



**A Service of
Healing**

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC
March 15, 2015
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Pastorale

Josef Gabriel Rheinberger

HYMN 183

What Wondrous Love Is This

(Please remain seated for the opening hymn.

After the choir sings the first verse, the congregation will repeat that verse and all will join in singing the second verse.)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul?

What wondrous love is this, O my soul?

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul?

To bear the heavy cross for my soul?

Where suffering is found, may we be, may we be,

Where suffering is found, may we be;

Wherever you are found in souls and bodies bound,

Wherever you are found, may we be, may we be,

Wherever you are found, may we be.

OPENING SILENCE

*GREETING

L: Grace and peace to you in the name of God,
who has done wondrous things.

C: Grace and peace to all the world!

L: Gather, O souls, in the presence of the Holy One,

C: who sustains us and refreshes our spirits,

L: who is with us in our faith, our questions, and our doubts,

C: who leads us through wilderness places.

L: In silence and in song, in worship and in praise

C: let us proclaim God's wondrous love together!

**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.*

CONFESSING

ANTHEM

Kyrie

Rheinberger

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

SUNG PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(After piano introduction, please sing through twice.)

Jesus, Remember Me

198

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

WORDS: Luke 23:42
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier and the Taizé Community, 1981

REMEMBER ME
68.68
Music © 1981 Les Presses de Taizé

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

You are invited to greet each other with a hug, handshake, or word of peace.

*HYMN 340

Peace Before Us

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

READING

Mark 6: 45-51

REFLECTION

Dan Smith

INVITATION TO A TIME OF HEALING PRAYER

BLESSING OF OIL AND HANDS

Karen McArthur and Katie Omberg

HYMNS

441 *Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ*

C-28 *God's Forgiveness Waits*

470 *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

227 *Joys are Flowing Like a River (Blessed Quietness)*

488 *Nearer, My God, to Thee*

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Karin Case

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Please pray this prayer and address God in words most meaningful to your heart.)

L: Hear us now as we pray in the spirit of our brother Jesus:
Our Creator, our Mother...

**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 OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Adoramus te, Christe* Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

*DOXOLOGY

**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.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 415 *When We Are Living (Pues si Vivimos)*

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *O Spirit of the Living God* Constance Pyle

VOLUNTARY *Adagio* Mozart

The fish is one of the earliest Christian symbols. Dating back to the 1st century, it was often used in covert communication between early Jesus followers who feared persecution by Roman authorities. The Greek word for fish, pictured here, is ichthys. This word is an acrostic for the words Iesous Christos, Theou Yios, Soter which means "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour. It is also one response to our Lenten theme/question Who do you say I am?

The Lenten bulletin cover was created by First Church member Perry Neubauer.

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 Dan Smith, Senior Minister. Assisting with worship are Karin Case, Minister, Karen McArthur, Minister of Stewardship & Finance, and Katie Omberg, Ministerial Intern. Our liturgist is First Church member and GBIO Core Team Leader Will Erikson. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir. The second verse to *What Wondrous Love Is This* was adapted from words by Marty Haugen.

The **YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED** section of the bulletin is 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.

IN THIS SPACE we share personal, congregational, national, and global prayer requests. If you would like us to include a prayer request, please contact Dan Smith, Karin Case, or Kirsten Manville by Wednesday morning or fill out one of the prayer request cards found in your pew.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM? LENTEN STUDY Today and next Sunday, March 22, 10 a.m., Hastings Room Drawing from both the Gospel of Mark and from key passages from *Christ Actually*, we will explore our Lenten theme with an eye to the following topics: the Jewishness of Jesus, the context of the Jewish Roman war in which the gospels were written, claims about Christ's humanity and divinity, the cross and the Resurrection, and especially who is Jesus for us today! Dan Smith and Karin Case will share in leading these discussion sessions.

FAMILY CHOIR PALM SUNDAY MINI-REHEARSALS Today and next Sunday March 22 The children of the Church School are learning a simple piece to sing in our Palm Sunday worship on March 29. Adults are invited to join our Family Choir! Meet **in the Chapel, 12:00 - 12:15 p.m. today and Sunday, March 22** to practice with us. Family Choir enthusiasts are given special dispensation to leave the Sanctuary during the final Voluntary, in order to join the children's rehearsal in the Chapel on those three Sundays.

SPIRITUALITY & MENTAL HEALTH GROUP Today at 2:00 p.m., Tower Room Our Spirituality & Mental Health support group provides a safe, confidential environment where questions of mental well-being can be addressed in a context of faith, drawing upon each other's gifts. S&MH meets every Sunday afternoon from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. The group is co-facilitated by Mary Setterholm and Carter West, both theological school graduates. Contact Carter (cartergw24@gmail.com) or Mary (mis541@mail.harvard.edu) with your questions.

OUR WHOLE LIVES Today at 6:00 p.m., Friends Meeting House This year our 7th and 8th graders are collaborating with other Harvard Square congregations in this comprehensive sexuality education program with a strong faith component. *Please note: For the final third of the program year OWL is meeting at the Friends Meeting House.*

NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Tonight at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary Night Song is based on Compline, the last daily service of Christian worship, dating back to monastic life in the Middle Ages. Offered in the quietness of the evening, Night Song invokes a sense of protection and peace for the night that is to come. Tonight: Gregorian chant -Motets by Byrd, Lobo, Mundy and Palestrina, pieces for flute by Jehan Alain. Sung by Canticum vespertinum, a mixed octet, with Alison Larosa Montez, flute and Daryl Bichel, organ. We will not be using incense this evening.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

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 Kirsten Manville in the First Church office by March 30, at parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org. Contributions of

\$20 to help defray the cost of flowers can be made online (check off the Easter Flowers category) or 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.

“THE CONVERSATION PROJECT” RETURNS TO FIRST CHURCH March 22 at 12:30 p.m., Hastings Room (Part 2 of 2) The Conversation Project is an award winning project, the goal of which is to have everyone’s wishes for care through the end of life expressed and respected. On March 1st, over 40 First Church members were led in a workshop led by the Rev. Rosemary Lloyd, Advisor to Faith-Based Communities for The Conversation Project. On March 22nd, participants will gather again to reflect on what they learned in the first session and their experiences since that time of having conversations with loved ones. For more information about The Conversation Project, please visit the website at www.theconversationproject.org. And please note: The Conversation Project is currently partnering with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization. In addition to the pastoral care benefits of this program, GBIO has also begun to research a range of policy initiatives to ensure that health care providers are adequately trained and equipped to record, share and respect end-of-life wishes. Any questions, please talk to Ministerial Intern, Taj Smith, or email him at taj@firstchurchcambridge.org.

INTERESTED IN PERSONAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES TO DIVEST FROM FOSSIL FUELS? Please attend the workshop on this topic at First Church in Cambridge, Sunday, March 22, 2015, in Margaret Jewett Hall from 3 - 5 p.m. Learn how fossil fuel divestment works, how to go about it, the risks and benefits involved, and how to maximize the impact of individual decisions to invest. Speakers include Chuck Collins, Director of the Institute for Policy Studies' Program on Inequality and the Common Good, Shelley Alpern, Director of Social Research and Shareholder Advocacy, Clean Yield Management, Leslie Samuelrich, President, Green Century Capital Management, USA, and David Schreiber, Financial Planner with Progressive Asset Management. Free admission. Open to all. The workshop is a creation of several faith communities working together, including members of our own Earth Stewardship Team. Please pass this information along to others. Questions? Contact Susan Redlich at susan.redlich@gmail.com. To RSVP, please e-mail rev.reebee@gmail.com with SUBJECT LINE:DIVEST.

GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION (GBIO) DELEGATES ASSEMBLY March 26th from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Old South Church, 645 Boylston St. in Boston GBIO has been in a listening phase for many months, hearing from its congregations the stories and issues emerging for public action. This meeting will continue to discern GBIO’s platform of issues for GBIO’s future work. We are looking for at least 20 people to represent First Church at this important, 500-person assembly. It is the last meeting before our 1500-person gubernatorial action with Gov. Baker and other city and statewide public officials in April or early

May. If you're interested in attending or have any questions, please contact Taj Smith at taj@firstchurchcambridge.org.

REGISTER NOW FOR THE 216TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CONFERENCE Friday, June 12, 2015 to Saturday, June 13, 2015 at University of Massachusetts (Hotel UMass) The Annual Meeting is one of those rare opportunities to gather together with brothers and sisters of faith from places beyond our local church setting. We experience something of the breadth and depth of the Body of Christ – and know that we are part of something Big! Come to re-connect with friends, for the conversations, the worship, fellowship, and the business of the Conference. Come to learn and to be inspired by dynamic preaching. Come to celebrate, worship and be joyful together! The keynote speaker and preacher will be the **Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber**, founding pastor of House for All Sinners and Saints, a Lutheran mission church in Denver, Colorado. She is a leading voice in the emergent church movement, and author of *Pastrix: the Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner & Saint* (Jericho, 2013). Learn more about Nadia at www.nadiabolzweber.com. Please register now at <http://www.macucc.org/eventdetail/189516> as this public event is sure to fill up very soon!

WEDNESDAY CHRISTIAN MEDITATION ON HIATUS Christian Meditation will be on hiatus for the season of Lent. Please plan to join us again after Easter Sunday, on Wednesday April 8.

SIGN UP FOR THE FRIDAY CAFÉ If you have been thinking of volunteering for the Friday Café and have some time, or if you know someone who would be interested in participating, please let Kate Layzer (klayzer@gmail.com) know. Many hands and hearts help things go smoothly.

DAY SHELTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Volunteers critically needed at the Day Shelter for the Long Island Refugees to open at Old South Church (Copley Square, Boston). Shifts are short (a few hours) and very important for the wellbeing of the refugees from Long Island Shelter. The shelter opened recently, and will run daily until April 30. You can now sign up for volunteer shifts by following the link at this page: <http://bostonwarm.weebly.com/join-us.html>. Volunteer training will be provided by Starlight Ministries.

URGENT APPEAL FROM THE MISSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE There is a threat that jobs for teens may be cut drastically in the new Massachusetts state budget. The committee is circulating a letter to urge legislators to prevent these cuts. Please find our table at coffee hour, and consider whether you feel you wish to add your signature.

The Week Ahead

Sunday, March 22

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. "Who Do You Say I Am?" Lenten Series, Hastings Room
- 10:00 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal, Lindsay Chapel
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Joining Sunday, Karin Case, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Classes
- 12:00 - 12:15 Family Choir Mini-Rehearsal
- 12:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee, Room 22
- 12:30 p.m. The Conversation Project Part II, Hastings Room
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 3:00 p.m. Earth Stewardship Personal Investment/Divestment Workshop, MJH
- 6:00 p.m. Our Whole Lives, Choir Room
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

Monday, March 23

- 7:30 p.m. Executive Council, Hastings Room

Tuesday, March 24

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

Wednesday, March 25

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 6:00 p.m. "Christ Actually" Book Study, Parsonage (44 Garden Street)

Thursday, March 26

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

Sunday,

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.

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE
CONGREGATIONAL
378 YEARS
ON-THE-WAY

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