



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 household prayer. 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 suggestion is as follows:

Psalm 63:1-8*

You are my God and I crave you;
..... all that I am thirsts for you;
every fibre of my being aches for you,
..... like a parched and weary land longing for rain.

Let me stay here in this sacred place
..... and drink in the vision of your strength and
glory.

With every breath I sing your praises,
..... because your rock-solid love
..... is worth more to me than life itself.

I will worship you till my dying day,
..... with my hands reaching out to you
..... and my voice calling your name.

You are like a rich banquet to my soul;
..... like a meal I can't praise enough!

Even in the dead of night
..... I lie awake thinking of you,
..... and savouring each treasured thought.

I snuggle under your wings and sing for joy,
..... for you have been my help and support.

With all that I am I cling to you,
..... and your strong loving arms hold me safe.

*Adapted by Nathan Nettleton

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC

March 3, 2013

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

VOLUNTARY *O Lamb of God, Most Holy* J. S. Bach

INTROIT *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

GREETING (*allusions from Psalm 63 and Isaiah 55*)

One: Come into the sanctuary and look around.
Behold the beauty and splendor of God's people:
All of us – we who are rich and poor, joyful and anxious, loud and quiet,
distracted and focused, doubtful and certain.

All: Behold the beauty and splendor of God's people.

One: We believe God's steadfast love is better than life,

All: So let our lips praise God as long as we live.

One: God says, "Come all who are thirsty, come to the water,
and you that are hungry, come and eat."

All of us are welcome here.

All: So with faith – both bold and timid – let us worship God!

*HYMN 397 *Create in Me, O God*

WORDS OF WELCOME Sarah Higginbotham

INVITATION TO CONFESSION Rachelle LaMaster

SILENCE

CHORAL KYRIE *Kyrie* Vincenzo Pellegrini

*Kyrie, eleison. Christe, eleison. Kyrie, eleison.
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

**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

All children from PreK 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 281

Spirit of the Living God

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF DEACONS

INVITATION

Dan Smith

THE CANDIDATE'S PROMISES

*THE CONGREGATION'S PROMISES

L: Do you affirm this deacon's gifts of care and leadership?

All: We do.

L: Will you receive, respect and respond to his ministry among you?

All: We will.

L: Will you uphold and enfold him and all the deacons of this church with your prayer and gratitude?

All: We will.

*THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

The laying on of hands is an ancient practice by which, through human touch, the Holy Spirit consecrates ("sets apart") and confirms persons called to particular ministries in a community. It is also a sign that these leaders stand in a long and living line of servants who have been called from within their communities for this same ministry.

*ORDINATION PRAYER

*DECLARATION

*INSTALLATION

L: Deacons of the church, since you have been called to this ministry by grace, by grace alone will you be able to carry it out. I charge you to rely on God's grace!

**All: We welcome you in this ministry with hope,
and we install you in joy!
Trust God, seek the Spirit's consolation,
love this congregation with all your hearts,
serve, forbear, witness, and lead,
in the name of the good and gracious God. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Luke 10: 38-42

(Text can be found at the end of the liturgy)

HOMILY

Reebee Girash

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Agnus Dei

Thomas Morley

*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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

PREFACE

SANCTUS

Ho - ly. Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord
God of pow'r and might, Heav'n and earth are full of thy
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Bles - sed is
he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est.

REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

L: Now, O God, we remember Jesus, our brother.

Silence

L: We remember that he fasted and prayed;
he was tempted and tried.

C: He relied on your word to save him.

L: We remember that he was obedient to you
and scorned by the world's powers.

**C: He confounded the haughty
and gave hope to the humble.**

L: We remember that he was betrayed and deserted.
He died between thieves
and was buried in a borrowed grave.

- C: We believe that you gave him new life.
He lives even now, our pardon and peace.**
- L: We remember that he loved us well,
and loved us to the end.
- C: Even on the eve of death,
with danger everywhere,
he ate supper with his friends.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.**

AGNUS DEI

1 O Lamb of God who
6 takes a - way the sin of the world, look mer - ci - ful - ly on
10 us. O Lamb of God who takes a - way the sin of the
14 world, look mer - ci - ful - ly on us. O Lamb of God who
18 takes a - way the sin of the world, grant
22 us thy peace.

SHARING BREAD AND CUP

All who seek to follow Jesus' way of compassion, justice and peace are welcome at this table. It is our custom to eat the bread as it is passed and hold the glasses until everyone has been served, that we may drink as a single act of communion with Christ. A small number of rice crackers have been placed on each communion plate for those who require them because of allergies. Both red wine and white grape juice will be offered.

THANKSGIVING

L Let us give thanks!

**All: Thank you, God,
for the 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,
and the will to serve you all the days of our lives.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

*HYMN 464

Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated

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

O Lamb of God, Most Holy

J. S. Bach

Luke 10: 38-42

38 Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. 39 She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. 40 But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." 41 But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; 42 there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

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 Reebee Girash, Interim Minister. Assisting with worship are Dan Smith, Senior Minister, and Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts. Our liturgist is First Church deacon Rachelle LaMaster. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir. The Call to Worship is adapted from Come All Who are Thirsty: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday of Lent and was written by the Rev. Dr. David Bahr, pastor of Park Hill Congregational United Church of Christ in Denver, Colorado.

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

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HEALING PRAYER Every Communion Sunday, the deacons and ministers offer prayers for healing, peace, and reconciliation for anyone who desires them. The healing prayer teams will be positioned in the chancel (near the baptismal font). If you would like to share a healing prayer, receive an anointing or laying on of hands, please approach one of the teams at the end of the service and make your need known. In addition to healing prayers offered after the service today, members of the First Church community are welcome to contact a minister at any time for prayer or conversation about what is on your mind and heart.

OUTDOOR CHURCH OFFERING On Communion Sundays, it is our practice to prepare 3 dozen lunches for the Outdoor Church to distribute to those in need on the streets of Cambridge. The children of the church lead us in this discipline, leaving worship at 11:20 a.m. on the first Sunday of the month and return with the lunches in time for multigenerational Communion. As always, people of all ages are encouraged to participate by volunteering to deliver the lunches to the Cambridge Common at 1:00 p.m. Speak with Sarah Higginbotham or the Deacon serving as Head Greeter today if you'd like to get involved in the ongoing mission project.

A SENSE OF SHALOM — READINGS AND PRACTICES FOR LENT Today at 10 a.m., Hastings Room Practicing Sustainability, Part 1. Join us for a Bible study on the story of Mary and Martha from Luke. We will reflect together on limits and boundaries of our often very full and very fulfilling lives at home, at work, and in the church community. What's too much and what's missing? What might these two sisters in Luke's gospel teach us about the difference between serving Jesus and kneeling at his feet? (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., Choir Room 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 choir room today and on March 10 & 17.

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS Today, March 3, and Sundays, March 10 and 17, 12:30 p.m., in Margaret Jewett Hall Join staff and lay leaders for 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. Lunch will be chicken tortilla soup with crispy tortillas and lime garnish; Hungarian sweet and sour cabbage; baked potato, cauliflower and low-fat cheddar cheese soup with turkey bacon garnish; and pepperoni and cheese flatbread pizza. *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, daryl**bichel@aol.com**.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

SOUP AND BREAD BY THE FIRE Wednesdays, March 6 and 20, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., at the Parsonage, 44 Garden Street During Lent this year Dan and Nancy will be hosting two 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. These Lenten parsonage gatherings have become something of a First Church tradition, though each year has a different feel or theme. 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. A limited number of copies will be available for purchase at the church on the first or second Sunday of Lent. 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.

GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION (GBIO) PRESS CONFERENCE

Thursday, March 14, 12:00 -1:00 p.m. at the Church on the Hill (140 Bowdoin Sq) The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization will convene a press conference of 250 GBIO members to announce our revenue reform campaign. Immediately after, from 1-2 p.m., we will be across the street at the State House to hold critically-important advocacy meetings with members of the legislature. Please talk to Dan Smith or Carolyn White if you can join us for the Press Conference and/or if you are interested in meeting with legislators. There will be a brief training and instructions just following the Press Conference.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION WITH REEBEE GIRASH Just a chance to have coffee and agenda-free conversation! On the other hand, if this time don't work for you, I am always open to making appointments with parishioners.

◆ **Friday, March 15, 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.**

Harvard Divinity School Rock Café

◆ **Tuesday, April 23, 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.**

Porter Square Panera

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.

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

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. We invite you to join us as we commit to fasting from carbon during Lent. 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.

IMMIGRANT VOICES ON IMMIGRATION REFORM On Monday, March 4, from 4:30 - 9:00, at BU School of Theology at 745 Commonwealth Ave (next to Marsh Chapel) a coalition of faith-based and immigrant groups will present an evening of immigrant voices on immigration reform. The program is free. At a time when immigration is at the center of national debate, this event will offer church, seminary, and university communities a chance to hear directly from those most affected by current policies, and will place that conversation within a biblical and theological framework. There will be ample time for Q&A with presenters. The program starts at 5 p.m. with the film *Brother Towns/Pueblos Hermanos*, a documentary of the stories of people from a town in Guatemala and one in Florida, linked by immigration. From 7:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. a panel of religious and immigrant rights group leaders in this region will discuss Immigration Reform. For more information: 617-686-2452.

The Week Ahead

Sunday, March 3

- 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, Reebee Girash, preaching, Installation of Deacons, Communion in Pews
- 11:20 a.m. Outdoor Church sandwich-making (PreK-Grade 7)
- 12:15 p.m. Light Lunch, MJH
- 12:30 p.m. Congregational Conversation, MJH
- 1:00 p.m. Outdoor Church, Cambridge Common
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

Wednesday, March 6

- 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 7

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

Sunday, March 10

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. Lenten study series, Hastings Room
- 10:00 a.m. Liturgical Dance, Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Dan Smith, 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
- 1:30 p.m. Discernment and Formation Team
- 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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FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL

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