:45-8:00 p.m. This will be a time for prayer, fellowship, good food and recommitment to work together in God’s call to justice.

Limited Space: To RSVP please email [parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org)

***Conversation Series***  
**Undivided: Rejecting the Rhetoric of Otherness**

*In the charged rhetoric of our times, the demonization of the other – from Mexican immigrants to Muslims to other marginalized minorities– has become commonplace. GBIO invites congregants from all of our faith traditions to four diverse houses of worship, to develop relationships, learn about each other’s traditions and affirm our shared values and common humanity.*

*1<sup>st</sup> Conversation at ISBCC – 1/20 from 5:45–8 p.m.*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Conversation at St. Katharine Drexel – 2/4 from 7–9 p.m.*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Conversation at Temple Israel – 2/11 from 7-9 p.m.*

*4<sup>th</sup> Conversation at Bethel AME – 3/15 from 7-9 p.m.*

*In case of any cancellations due to snow or otherwise, please hold alternative dates of 2/25 & 3/3 for conversations at a place to be determined, from 7-9 p.m.*

## The Week Ahead

### Sunday, January 17

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:00 a.m. Capital Campaign Appeal Leadership, Dan Smith's office
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 10:00 a.m. History of Race at First Church, Hastings Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, MLK Celebration, Karin Case, preaching
- 12:30 p.m. Newcomers Lunch, McKenzie Library
- 12:30 p.m. Where Do We Go From Here On Race?, Hastings Room
- 4:00 p.m. Capital Campaign Leader Gathering, Hastings Room
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

### Monday, January 18

First Church Building and Office closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day (excepting the confirmation class at 4 p.m.)

- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class, Room 22

### Tuesday, January 19

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

### Wednesday, January 20

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 2:30 p.m. Building the Beloved Community, Dan Smith's office
- 5:45 p.m. A Day of Humility & Unity, Islamic Society Cultural Center

### Thursday, January 21

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

### Friday, January 22

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

### Sunday, January 24

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. First Church History 101, Hastings Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Taj Smith, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Classes (presch. - Grade 7)
- 12:30 p.m. Christian Formation Team Meeting, Hastings Room
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

## The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

Senior Minister	Rev. Dan Smith, 617-547-2724, ext. 23 dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org
Minister	Rev. Dr. Karin Case 617-547-2724, ext. 26 karincase@firstchurchcambridge.org
Minister of Stewardship & Finance	Rev. Karen McArthur, 617-547-2724, ext. 22 karenmc@firstchurchcambridge.org
Minister of Street Outreach	Rev. Kate Layzer, 617-851-5074 klayzer@gmail.com
Ministerial Interns	Katie Omberg, katie@firstchurchcambridge.org Taj Smith, taj@firstchurchcambridge.org
Director of Music	Peter Sykes, 617-645-0833 psykes@aol.com
Director of Creative Worship & Arts	Sarah Higginbotham, 617-547-2724, ext. 42 shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org
Staff Composer	Patricia Van Ness www.patriciavanness.com
Poet-in-Residence	Jean-Dany Joachim jeandany@gmail.com
Shelter Director	Jim Stewart, 617-661-1873 jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org
Parish Administrator	Kirsten Manville, 617-547-2724, ext. 21 parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org
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**FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL**

*United Church of Christ*

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