



---

**Christmastide**

**FIRST CHURCH  
IN CAMBRIDGE**

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

**FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC**  
**January 3, 2016**  
**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY *Das alte Jahr vergangen ist* J. S.  
Bach

\*HYMN 164 *Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning*

\*GREETING Lindsay Miller

- 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 *Quem Pastores Laudavere* Traditional

*Quem pastores laudavere,  
Quibus angeli dixere,  
Absit vobis jam timere,  
Natus est rex gloriae*

The one praised by the shepherds,  
To whom the angels said,  
"Now lay aside your fears,"  
Has been born the king of glory.

*Ad quem magi ambulabant,  
Aurum, thus, myrrham portabant,  
Immolabant haec sincere  
nato regi gloriae.*

To whom the wise men made their way,  
Bringing gold, frankincense, and myrrh,  
Which they offered with open hearts  
To the newborn king of 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.*

*Christo regi, Deo nato,  
Per Mariam nobis dato,  
Merito resonet vere  
Laus, honor, et gloria*

To Christ the king, born God,  
Given to us through Mary,  
Let there resound as is truly fitting  
Praise, honor, and glory.

### CONFESSING

#### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

#### SILENCE

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**All: Holy God, in your light we see light.  
And so too we see the veils  
of our ignorance and pride,  
the ways we treat ourselves and others  
without your mercy, love or justice.  
Let the brightness of your morning  
burn through our fog of aimlessness and sin.  
Teach us to see your world illumined anew,  
as with the eyes of Jesus. Amen.**

#### DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

#### \*GREETING OF PEACE

*All children from Preschool 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 C-26

*Lord, Your Grace Shines Like the Morning*

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

- L: For thus says the Lord:  
Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
'Save, O Lord, your people,  
the remnant of Israel.'
- C: See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.**
- L: With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back:
- C: I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.**
- L: Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.'  
For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
- C: They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.**
- L: Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

**C: I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.  
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the Lord.**

READING

John 1:1-18

SERMON

Kate Layzer

HYMN 313

*I Come with Joy*

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Smith

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Psallite*

Michael Praetorius

*Psallite, unigenito  
Christo Dei Filio, Christo Dei Filio,  
Redemptori Domino, puerulo, iacenti in  
praesepio.*

Sing your psalms to Christ,  
The only begotten Son of God,  
Sing your psalms to the Redeemer.

*Ein kleines Kindelein liegt in dem Krippe-  
lein;  
Alle liebe Engelein dienen dem Kindelein,  
und singen ihm fein,*

A small Child lies in the manger.  
All the blessed angels serve Him and sing to  
Him.

*Psallite, unigenito  
Christo Dei Filio, Christo Dei Filio,  
Redemptori Domino, puerulo, iacenti in  
praesepio*

Sing your psalms to Christ,  
The only begotten Son of God,  
Sing your psalms to the Redeemer.

\*DOXOLOGY

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light,  
to Christ revealed in earthly night,  
to God the Spirit now we raise  
our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SHARING THE FEAST

GATHERING

Katie Omberg

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

- L: How good it is to praise you, Morning Star!  
Your beauty ushers in the dawn,  
and in your light we see light—
- C: justice for the nations, mercy for the broken-hearted,  
safety for the poor, belonging for the outcast,  
strength for the weak, and forgiveness for the sinner.**
- L: You reveal your love in joy and sorrow,  
and we know your wonder even in the shadow of death.
- C: All your creatures behold your works  
and testify to your faithfulness**
- L: And so we too, fragile lamps in your holy house,  
raise our hearts in praise. Amen.

REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

- L: Now, O God, we remember Jesus, our brother.  
*Silence*
- L: He took his place among sinners, although he had nothing to repent.
- C: He was baptized with them, God's Child and Delight.**
- L: We remember that he called disciples and ministered to all.
- C: He confounded the haughty and gave hope to the poor.**
- L: We remember that he died between thieves, and was buried in a borrowed grave.
- C: We believe that you raised him. He lives even now, the Light of the World.**
- L: How wonderfully he fed us! Loaves and fish for the multitude,  
wine for a wedding in Cana, living water for the woman at the well,  
breakfast for disciples on the shore!
- C: Even on the night of betrayal, he ate supper with his friends.**
- L: He took bread, gave you thanks, and broke it, saying:  
This is my body, surrendered for you!
- C: And when the supper was over, he took a cup filled with wine.  
He gave you thanks for it and passed it to his friends, saying:  
This is my life-blood poured out for you, and for everyone,  
so that sins might be forgiven.**
- L: He told us, "Do this and remember me!"

## PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT AND 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. The liquid is grape juice and the bread is gluten free. 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!

**All: Thank you, God, 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 life that never ends.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

GOING FORTH

\*HYMN 167

*Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

*Christmas Benediction*

Beverly Taylor

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

VOLUNTARY

*In dir ist Freude*

J. S. Bach

*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.*

## **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 Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach. Assisting with worship are Dan Smith, Senior Minister and Katie Omberg, Ministerial Intern. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir. Our liturgist today is Lindsay Miller.

**YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED** Please pray for our nation 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**

**NIGHT SONG: Solemn Mystical Compline Tonight at 7:00 p.m. in the 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.

## **FUTURE HAPPENINGS**

**COME CELEBRATE EPIPHANY! January 6, 2016** Epiphany ("manifestation") is a Christian feast so ancient that it predates Christmas. It celebrates God's self-revelation in Jesus. It is a season of light shining in darkness, a time when the wise leave their books to seek a child, wine brims from clay water jars, and the voice of God rings in our ears: "You are my beloved, my child, my delight!"

We will celebrate Epiphany on Wednesday, January 6, at 6:00 p.m., beginning in Margaret Jewett Hall. This year's dinner will be potluck through and through. You are invited to bring a main dish casserole (names beginning with A-H), a salad or side dishes (names beginning with I-M), dessert (N-R), or drinks (S-Z). After our feast and a brief gathering ritual in the Chapel, we will set off together on a candlelight journey through the darkness, until we arrive at the Sanctuary and circle it with light. Under the dome in the chancel we will renew our own baptismal promises, ending with a joyful "sprinkling" of all present. This event is for all ages, so gather up friends, neighbors, kids, and come share the light!

Also, feel free to bundle up and join us on Epiphany, right at 6:00 pm, on the church lawn as we renew our witness against gun violence. We will offer a reading of names before we remove 2015 flags and share a brief prayer for peace in our city and nation.

**THE FIRST CHURCH DEACONS FUND** is one of the many ways in which our community cares for one another. Church members in need of financial assistance for a one time or short-term emergency may make a confidential request to one of the deacons or clergy. This fund belongs to us and relies on contributions from our community. We hope people will take advantage of this aid. You are also invited to make a gift (beyond your pledge) to the Deacons Fund, if able. Please indicate "Deacon's Fund" in the memo line of your check.

**THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING FILM SCREENING Sunday, January 10, 5:00-8:30 p.m. in MJH** Join Massachusetts Peace Action, Earth Stewardship at First Church Cambridge, and others for a screening and discussion of this new documentary, based on the Naomi Klein book of the same name, that weaves together threads of climate, racial and economic injustice and the movements already rising for a new, non-extractive economy. When: Sunday, January 10, 5:00 pm-

8:30 pm in Margaret Jewett Hall, starting with 5:00 pm Potluck and conversation, 6:00 pm film screening, and 7:30 pm small group discussions, ending at 8:30. Cost is a donation. Please RSVP to help us plan numbers at <http://masspeaceaction.org/events/tce-jan10>. Snow Date: January 24. If in doubt, call 617-354-2169.

**RACE AT FIRST CHURCH, Sundays, January 10 and 17** 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 on January 10, at 10:00 a.m., when Dave Kidder will lead a discussion on where First Church stood on race in America during the first 250 years of its existence. Then, on January 17, Karen Anne Zee will lead an exploration of First Church’s more recent history on race. Also in the January 17 session Dan Smith, with Karen Anne and Dave, 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!

**GUEST SPEAKER ALEXIS TOLIVER, OF BLACK LIVES MATTER, Sunday, January 10, Hastings Room** Whether you’ve been deeply involved in the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement, following it in the media, or are simply looking for a general introduction, join us January 10 at 12:30 p.m. in the Hastings Room, where Alexis Toliver, of Black Lives Matter, Cambridge, will speak about how the movement is developing both locally and nationally. Come learn about BLM strategies and priorities. We hope this informative session will spur further conversation about how we might want to be involved as individuals and as a church community. Questions? Contact Dan Smith, [dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org), David Kidder, [david.e.kidder@gmail.com](mailto:david.e.kidder@gmail.com), or Jean Bellow, [jean\\_bellow@comcast.net](mailto:jean_bellow@comcast.net).

**WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE ON RACE? Sunday, January 17, 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 Matters 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!

**City Mission Society MLK Day Choir.** As it has for the past few years, City Mission Society is organizing a choir from various congregations as one of the service options for the MLK Day of Service. If past experience holds, the choir will learn and sing one or two gospel pieces, under the direction of an experienced gospel music director. The performance last year was amazing - a large, racially mixed choir that learned and skillfully performed some great gospel (from memory), after only a couple of hours of practice. If you would like to experiment with a different musical culture and be part of a joyous celebration of Dr. King's birthday, please

let Dave Kidder know (david.e.kidder@gmail.com; 617-924-7236). Members of the choir will gather between 9:30 and 10:00 AM at 12th Baptist Church, on Warren Street in Roxbury, on Saturday, January 17. Practice will be from 10 to 12, followed by lunch. The choir will participate in the Celebration and Reflection, which brings together all the service participants from sites all over the city, from 1:30 to 2:30. Each participant in the choir is asked to contribute \$20. Names of participants are due by January 12. We can also plan for car pooling between now and the 17th. Questions: ask Dave. Hope to have FCC representation on the 17th

**FIRST CHURCH HISTORY 101, Sundays, January 24 and 31** 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!

**THANK YOU** to all who contributed to Christmas and New Years at the Friday Café. We were there for the street community in a huge way, and it was deeply appreciated. Our ministry is growing and deepening and beginning to touch the lives of Boston area volunteers. Come see for yourself! Sign up at vols.pt/i2s6tf



Greater Boston  
Interfaith Organization

**A Day of Humility & Unity**  
**Tuesday, January 19, 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 Tuesday evening, 5:45pm-8:00. This will be a time for prayer, fellowship, good food and recommitment to work together in God’s call to justice.

*A team of clergy is also creating opportunities for all of us to deepen our relationships with one another in the weeks following January 19. There will be a series at different houses of worship on the theme “**Undivided: Rejecting the Rhetoric of Otherness.**”*

## The Week Ahead

### Sunday, January 3

- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Multigenerational Holy Communion, Kate Layzer, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Outdoor Church sandwich-making (preschool.-Grade 7)
- 1:00 p.m. Outdoor Church, Cambridge Common
- 2:00 p.m. Youth Group Trip to Sacco's Bowl Haven, Meet in Lobby
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class, Room 22 (The Well)
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

### Monday, January 4

- 5:00 p.m. Gifts Discernment Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 6:30 p.m. Deacons Meeting, Hastings Room
- 7:30 p.m. Executive Council Meeting, Hastings Room

### Wednesday, January 6

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 11:30 a.m. Staff Holiday Party
- 5:00 p.m. Finance Team Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 6:00 p.m. Epiphany Potluck and Worship Service

### Friday, January 8

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

### Saturday, January 9

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Hastings Room

### Sunday, January 10

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, Margaret Jewett Hall
- 10:00 a.m. History of Race at First Church, Hastings Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Sacrament of Baptism, Dan Smith, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Classes (presch. - Grade 7)
- 12:30 p.m. Learning about Black Lives Matter, 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
Shelter Director	Jim Stewart, 617-661-1873 jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org
Parish Administrator	Kirsten Manville, 617-547-2724, ext. 21 parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org
Acting Parish Administrator	Shannon Fuller, 617-547-2724, ext. 21 sfuller@firstchurchcambridge.org
Administrative Assistant	Lang Haynes 617-547-2724, ext. 41 Lang@firstchurchcambridge.org
Financial Assistant	Chelsea Turgeon, 617-547-2724, ext. 22 chelsea@firstchurchcambridge.org
Facilities Manager	Dan dos Santos ddossantos@firstchurchcambridge.org
Sextons	Douglas Casey, 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