



Lent

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC

March 11, 2012

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Our Lenten services will begin with a time of silent reflection.

SILENCE

INTROIT

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

GREETING

Rachel Carlson

*HYMN 86

The Lone, Wild Bird

WORDS OF WELCOME

Sarah Higginbotham

ANTHEM

Exaudi Deus

Orlando di Lasso

*Hear my prayer, O God: and hide not thyself from my petition.
Take heed unto me, and hear me.*

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray for healing, pardon,
and the grace to be made new.

C: **Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

**You are invited to stand. Hymns preceded by a "C" may be found in the beginning section of the hymnal.*

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 397

Create in Me, O God

Children from PreK to 8th grade are invited to leave after the hymn for their Church School Classes. 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.

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

RESPONSIVE PSALM 19: 1-4, 7-10

L: The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

**C: Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.**

L: There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

**C: yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.**

L: The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;

**C: the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple;**

L: the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;

**C: the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring for ever;**

L: the ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.

**C: More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

READING

John 2: 13-22

SERMON

Dan Smith

*HYMN 252 *How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely*

LENTEN TESTIMONY

Laurie Burt

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Terry McKinney

L: God be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

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

Thou Knowest, Lord, the Secrets of Our Hearts

Henry Purcell

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen.**

*HYMN 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

O Spirit of the Living God

Constance Pyle

O spirit of the living God, be with us now and forever, amen.

VOLUNTARY

The 2011-2012 bulletin cover art series was designed by Perry Neubauer and constructed by many hands, large and small. This Lenten bulletin cover was created by Emma Blanc, Abby McArthur Keith, and Sarah Higginbotham.

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 hope that you will stay for a bit after worship for refreshments and conversation. (Follow the crowd.) 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 speak to one of the ministers after church, or visit us on the web at www.firstchurchcambridge.org

Large print bulletins and assistive listening devices are available.

Please ask a greeter for assistance.

Activity packets for children's use during worship are also available near the sanctuary doors. Nursery care for infants and toddlers (through age 4) is located down the hallway and up four stairs to the door on the right. The worship service is also broadcast in the Hastings Room, across from the sanctuary entrance.

PREACHING TODAY IS Dan Smith, Senior Minister. Assisting with worship are Terry McKinney, Affiliate Minister of Mental Health Outreach and Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts. Our liturgist is First Church member Rachel Carlson. Giving the Lenten Testimony is First Church member Laurie Burt. Louise Munding 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

THIRD-SUNDAY JAZZ WORSHIP Next Sunday, **March 18, 11:00 a.m.** On March 18, Carolyn Wilkins, Dan Smith, and others will be leading a jazzed up version of our Morning Worship Service, sharing music and parts of the liturgy from our usual Third Sunday Jazz Vespers. Join us as we sing out and celebrate the Fourth Sunday in Lent with a jazz and gospel feel. Also, mark your calendars for Third Sunday Jazz Vespers in Margaret Jewett Hall on April 15 at its usual time of 5:00 p.m.

FAMILY CHOIR WILL SING ON EASTER SUNDAY The Family Choir will sing in Morning Worship on **Easter Sunday, April 8**. Rehearsals will take place at **10:00 a.m.** in the **Choir Room today, March 11 and March 18, and 25**. Voices of all parts, all ages, and all experience levels are most welcome. No need to read music; we'll learn by ear and support one another in the harmonies. This will be the last Family Choir offering until next fall, so if you've thought about joining, this is your time! Contact Sarah Higginbotham for more information.

MEMORIAL FLOWERS FOR EASTER If you wish to donate memorial flowers for loved ones this Easter, please send the names of those to be remembered to Amy Click in the First Church office as soon as possible, at aclick@firstchurchcambridge.org. Contributions of \$20 to help defray the cost of flowers can be included in the offering plate, checks payable to First Church in Cambridge, with a memo line of Easter Flowers. On Easter Sunday, the congregation is invited to take a plant to a homebound parishioner to spread the joy of Easter.

DOXOLOGY CANTATA BY PATRICIA VAN NESS ON YOUTUBE A video of the world premiere of Staff Composer Patricia Van Ness's *Doxology Cantata* can now be viewed on YouTube. The piece was performed during morning worship on January 29, Annual Meeting Sunday. *Doxology Cantata* was composed in honor of First Church's 375th Anniversary.

COVENANT DINNERS – SIGN UP AND HOSTS NEEDED Potluck “Covenant Dinners” are a great way to meet and get to know people from First Church. We hope you will join us for an enjoyable meal, spiced with good company and new friends. Sign up today during coffee hour, or contact Marian Smith at msmith829@gmail.com or 607-748-0853. Choose the day and time that work best for you. Let us know if you have special needs (e.g.: accessibility, dietary needs (vegetarian, vegan, allergies), and if you need a ride. Children are welcome, and you are encouraged to come as a family. Your host will contact you a few days before your meal with details and to coordinate the menu. If you have the gift of hospitality and you are interested in hosting a dinner, please contact Marian for more information.

LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SUNDAY SERVICE?

Each week the deacons invite people to participate in the Sunday service as greeters and to help collect the offering. Please speak to a deacon -- Mark Destler, Martha Dyer, Dick Harter, Barbara Hume, Rachelle LaMaster, Lindsay Miller, Susie Neubauer, Chris Reynolds, or Karen Anne Zee -- if this interests you.

CREATIVE ARTS IN THE CHURCH SCHOOL Would you like to spend some time with the younger set of First Church folk? The Church School is seeking adult volunteers to assist with creative arts projects on March 18, April 15, and May 27 during the worship hour. Work side-by-side with children from pre-kindergarten to 8th grade as we create artwork to be displayed in the sanctuary (in March and April) and plant flowers on the front lawn (in May). Please contact Sarah Higginbotham to learn more and sign up for one (or more) Sunday.

TRAUMA AND GRACE What faith practices do we have that can help us to hold and make meaning of current and past traumas? What role can forgiveness play and what are some other options for healing? Some resources have been prepared to help individuals deal with these very issues. If you would like a copy of these resources or would like to explore the subject further, please contact Dan Smith (dsmith6@firstchurchcambridge.org) or Terry McKinney (temckinney@msn.com)

DISABILITY FORUM FOLLOW-UP Whether or not you were able to participate in the Disability Forum a few weeks ago we would like to invite you to be part of future discussions about disability and access issues here at First Church. We need your questions, suggestions, and interest in some sort of Disability/Access group that can take the lead on these issues. To share your ideas and get involved, please contact Carolyn R. Thompson at carolynrt@verizon.net.

WOMEN'S RETREAT REGISTRATION is now through Palm Sunday, April 1st. Please swing by the table at the entrance to Library to register, sign up for snack items, and a Sunday to assist with invitation handout or registration. The retreat is the weekend after Easter, April 13th – 15th at The Lodge, Craigville Conference Center, Cape Cod. We would love to have you join us to get to know other women for a time of fellowship, reflection & renewal. Come for the weekend or Saturday. Deposit is \$20. This is a pay what you can retreat. The Janyce Jennings Fund was set up solely to assist with registration expenses for individual women. It is accepting donations.

ASSIST THE GUESTS EXITING FIRST CHURCH SHELTER All guests exiting the First Church Shelter to housing, receive a starter "kit" of house-hold linens from the Material Assistance Program of the Cambridge Friends Meeting (down the street from First Church). The kit contains sheets, pillow cases and towels for the bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen. This Lent-Easter season, the shelter asks you to consider making a donation to the Material Assistance Program to help ensure that shelter guests, and others served by the program, have continued access to these items. A donation of \$50 provides all the items mentioned, but whatever you can afford would be greatly appreciated. For more information about the Material Assistance Program visit <http://afsc.org/program/cambridge-material-assistance-program>. Questions? Contact Shelter Director Jim Stewart at jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org or 617-661-1873.

375th EXHIBITION Come see 375 years of First Church history through the lens of the six meeting houses where this congregation has worshiped. The exhibition, "Keeping the Covenant in Harvard Square," is in the Tower Room, just off the narthex, or main entrance, to the church.

TWO KIDS4PEACE BENEFIT CONCERTS March 22, 2012. 6-8 pm. Come enjoy the ever-evolving sound of the Annette Philip Quartet against the backdrop of Grand Circle Gallery's stunning collection of original vintage travel posters promoting warm and cold weather escapes all the while providing valuable support for Kids4Peace Boston's 2012 program! The Annette Philip Group seeks to explore the music and ideologies of different countries, traditions, and cultures from around the globe. Each musician brings a different perspective, and currently draws from jazz, funk, Latin, Indian, and Middle Eastern influences. Silent Auction items include stunning and unique handcrafted Jewelry set with authentic 2000 year old Roman Glass found in archeological diggings throughout the Holy Land. Tickets may be purchased online for \$25 at www.kids4peaceboston.org or at the door: Grand Circle Gallery, 3351 Congress St., Boston, MA 02210. **March 18, 2012. 7 pm.** The West Stockbridge Chamber Players will perform a benefit concert for Kids4Peace at the Lutheran Church of the Newtons, 1310 Centre Street, Newton, MA. A reception will follow. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, and \$10 for students. Advance tickets may be purchased by calling 617.332.3893 or at : <http://lutheranchurchofthenewtons.org/>

DISRUPTING THE SCRIPT: RAISING TO LEGAL CONSCIOUSNESS SEXUAL ASSAULTS ON BLACK WOMEN The UCC and First Church have made a commitment to becoming multi-racial, which involves taking on the driving concerns of those not currently part of the majority. The Mission & Social Justice Committee particularly urges you to pay attention to inequality in our criminal justice system. As potential jurors, voting citizens, and caring Christians, we can address these issues. The U.S. justice system's response to rape is affected by the race of the rape survivor. We urge you to attend a conference at Brandeis University that we're co-sponsoring: "Disrupting the Script: Raising to Legal Consciousness Sexual Assaults on Black Women" on Monday, March 19, 2012 from 12:00 noon until 5:30 PM in the Levin Ballroom, Usdan Student Center. First Church fellow-worshipper, Professor Bernadette Brooten, is co-convenor along with Professor Anita Hill. The conference begins with a powerful theatrical performance. Please ponder how institutional racism is supported by the dominant culture, and what each of us can do to disrupt the script. For more information on the conference and its message, see: <http://www.brandeis.edu/projects/fse/conferences/disrupting-the-script/about.html>. Wheelchair accessible. If sign language interpretation is needed, please call to find out availability. Need a ride? Contact Dave Kidder at (617) 276-6227. Brandeis is also easy to reach by public transportation.

UAFA (THE UNITING AMERICAN FAMILIES ACT) is a proposed revision to the existing Immigration and Naturalization Act to insert the words "or permanent partner" everywhere the term "spouse" appears. Its purpose is to enable U.S. citizens to sponsor a non-U.S. citizen for permanent residency (a "Green Card") if the two people are a same-sex couple in committed, long-term relationship. Please write or call your federal representative and senators to support this bill. The Mission and Social Justice Committee would like to hear back from you. Contact Jean Miller at jeanmiller.miller37@gmail.com, for giving feedback.



The passage of Massachusetts 2006 Health Reform Law was a landmark victory for GBIO and the residents of the Commonwealth of MA. More than 430,000 residents have acquired health insurance as a result of the passage of this reform and we accomplished this with only a 1% increase in state-spending. However, the cost of care continues to escalate at an unsustainable rate. As a result, to many of us have seen our premiums and out-of-pocket costs increase. More expensive does not necessarily lead to better quality. The United States has the highest per capita health care costs in the world; yet, 36 other countries have better health outcomes than we do.

Massachusetts can and must lead the nation to improve quality and reduce the cost of health care.

We must start now.



Join GBIO and Attorney General Martha Coakley

**As we work to make health
care affordable to all by
passing strong legislation to
reign in the costs of health
care in Massachusetts.**

**Tuesday, March 13th
7:00-9:00 PM**

**Roxbury Presbyterian Church
328 Warren St. Roxbury**

**For more information, please contact
GBIO at (617) 825-5600**

WORSHIP AND SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Every Sunday through April 29 at 7 p.m. in the 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 new opportunity at First Church.

THIRD-SUNDAY JAZZ WORSHIP March 18, 11:00 a.m. On March 18, Carolyn Wilkins, Dan Smith, and others will be leading a jazzed up version of our Morning Worship Service, sharing music and parts of the liturgy from our usual Third Sunday Jazz Vespers. Join us as we sing out and celebrate the Fourth Sunday in Lent with a jazz and gospel feel. Also, mark your calendars for Third Sunday Jazz Vespers in Margaret Jewett Hall on April 15 at its usual time of 5:00 p.m.

MENTAL HEALTH & SPIRITUALITY GROUP 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 (temckinney@msn.com) or Carter West (stbosal@arczip.com).

TUESDAY FAMILY NIGHT First Church families gather every other Tuesday night from **5:30 to 7:00 p.m.** in Sage Hall for a simple potluck supper and a chance to share the joys and challenges of family life together. The main dish (usually pasta and sauce) is provided; bring a side dish, dessert, or drink to share. Family Nights during Lent – March 6, 20, and April 3 – will include discussion of excerpts from Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore's *In the Midst of Chaos: Caring for Children as Spiritual Practice*, facilitated by Rachelle LaMaster and Sarah Higginbotham. Sarah will send pdf copies of the (short!) readings to the church family email list one week before each discussion. Even if you can't attend Family Night, parents are welcome to join our informal book study by following along from your computer screen.

MONTHLY NEWCOMER SESSIONS ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH, 12:15 P.M. We are blessed to be graced by many visitors and newcomers to our church community. While we have always held newcomer sessions around a joining Sunday, we will now be offering monthly gatherings with a topical focus. Hopefully this will allow newcomers to get to know one another and to enter into engaging dialogue around topics ranging from our faith journeys to basic tenets of the Christian journey. We will also continue to share information about First Church and the UCC. Current members are also encouraged to attend to get to know people and share in the dialogue.

The Week Ahead

Today, Sunday, March 11

The Third Sunday in Lent

(Note: Daylight Saving Time begins)

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:00 a.m. *Havruta* Small Group Text Study, Tower Room
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation for Adults, Hastings Room
- 10:00 a.m. Family Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Dan Smith, preaching, Lenten Testimony
- 11:20 a.m. Church School Classes (PreK-Grade 8)
- 12:30 p.m. All Church Gathering and Lunch, MJH
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

Monday, March 12

- 10:00 a.m. *Havruta* Small Group, Hastings Room*

Tuesday, March 13

- 7:00 p.m. GBIO Healthcare Action, Roxbury Presbyterian Church, (328 Warren St., Roxbury, MA)

Wednesday, March 14

- 7:00 a.m. *Havruta* Small Group, Hastings Room*
- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 6:00 p.m. Soup and Stories, Parsonage (44 Garden St)
- 7:30 p.m. Spiritual Formation Small Group, Dan Smith's Office*

Thursday, March 15

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

Sunday, March 18

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:00 a.m. *Havruta* Small Group Text Study, Tower Room
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation for Adults, Hastings Room
- 10:00 a.m. Family Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Jazz Service with Carolyn Wilkins and her band, Dan Smith, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Creative Arts (PreK-Grade 8)
- 12:30 p.m. All Church Gathering and Lunch, MJH
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

*Registration required. Please see related announcement in Lenten insert.

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.



The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

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|---|---|
| Senior Minister | Dan Smith, 617-547-2724, ext. 23 dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org |
| 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 |
| Shelter Director | Jim Stewart, 617-661-1873 jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org |
| Parish Administrator | Kirsten Manville, 617-547-2724, ext. 21 parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org |
| Administrative Assistant | Amy Click, 617-547-2724, ext. 41 aclick@firstchurchcambridge.org |
| Affiliate Minister of Mental Health Outreach | Terry McKinney, 781-643-7324 temckinney@msn.com |
| Affiliate Minister of Stewardship and Finance | Karen McArthur, 617-547-2724, ext. 22 treasurer@firstchurchcambridge.org |
| Affiliate Minister to the Outdoor Church | Jed Mannis, 978-456-0047 jedmannis@charter.net |
| Sextons | William Glass, Tina Quimby, George Williams, Kacy Williams, 617-642-3980 |



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL

United Church of Christ

11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138

617-547-2724