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**Transfiguration  
Sunday**

**FIRST CHURCH  
IN CAMBRIDGE**

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

**FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC**

**February 10, 2013**

**TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY**

*“Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white.” –Luke 9*

VOLUNTARY

*Four Versets and Canzona (Lydian)*

James Woodman

\*HYMN 108

*Come Christians, Join to Sing*

\*GREETING

Gay Harter

One: From the east, we come.

**All: We are in different places in of our journeys of life and faith.**

One: From the west, we come.

**All: We are all welcome here!**

One: From the south, we come.

**All: We seek to witness the glory of God.**

One: From the north, we come.

**All: We gather from afar, and become one body,  
as we praise God together with one voice.**

One: Come, gather in and be glad! From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
this is the day God has made for us

**All: A shining day—a glory!**

One: Let us give praise to God, whose kindness never ends!

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan Smith

ANTHEM

*Psalm 108 (2013)*

Patricia Van Ness (premiere)\*

*Wake up my spirit, awake lute and harp. I myself will waken dawn.*

*Your lovingkindness is greater than the heavens, and your faithfulness.*

*Exalt yourself above the heavens, O God, and your glory o'er all the earth. Alleluia.*

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.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**All: God of Life and Light,  
our hearts are divided, our attention wanders.  
We look to visions of our own interests,  
while the poor go unseen, and justice is overshadowed.  
Trusting in your patient love, we confess our many sins,  
our weak resolve, and our need for you.  
Forgive us, heal us, and keep before us always  
the light of justice and joy—your will for all the world.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

\*GREETING OF PEACE

*Children from PreK to 7th grade are now invited to leave for church school. Teachers will meet children at the side door to accompany them to their classrooms. Parents can meet their children in Lindsay Chapel (through Margaret Jewett Hall and to the left) after worship.*

\*HYMN 40

*Halle-Halle-Halleluja*

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Terry McKinney

READING

Exodus 34:29-35

READING

Luke 9:28-36

SERMON

*Transformation through Mission*

Peter Makari

\*HYMN 461

*We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky*

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

L: God be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray (silence, intercessions, 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

*Swing low, Sweet Chariot*

Spiritual, arr. Alice Parker

\*DOXOLOGY & 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.**

\*HYMN 500

*O For A World*

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

*Epiphany Benediction*

Layzer/Taylor

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

VOLUNTARY

\*Composer's Note: *Music for the Psalms*, a venture to create new music for each of the 150 Psalms, provides textually a continuation of on-going explorations into the nature of the Divine and its intertwining with beauty. With the assumption that the Divine is all love and non-judgmental, many Psalms are seen as inner dialogues as one seeks safety and peace amidst strife, and to recall that Divine.

*The bulletin cover is an image of a ceramic mosaic created by the children of the church. The design, by Perry Neubauer, can represent the three Kings who brought gifts to the Christ child as described in Matthew, or it can symbolize the kingship of Jesus who was sent to help establish the Kingdom of God on this planet.*

## **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, 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** Dr. Peter E. Makari, Area Executive for the Middle East and Europe of the Common Global Ministries Board of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Assisting with worship are Dan Smith, Senior Minister, and Terry McKinney, Minister of Mental Health & Healing. Our liturgist is First Church member Gay Harter. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir.

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**

**TODAY'S GUEST PREACHER IS DR. PETER MAKARI** Our guest preacher is Dr. Peter E. Makari, Area Executive for the Middle East and Europe of the Common Global Ministries Board of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He also serves as Co-Chair of the National Council of Churches' Interfaith Relations Commission. Peter is also a staff resource person for the new national UCC Palestine Israel Network. Peter has just returned from a trip to the Middle East and brings us the latest news about our partner churches and programs there and in Europe during today's 10 o'clock hour.

**SPIRITUALITY AND MENTAL HEALTH GROUP Today at 2:00 p.m., Tower Room** How do emotional struggles and mental health difficulties affect your relationship with God? Does your faith change your experience of mental health issues? Join us in the Tower Room each Sunday from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. as we hold these questions and our experiences in the healing light of Christ. The group is open: you may attend as often or as little as you like, and newcomers are always welcome. Talk to or e-mail Terry McKinney (tmckinney@firstchurchcambridge.org) or Carter West (stbosal@arczip.com).

**CONFIRMATION CLASS (8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> graders) Today at 4:00 p.m., Lindsay Chapel** This year the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders of the church are walking together on the journey of Confirmation.

**SACRED MUSIC AND ICONS Today at 3:00 p.m. (pre-concert talk at 2:30 p.m.), Sanctuary** Icons are being used on Sunday evenings as part of the devotional aspect of Night Song. Envisioning the Divine by means of media such as religious icons and stained glass windows has long been an integral part of religious experience. On Sunday, February 10th, there is an opportunity to explore icons and sacred music further in a program that will demonstrate a fusion of the aural and visual contemplative imagination. At 3 p.m. The Seraphim Singers will present at First Church a concert of choral and organ music entitled "Icons and Music – Windows on the Divine." A number of beautiful icons will be used in this program, and the splendid music of the Russian choral tradition including works by Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky, and Penderecki will be featured. In addition, there is a pre-concert talk about icons at 2:30 p.m.. Tickets are \$20/\$15 for students & seniors.

**NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Today at 7 p.m., Sanctuary** 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. It is not meant to be a performance, but rather a transformance – a medium for achieving inner peace, centering and spiritual renewal. Set apart from the sights, sounds, and values of current culture, Night Song helps participants enter an inner mystical silence. You are invited and encouraged to attend and to tell others about this opportunity at First Church. 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**

**THE MISSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE WELCOMES JUBILEEMA** to its organizational meeting to be held at First Church on Monday, February 11th from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Sage Hall. All are invited to attend. JubileeMA promotes international economic justice, forgiveness of debts to emerging countries whose economies are stifled by debt, and understanding of root causes of global poverty. For more information, please contact Alice Kidder at [flintkiddr@aol.com](mailto:flintkiddr@aol.com) or (617) 276-6227.

**ALL CHURCH MARDI GRAS PANCAKE SUPPER Tuesday, February 12, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall. All are welcome!** The Family Night crew invites the whole church to join us for a Mardi Gras Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 12. We will mark Shrove Tuesday, the festive night before the season of Lent begins, with fellowship and fun in MJH. Help us create this year's Alleluia banner and hide it in the sanctuary, to be revealed on Easter morning. Bring fruit salad or a side dish of cooked bacon or sausage to share; pancakes and syrup will be provided. **RSVP to Sarah Higginbotham**, [shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org), to help us plan for pancake production.

**LESSONS FROM THE FIELD: REPORTS FROM CIVIL RIGHTS DELEGATION TO PALESTINE** – Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m., Hastings Room – The Palestine-Israel Task Team of FCC invites you to an event featuring four members of a October 2012 delegation to Israel/Palestine. Their delegation visited with leaders of the Palestinian nonviolent resistance movement and their Israeli allies. The presentation will be followed by Q & A and discussion. Lunch provided. For more information please contact Rev. Reebee Girash at [rgirash@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:rgirash@firstchurchcambridge.org) or Karlene Griffiths Sekou at [karlene.griffiths.sekou@gmail.com](mailto:karlene.griffiths.sekou@gmail.com).

**FIRST CHURCH ENSEMBLE-IN-RESIDENCE CAMBRIDGE CONCENTUS** reveals the multi-faceted (and famously “mysterious”) music of the seventeenth-century Bohemian master Heinrich Biber on February 17 at 3pm in the Sanctuary. The program features his virtuosic works for violins in unusual tunings, duos for natural trumpet, and arias from his only extant opera *Arminio*, premiered for American audiences by Jacob Cooper (bass). A wine and cheese reception follows the program. For more details, please visit [cambridgeconcentus.org](http://cambridgeconcentus.org) or call (617) 952-4050.

**COMING SOON - LITURGICAL DANCE FOR ALL AGES** Valerie Blanc - a First Church member, parent, and dance therapist - is putting together a multigenerational liturgical dance troupe to offer a moment of creative movement in our Palm Sunday worship on March 24. Folks interested in joining should mark their calendars for the 10 o'clock hour on February 24, March 3, 10, & 17. All are welcome to participate. More details can be found in the upcoming EVENT newsletter

**WOMEN'S RETREAT: SAVE THE DATES Friday evening April 12th - Sunday lunch, April 14th at Craigville Conference Center, Cape Cod** This year the retreat will be 2 weekends after Easter. Whether you're a woman new to First Church or a long-timer, consider joining us for part or all of this fun filled weekend of relaxation, reflection and renewal. The weekend is a donate-as-you-can event, with car pools ensuring all can attend. Food allergies are accommodated by the chef. Males under 14 months are welcome. A few computer savvy volunteers are needed this winter to get the Google Docs, Group page and email list up to speed. If skilled and available please contact Carolyn White at cawhitema@gmail.com. The planning committee is also in need of volunteers.

### **GET INVOLVED**

**EXPLORING 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.

**COVENANT POTLUCK DINNERS CONTINUE!** These potluck events are an opportunity to get to know each other through small, intimate gatherings and conversation. The next dinner will be held February 23 at 6 p.m. in Cambridge. You can sign up by contacting Beth Loomis at bethloomis3@gmail.com or (617) 851-2505 or by signing up on the First Church webpage. From the home page, click on "Worship, Music and Spiritual Life". Look for "Covenant Dinners" in the list under "Small Groups". Please let us know if you would also like to be a future host.

**THE UCC RESPONDS TO THE SYRIAN REFUGEES AND PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP** Two executives of the UCC, the Rev. Jim Moos, of Wider Church Ministries and Peter Makari of the Middle East and Europe Missions, recently visited the Za 'atre Refugee Camp in Jordan and reported on their experiences in the most recent edition of [1/16/13] Global Ministries Report that can be found by going to the UCC website. The UCC has thus far donated \$100,000 which is helping to provide tents, and warm clothing for the people in the camp. Rev Moos said that many of the children are still wearing the shirts and pants that they had on when they fled Syria with their families. On the Global Missions webpage there is a place where one can donate to allow the UCC to expand the support we are providing. Please see: <http://globalministries.org/news/mee/syria-an-urgent-appeal.html>

*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

Last Sunday after Epiphany/Transfiguration  
February 10, 2013  
Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

**DUST**

Remember that you are dust, and that to dust you shall return. From time to time it is good for us to be reminded of our insignificance. I've found that colonial New England and Pennsylvania burial yards have a similar bracing effect. In my itinerant preaching, I often arrive early for services and spend a little quiet time wandering among the weathered stones marking the graves of the faithful with barely legible inscriptions. One particular warning lingers: "As you are now so once was I. As I am now, you shall be. Prepare yourselves to follow me." The old hymn writer puts it a bit more elegantly: "Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all its sons away; they fly, forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day." Dust.

I often arrive at those ancient graveyards early on a Sunday morning exhausted from travel, worried about a family member or a relationship, anxious over institutional vulnerabilities afflicting either the church I am visiting or the seminary structures back home, pondering the seeming futility of so much of our ministries. But then I think about the men, women, and children lying at my feet, dust now for two or three centuries. Surely they lived and loved as passionately as I do. Surely they worried about their children and wondered about the worth of their work. Surely some of them had made a mess of relationships just as you and I are wont to do. And yet, like ever-rolling streams, borne away, forgotten. In many cases, even their names were erased by time.

Next to the learned divines and revolutionary heroes are folk who made a travesty of their lives. And yet all are dust, and all are equally and blessedly forgotten, no longer subject to the harsh criticism of their neighbors or the judgment of the church or the anxiety of being beyond salvation, or the burdens of responsibility, or even the self-denigration that led many to crippling melancholy. Dust. And therefore free. Just as you and I will be.

We wear an ashen cross on our forehead next Wednesday not to announce to all that we've done bad things, but to remind each other of where we belong in the grand scheme of things. Not God, the Psalmist tells us, but lower than God (even if just "a little"). And while that means that we are all eminently forgettable, it also means that along the way from birth to death we are free to love each other, care for each other, and delight in each other as simple, wonderful human beings rather than anxious, wannabe gods. Dust you are and to dust you shall return.

Rev. John H. Thomas  
Chicago Theological Seminary

## Stewardship Message

### Stewards of the Beloved Community

*He said therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? Luke 13:18*

Years ago I participated in a meeting with members of COREM, the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries. COREM is composed of representatives from Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries, Council for Hispanic Ministries, Council for American Indian Ministry, United Black Christians, and Ministers for Racial, Social, and Economic Justice. The meeting tables were arranged in a square in a tranquil sunny room in Hollywood, California. As the meeting hour approached, participants of diverse races and ethnicities began to arrive. The room was quickly enlivened by the joyous greetings and hugs of friends reuniting for this event.

As I looked at this happy scene unfolding, I saw a vision of what heaven might look like. The kingdom of God is like a gathering where all experience an extravagant welcome; a community graced with "righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." (Romans 14:17). Martin Luther King, Jr. called this the Beloved Community.

God loves every one of us and gives each person gifts for building the Beloved Community. What are your gifts? How are you building the Beloved Community in your family? In your work place? In your church? Among your friends? Where you are in this moment?

*A message by Doris Powell, author of Stewards in the Household of God: a Resource for Holistic Year-round Stewardship.*

**February 2013**

God is still speaking,

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



This resource is a free service and is made possible by your gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission.

## The Week Ahead

### Sunday, February 10

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation, with Peter Makari, Hastings Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Peter Makari, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School for grades PreK - 7
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, MJH
- 12:30 p.m. Earth Stewardship Committee, Hastings Room
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class, Lindsay Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

### Monday, February 11

- 6:00 p.m. Building & Grounds Committee, room 204
- 7:00 p.m. Missions & Social Justice Committee, Sage Hall

### Tuesday, February 12

- 5:30 p.m. All Church Family Night Mardi Gras Pancake Supper, MJH
- 7:30 p.m. Palestine/Israeli Task Team, Dan Smith's office

### Wednesday, February 13

#### Ash Wednesday

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Senior Minister's office
- 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Lindsay Chapel

### Thursday, February 14

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

### Sunday, February 17

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. Lenten study series, Hastings Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Brent Coffin, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School for grades PreK-7
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, MJH
- 12:30 p.m. Interfaith Peace Builders, Hastings Room
- 12:30 p.m. Newcomers Lunch, MJH
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality & Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 5:00 p.m. Jazz Worship, MJH
- 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.



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## The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

Senior Minister	Rev. Dan Smith, 617-547-2724, ext. 23 dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org
Interim Associate 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
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**FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL**

*United Church of Christ*

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