



Lent

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**

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

A NOTE ABOUT LENTEN WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

Lent is the liturgical season given especially to contemplation and to the cultivation of prayer, study and spiritual discipline. Inspired by the story of Jesus' 40 days of fasting and preparation in the desert wilderness, we are invited on a path of self-awareness and self-engagement with the suffering and separation in our lives, our relationships and in our world. In reflection of this, our worship for the coming weeks will have a more contemplative feel than usual.

We will begin our services with our now-traditional Lenten Introit, an a capella version of the African-American spiritual, I Want Jesus to Walk With Me. Instead of a first Anthem, and just following our confessional silence, the choir will sing the Kyrie, each week by a different composer. (Kyrie is Greek for "Lord, Have Mercy"). After the reading of scripture, we will offer a few moments of silent attentiveness to God's still-speaking word. At least one of the readings will be printed in the bulletin so that you can read on your own.

In addition, each week we will offer a different set of household prayers, for morning and evening. You are invited to read these alone or with your families, throughout the 40 days of Lent. You may wish to follow them with a time for silent reflection or perhaps a short conversation about what they inspire in you. This week's prayer suggestions are as follows:

Morning Prayer

*Merciful God, as I begin this day,
place in me a spirit of generosity
so that I may freely share love, joy,
and encouragement
With those I encounter.
Keep me from quick judgments
so that I leave room for your grace in my life
and in the lives of others.
Make me your faithful disciple
in my words and in my actions,
as well as in the thoughts of my heart;
in Jesus' name. Amen.*

Evening Prayer

*All through the day, Lord Jesus,
you have been present.
As I settle into the routines of home and evening,
I long to be at home in my relationship with you.
Help me to put aside the cares of the day
and the worries of tomorrow
In order to fully enjoy
the peace of your presence now.
I pray that your peace
will also be with those I know
Who have special need of your care tonight,
and I pray for those who lie down this night
without the safety of home or bed,
without enough food or resources.
Bring your light into the surrounding darkness
so that all of us may sleep in the security of your
love. Amen.*

**From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion (Westminster John Knox Press, 2012)*

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC

March 17, 2013

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

VOLUNTARY

Suite du Premier Tou

Pierre Du Mage

SILENCE

INTROIT

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

GREETING (adapted from Psalm 34)

Caitlin Anderson Erickson

L: Welcome, brothers and sisters! Let us bless God at all times.

C: Our souls make their boast in the Lord; let us hear and be glad.

L: O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt God's name together.

C: O taste and see that God is good; happy are those who take refuge in the Lord.

L: God is near the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

**All: Then let us join as one,
in praise of the Holy One who heals and makes us whole!**

*HYMN 1

We Limit Not the Truth of God

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan Smith

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

CHORAL KYRIE

Kyrie Orbis Factor

Sarum Chant

1. *Orbis factor rex aeterne, eleison*
2. *Pietatis fons immense, eleison*
3. *Noxas omnes nostras pelle, eleison*
4. *Christe qui lux es mundi dator vitae, eleison*
5. *Arte laesos daemonis intuere, eleison*
6. *Conservans te credentes confirmansque, eleison*
7. *Patrem tuum teque flamen utrorumque, eleison*
8. *Deum scimus unum atque trinum esse, eleison*
9. *Clemens nobis adsis paraclite ut vivamus in te, eleison.*

1. *Maker of the world, Ruler eternal, have mercy upon us.*
2. *O immense source of pity, have mercy upon us.*
3. *Drive off all our evils, have mercy upon us.*
4. *Christ who art the light of the world and giver of life...*
5. *Consider the wounds produced by the devil's art, ...*
6. *Keeping and confirming thy believers...*
7. *Thou and thy Parent, an equal light...*
8. *We know that God is one and three...*
9. *Thou, merciful unto us, art present with the Holy Spirit that we might live in thee, ...*

**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.*

LENTEN PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us ask for healing, pardon,
and the grace to walk in God's way.

**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.**

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 380

We Are Not Our Own

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING Exodus 18:5-9, 13-27

READING Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16

SERMON

Terry McKinney

*HYMN 387

Thou God of All, Whose Spirit Moves

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Let Thy Merciful Ears, O Lord

Thomas Weelkes

*Let thy merciful ears, O Lord,
be open to the prayers of thy humble servants;
and that they may obtain their petitions
make them to ask such things as shall please thee;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*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.**

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Reebe Girash

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.**

*HYMN 355

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

FRAMING QUESTION FOR CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION

SILENCE

*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

Ruling Bewegt (Sonata I)

Paul Hindemith

The bulletin cover is an image of a ceramic mosaic created by the children of the church and designed by 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, 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 Terry McKinney, Minister of Mental Health & Healing. Assisting with worship are Dan Smith, Senior Minister and Reebee Girash, Interim Minister. Our liturgist is First Church member Caitlin Anderson Erickson. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for Cathy Garnett, whose uncle Bud passed away recently, and whose aunt, Mary Anne, is in hospice care and nearing the end of her life. Please pray for Marian Smith, who is experiencing ongoing health concerns, and for Louise Munding, who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer. Please hold in your prayers those struggling with illness, but who wish not to be named; may they receive the care and support they need as they continue with treatment. Please remember in your prayers the guests currently staying in the First Church Shelter, and all those who are experiencing homelessness. Please also pray for those members of our community who are joyfully anticipating the arrival of a new baby into their lives – that the time between now and then be one of good health and safety for all involved, while also remembering and praying for those members of our community who struggle with infertility, complications in seeking adoption, and other obstacles in their family lives. Following the UCC Calendar of Prayer the Missions & Social Justice Committee requests your prayers for the people of Syria. "In the last decade, Syria was the destination for one million refugees seeking safety from war-torn Iraq. In August 2012, more than one-and-a-half million Syrians were seeking asylum from the escalating violence in their own country. International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)--a partner of the United Church of Christ--has reached out to vulnerable Syrian families. . . . 'Despite the humanitarian efforts underway, hundreds of thousands of people require immediate food assistance in order to survive.'" **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, Reebee Girash, Terry McKinney, or Kirsten Manville by Wednesday morning or fill out one of the prayer request cards found in your pew.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

A SENSE OF SHALOM — READINGS AND PRACTICES FOR LENT Today at 10 a.m., Hastings Room Practicing Sustainability, Part 3 We will turn to the story in Exodus 18 of the help and wisdom brought to Moses by his father-in-law, Jethro. What lessons can we learn from this ancient story about using our gifts and living out our purpose in our work and lives?

Sunday, March 24 (The text for this session will be used throughout the morning, both in worship and in our after church all-congregation conversations in Margaret Jewett Hall.)

LITURGICAL DANCE FOR ALL AGES Today at 10 a.m., Sanctuary 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. All are welcome to participate. Please join us in the sanctuary.

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS Today at 12:30 p.m., in Margaret Jewett Hall Join staff and lay leaders for the final of three after Morning Worship conversations (and lunches!), as we seek to discern where God is leading us next as a congregation. Now that Dan is back from his sabbatical, we'll use this time to consider anew our mission and purpose for this next chapter of our life together. We will also be seeking wisdom and clarity about what staffing models will be most sustainable and sustaining for us all, as we step into our shared future. Child care will be available. The menu for lunch is Chicken Vegetable Soup, Hungarian Sweet and Sour Cabbage (vegetable stock), Lasagna Stew, Crisp Romaine and Parmesan salad with balsamic vinaigrette, and fresh Iggy's Bread *Please note: these sessions will build on Scripture-based reflections shared in the preceding 10 O'clock Hours and Morning Worship services, and are three distinct sessions. Please make every effort to attend all three.*

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).

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, darylbichel@aol.com.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

SOUP AND BREAD BY THE FIRE Wednesday, March 20, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., at the Parsonage, 44 Garden Street Dan and Nancy will host this second of two Lenten themed fireside evenings at 44 Garden Street, First Church's parsonage. Come and be fed in body and soul. We will share a simple meal and join in some casual and Spirit-led conversations. This year, with the help of the first several chapters in Parker Palmer's book *A Hidden Wholeness — The Journey toward an Undivided Life*, we will be exploring our Lenten themes of integrity and wholeness. How do we balance our needs for solitude and community? How do we connect our souls with our roles? And how can we create ongoing spaces that invite us to ask and explore such questions more fully? While not explicitly Christian in content, the book offers some deeply soulful reading and great starting points for conversation. Reading is NOT required to attend the dinners! The first hour will be a time for sharing food and fellowship. The second will be given to a more focused discussion led by Dan. Come just for the food. Come just for the fellowship. Come just for the discussion. Come for any and all! Dan and Nancy are excited to host and catch up with people, especially after being away all fall. RSVP by e-mail to Nancy or Dan, if you know you are coming to one or both. Or, feel free just to show up.

SAVE THE DATE - APRIL 3 -TREMENDOUS HEARTS FILM SCREENING Please save the date and plan to join the Missions and Social Justice Committee the evening of April 3 for a screening of a film about the work Tremendous Hearts does. You will also have the opportunity to meet some of the people who volunteer in South Africa.

FIRST CHURCH TEEN OVERNIGHT Friday, April 5th at 5 p.m. until Saturday, April 6th at 4 pm First Church teens in grades 8-12 and their friends are invited to an overnight lock-in at the church followed by a day of community service for Boston's homeless population in partnership with the Boston Urban Outreach Program. The cost is \$35 per person and scholarship money is available. To sign up or to learn more, contact affiliate minister Julie Rogers at jr Rogers@firstchurchcambridge.org

PASTORAL CARE TEAMS SUMMIT Sunday, April 7, 12:30 p.m., Hastings Room Our Pastoral Care Teams are vital for reminding those of our First Church family who are going through especially difficult or especially joyful times, or are just unable to be with us on Sundays, that they are not alone. The Teams do so by their amazing dedication and generosity of time. On April 7, following Morning Worship, we'll be having a Pastoral Care Teams Summit for Team members — new and old — to share and compare what their experiences have been like, to ask questions, and to talk about ways we can fine tune the work we do. And if you haven't been on a Pastoral Care Team and would like to find out more, this is a great opportunity to do so! If you have questions, contact Terry McKinney, tmckinney@firstchurchcambridge.org.

BOOK GROUP *GOD HAS A DREAM: A VISION OF HOPE FOR OUR TIME*, Tuesday, April 9, and Wednesday, April 24, at 7:00 p.m. Reebee will be leading a book group in April on one of Desmond Tutu's *God Has a Dream* writings. E-mail Reebee, or sign up at Coffee Hour in

March, if you would like to join this book group. We will meet Tuesday, April 9, and Wednesday, April 24, both at 7:00 pm. Books will be available mid-March.

WOMEN'S RETREAT REGISTRATION BEGINS The 2013 Women's Retreat will take place *Friday night April 12th through Sunday noon April 14th* at The Lodge, Craigville Conference Center, Cape Cod. This annual tradition is a wonderful way to get to know other women at the church during a time of fellowship, reflection and renewal. If you are newer to the church feel free to ask others about the event. We'd love to have you join a relaxing weekend on a bluff overlooking the ocean and a salt marsh. The **Janice Jennings Fund** allows all women to attend regardless of ability to pay. **Car pools** are organized on each day so that all may attend. An email invitation with a link to the registration site was sent out earlier this week. **Registration** continues during coffee hour **through Sunday 4/7/13**.

GET INVOLVED

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 Jim Tomlinson in the First Church office by March 24, at jtomlinson@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.

WELCOME SPRING WITH A PLANTING OF COLORFUL PANSIES AND CHOCOLATE Refugee Immigration Ministry (RIM)-Cambridge is selling boxes of six plants for \$3.00. Order by March 30 and pick them up at First Church on April 7 from 12 to 2. Contact Ann Curby (617-876-6255) with questions or to place an order. RIM/Cambridge is also selling Fair Trade chocolate to support refugees arriving in Boston. There is a choice of milk or dark chocolate, for \$3/bar or 2/\$5. We will be ordering cases and will have bars to sell along with the pansies. If you'd like to help us by committing to sell a case, please contact Elizabeth Lovance (lovance@gmail.com) by March 22.

LENTEN CARBON FAST 2013 will be the third year UCC will have provided a day-by-day opportunity to fast from carbon as a Lenten discipline. Initiated by the UCC and endorsed by other denominations and faith groups, people of every Christian perspective – and people who are not Christians – have benefitted from this opportunity to become more conscious and conscientious in their daily lives. Beginning Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent, participants will receive a daily email with the day's suggested carbon-reducing activity. When possible, this will include a quantitative measure of the carbon reduction resulting from the activity. Each daily email will also have a section suggesting a weekly focus for the congregation. The activities range from the very simple: eliminate “vampire” electrical use; to the moderately challenging: take “military showers;” reduce your driving speed; to more long term: buy local produce and consider getting involved in a community garden. To sign up to receive the emails, please visit macucc.org/carbonfast.

PRACTICING 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.

A LOOK AHEAD TO HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday, March 24, 11:00 a.m. Worship (Service begins on the front lawn at 10:55 with procession into the sanctuary). *Last Sunday of Lent. We remember Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem. We greet him with a "parade" of young and old, waving palms and singing traditional songs, as we enter the sanctuary to begin the morning worship service. Come join us on the road to Jerusalem!*

Maundy Thursday, March 28, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary. *We recall the new commandment Jesus gave his disciples, to love one another as he loved us. We remember his last meal with his friends by celebrating Holy Communion. And in a candle-lit then darkened sanctuary we call to mind Jesus' anguish and arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. The service will be led in part by members of our confirmation class. A ritual of foot washing will be offered for anyone who wishes to participate.*

Good Friday, March 29, 7:30 p.m., Lindsay Chapel. *We lament the world's pain and injustice, and we honor the death of Jesus on the cross of shame.*

Easter Sunday, March 31, 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary. *Christ is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed! We celebrate and rejoice in God's gift of new life through the Resurrection of Jesus. With joy-filled worship and special music we lift up the good news that not even death can separate us from the love of God in Christ.*

Easter Sunday Jazz Worship, March 31st, 5:00 p.m. Margaret Jewett Hall *Please join us in an Easter jazz worship and musical meditation. Pianist Carolyn Wilkins and her band will lead us through inspiring selections of African-American spirituals, Jazz standards, and Gospel songs. Celebrate the new life and joy that dawn again on Easter day!*

The Week Ahead

Sunday, March 17

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 10:00 a.m. Lenten study series, Hastings Room
- 10:00 a.m. Liturgical Dance, Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Terry McKinney, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School Classes (PreK-Grade 7)
- 12:15 p.m. Light Lunch, MJH
- 12:30 p.m. Congregational Conversation, MJH
- 1:30 p.m. Earth Stewardship Team, Hastings Room
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

Wednesday, March 20

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Senior Minister's office
- 7:00 p.m. Soup and Bread by the Fire, Parsonage (44 Garden Street)

Thursday, March 21

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

Sunday, March 24

Palm Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Breakfast, MJH
- 11:00 a.m. Multigenerational Morning Worship, Dan Smith & Reebee Girash, preaching
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, MJH
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class
- 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.



The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

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