



Eastertide

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**

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

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**C: Gracious God, disturb us with your mercy,
And forgive us when we fail to love as you love us.
Teach us again that your kingdom is near.
Encounter us in everyone we meet along the journey,
show us that your peace is real in our lives, and in our world.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 310 *Wonder of Wonders, Here Revealed*

SHARING IN BAPTISM

INVITATION

Katie Omberg and Dan Smith

THE BAPTISMAL VOWS

THE CONGREGATION'S PROMISES

L: Jesus Christ welcomes everyone
who desires new life
into the faith and family of Christ.
Do you who witness this sacrament
promise these children your love, support and care?

C: We do!

L: Will you help them grow in faith
and witness with them to the love and mercy of Christ?

C: We will, with the help of God!

L: Do you renew your own promises
to live in the freedom of Christ, and resist the power of evil?

C: We do, with the help of God!

BLESSING OF THE WATER

Rev. George Peters

THE BAPTISMS OF ELIZA JANE CLARK, PEARL EMILIA COFFIN, AND JAKE
WILLIAM KRAFSIG

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: Sisters and brothers, let us give thanks!

**All: We thank you, God,
for these precious lives entrusted to our care,
and for the waters of baptism
that mark us as your people.
Thank you for the gifts
your Spirit gives us in this sacrament,
and for life in the church
where we help each other grow.
Give to these children strength for life's journey,
courage in the time of trial,
the joy of faith, the freedom of love,
and the comfort of everlasting life.
These things we ask, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

PRESENTATION

All children from Preschool to 7th grade are now invited to leave for an Earth Stewardship Project. Teachers will meet children at the side door to accompany them to the Choir Room. Parents can meet their children in the Choir Room after worship.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Acts 4:1-13

SERMON

Karin Case

*HYMN 400

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT OF CONCERN

Jonathan Page and Nancy Kilburn

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

L: God be with you.

C: And also with you.

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.)

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.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Wade in the Water

Spiritual,
arr. Sigrid Schulz-Kokerbeck

*EASTER DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**O Jesus, risen now to bless,
do thou thyself our hearts possess;
that we may give thee all our days
the willing tribute of our praise! Amen.**

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 242

God of Life

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Sending Forth

Paul Sawyer

*We have been gathered from the world to be judged and received.
Now we are sent forth into that world,
to be the scattered church of Jesus Christ,
declaring through our word and deed,
"The Lord is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!"*

VOLUNTARY

Christ Lag in Todesbanden

J. S. Bach

The bulletin cover image depicts our sanctuary on Easter morning. The butterfly has been used by Christians for centuries as a symbol of the Resurrection of Jesus. Drawing 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 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 Karin Case, Minister. Assisting with worship are Dan Smith, Senior Minister, Katie Omberg, Ministerial Intern, Martha Dyer, First Church Deacon, and Rev. George Peters, grandfather of Eliza Jane Clark. Our liturgist is First Church member Johanna Wendelin. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir.

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?" CONTINUED Today at 10:00 a.m., Hastings Room After a rich Lenten season of congregational reflection on the question "Who Do You Say That I Am?", we will gather to name some of what we learned together thus far and to consider next steps for this Easter season and beyond. Dan Smith and Karin Case will lead the session in the Hastings Room.

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.

SERAPHIM SINGERS CONCERT - JERUSALEM: HOLY, DISPUTED, LAMENTED Today at 3:00 p.m. (Composer panel discussion at 2:30 p.m.), Sanctuary Music inspired by the holy city of Jerusalem, including ancient psalms, world premieres by Israeli composer Avner Dorman and Boston's Joseph Ness, and works by Aaron Copland, James Woodman, Mikołaj Zieliński, Manuel de Sumaya, Volker Wangenheim, and more. Tickets for Seraphim concerts are \$20 (regular) and \$15 (seniors and students) and are available at the door. Daryl Bichel, Night Song Director, is a member of the Seraphim Singers.

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. This year's program concludes with a celebration on May 10, during our regular meeting time.

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 from the Liber Usualis, Chant setting in the lydian mode for compline by Bichel, Hymn: Vidi aquam, arr. by Victoria, Psalm 121, set by Bichel Motets by Palestrina: Sicut cervus, Sitivit anima mea, and Regina caeli laetare, Canticum vespertinum with Ben Schwendener, piano and Sarah Hughes, alto sax. We will not be using incense this Sunday. N.B. Beginning with the first Sunday in May, the starting time for Night Song will be 8:30 PM.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

FAMILY NIGHT Tuesday, April 28 at 5:30 p.m., Sage Hall Families with young children will gather for a simple supper and some time to connect and share our stories with each other. Pasta and sauce will be provided; you bring something to share, such as a salad, fruit, bread, or a dessert. All families with young children are welcome - RSVP to Sarah Higginbotham if you can join us this time.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION: LIGHT AND DARKNESS Sunday, May 3 at 10am, Hastings Room What role does darkness play in our spiritual growth? Join Ministerial Intern Taj Smith in the exploration of some different ways that both darkness and light are used in scripture to signal new life.

LITURGICAL DANCE REHEARSALS Sundays May 3, 10, and 17 at 10:00 a.m. Valerie Blanc will be leading a liturgical dance ensemble piece during Morning Worship on Sunday, May 17, finding inspiration in the *sijo* form of poetry introduced to First Church by Dave McCann. There is still time to join the final three rehearsals in May. No dance experience necessary, just a desire to connect with others and offer a creative expression in worship.

FEEDING SUNDAY MAY 3 Every year on the first Sunday of May First Church celebrates our relationship with the Outdoor Church by bringing the children's practice of sandwich-making into the Sanctuary for our Communion worship. On Sunday, May 3, the tables will be laid with sandwich fixings, bananas, and chocolate treats, and the congregation will be invited to participate in this social justice ministry. Follow the lead of our children, who have faithfully prepared lunches for homeless men and women every Communion Sunday for almost a decade. Community Minister Kate Layzer, founder of The Friday Café, will lead, and we will also take a moment during worship to celebrate Kate as Community Minister for Street Outreach, and her ongoing commitment to aiding people experiencing homelessness.

FOOD PANTRY AT RINDGE TOWERS COLLECTION MAY 3 Put spaghetti sauce (in plastic), peanut butter, canned tomatoes, etc. on your shopping list. The 3 "uns": unexpired, unbreakable, unopened. Bring your generous contributions next Sunday.

GENDER IN THE LITURGY Sunday, May 10, 10:00 a.m., Hastings Room The 10 O'Clock Hour on May 10 will pick up on some of the topics discussed in Katie Omberg's "Learning About Gender" series in January and will apply our new knowledge from those discussions to our liturgy. Come prepared to talk about ways First Church's weekly and sacramental liturgies can be more inclusive of all genders. We're not leaving out God the Father, just making room for God the Mother and God the Parent!

FURTHERING THE CONVERSATION: AFTER THE CONVERSATION PROJECT

Sunday, May 31 at 12:30 p.m., Hastings Room This event was spawned by the Conversation Project workshops held here in March, which dealt with end-of-life decisions and discussions. We'll talk about how the conversations went, as well as the lingering questions from those conversations. Join Taj Smith at this preliminary meeting leading up to a series in the fall.

WEDNESDAY CHRISTIAN MEDITATION Christian Meditation is the ancient practice of opening the heart in silence to the indwelling presence of God. Join the circle any Wednesday from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Lindsay Chapel. No experience is required, but all experience is welcome. Reach Kate Layzer at klayzer@gmail.com if you'd like to know more.

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.

REGISTER NOW FOR THE 216TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CONFERENCE Friday, June 12, 2015 to Saturday, June 13, 2015 at University of Massachusetts, Amherst (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. Come to reconnect with friends, for the dynamic preaching, fellowship, and the business of the Conference. 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). Please register now at <http://www.macucc.org/eventdetail/189516> as this public event is sure to fill up very soon!

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY IS JUNE 14 - AND A PICNIC! Since September, four teenage Confirmands have met together with Dan, Karin, and Sarah for study and conversation, exploring big topics of Christian theology and examining their own beliefs. On Sunday, June 14, we will celebrate their journey and their personal decisions about being confirmed and joining the church. Morning worship will also include a time to recognize our 4th grade Godly Play “graduates” who will receive Bibles, and a time to celebrate our Church School teachers and Youth Group leaders. We’ll end the morning with an All-Church Picnic on the front lawn, weather permitting - don’t miss it!

SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS

KIDS4PEACE BOSTON: INTERFAITH FUNDRAISING WALK – CHRISTIAN, MUSLIM, AND JEWISH TEENS WALK TO RAISE FUNDS FOR PEACE IN BOSTON AND JERUSALEM Today, 12:45 to 4:30 p.m. Kids4Peace Boston is a community of Christian, Muslim, and Jewish teens committed to learning about and respecting those who are different from themselves and working together to make a more peaceful Boston and Jerusalem. This interfaith walk is a 3.5 mile fundraising walk in which Jewish, Muslim, and Christian teens and adults walk from the Islamic Society of Boston - Cambridge to Temple B’nai Brith in Somerville with a stop at First Church in Cambridge in the middle. If you would like to walk with the group (suggested donation of \$25) or volunteer to support the event, please email Matt Loper, K4PB Executive Director, at mloper@kids4peaceboston.org or Peggy Stevens, Program Director at peggy@kids4peaceboston.org To find out more and to get involved, please visit: <http://kids4peaceboston.org/steppingtowardpeace/partners/> Peace, Salaam, Shalom!

RALLY FOR YOUTH JOBS Monday, April 27, 4-5:30 p.m., State House, Boston (Park Street Station, Red Line) Join in advocating for increased funding for youth jobs in the 2016 Massachusetts State budget. Cuts and other factors have significantly reduced, by about 20%, the number of youth jobs that will be funded in the 2016 budget currently under consideration by the Massachusetts House of Representatives. This rally, organized by the Youth Jobs Coalition and supported by the Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, will help demonstrate broad support for important and effective youth jobs programs. Add your voice to those of young people and their advocates. Contact Ann McCann, ann.mccann44@gmail.com, for more information.

THE MANY FACES OF ADDICTION: WHAT WE SHOULD KNOW Sunday, May 3, 2:00–5:00 pm at Temple Isaiah, 55 Lincoln St. in Lexington This program is co-sponsored by McLean Hospital and the Mental Health Initiative of Temple Isaiah, Lexington. Subjects to be covered include addiction as illness, effective treatments, and important social issues such as medical marijuana and legalization. The format will also include a speaker with lived experience, a question and answer session, and small group discussions. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Kevin Hill, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and Director of the Substance Abuse Consultation Service at McLean Hospital in Belmont. Admission is free and refreshments will be served; the event is handicap-accessible. For more information, e-mail generalinfo@templeisaiah.net or call 781-862-7160.

COOPERATIVE METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES (CMM) ANNUAL DINNER Thursday, May 7, 6:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall All are invited to attend this year's CMM Annual Dinner, hosted by First Church in Cambridge, Thursday, May 7, at 6:00 p.m., in Margaret Jewett Hall. Guest speaker will be the Minister of Harvard Memorial Church, the Rev. Dr. Jonathan L. Walton, on the topic "Religion and Justice in America." The program will include in addition a performance by the Boston Children's Choir. Come and enjoy a hearty dinner, and meet with a diverse interfaith, spiritual, and friendly group of concerned people.

MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE Sunday, May 10 at 8:00 a.m. (approx.), Town Field Park, Fields Corner, 1520 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester (Fields Corner Station on the Red Line) Join with people from all over Greater Metropolitan Boston in *Walking the Walk to End Violence*, in support of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. Make a gift and walk 3.6 miles through the bustling neighborhoods of Dorchester. The FIRST CHURCH CAMBRIDGE team is established now on the website mothersdaywalk4peace.org. Please go to that site to register to walk--virtual walkers are welcome!--and use the dropdown menu to identify yourself as a member of "First Church Cambridge" team. Proceeds will benefit the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, which serves victims' families and works to prevent violence. *Getting there:* We'll plan to meet at the church to travel together on the T. Please contact either Ann McCann or Jean Bellow for more information or to let us know you're planning to join us.

SAVE THE DATE — GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION GUBERNATORIAL ACTION May 12, 7:00 p.m. Trinity Church in Boston's Copley Square Over 1500 GBIO leaders will gather for an inspiring evening of love, power and justice! After many months of building cross-class, cross-cultural, interfaith relationships, GBIO is now ready to launch a new platform for public action. We've heard our members' stories and struggles concerning housing affordability, healthcare, public education, gun violence and the need for criminal justice reform. On May 12, we are putting our faith into action by inviting city and statewide leaders to work with us around specific next steps. Governor Baker, Speaker DeLeo, Mayor Walsh, Attorney General Healy and other power players have already confirmed their attendance. **First Church has committed to bringing 80 of our own members and friends** to this important and powerful evening that you don't want to miss. We might even hire a bus to get us there together. If you're interested in attending or have any questions, please contact Ministerial Intern, Taj Smith at taj@firstchurchcambridge.org.

The Week Ahead

Sunday, April 26

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Sacrament of Baptism, Karin Case, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Earth Stewardship Creative Arts Project, Choir Room
- 12:30 p.m. Executive Council Meeting, Hastings Room
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 6:00 p.m. Our Whole Lives, Friends Meeting House
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

Monday, April 27

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

Tuesday, April 28

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

Wednesday, April 29

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 12:30 p.m. Sexton Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 6:00 p.m. Christian Meditation, Lindsay Chapel
- 6:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study Reunion Gathering, Parsonage (44 Garden Street)

Thursday, April 30

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

Sunday, May 3

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Multigenerational Holy Communion and Outdoor Church Sandwich Making, Kate Layzer, leading (A time for healing prayer offered immediately following service)
- 12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Room 22
- 1:00 p.m. Outdoor Church, Cambridge Common
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 6:00 p.m. Our Whole Lives, Friends Meeting House
- 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.

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

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FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL

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