



Eastertide

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC
May 12, 2013
ASCENSION SUNDAY

VOLUNTARY *Prelude and Fugue in G Major* J. S. Bach

*HYMN C-15 *Lord Jesus, Come*

*GREETING Melanie Beach

L: Friends, God's Living Word proclaims, "Come!"

C: **And we, God's people, respond, "Come!"**

L: Are you thirsty or weary? "Come!"

C: **Spirit of God among us, "Come!"**

L: Let us drink and eat freely from the waters and the tree of life. Come!

C: **Amen! We come singing the praise of our God.**

WORDS OF WELCOME Reebee Girash

MOMENT OF CONCERN Life and Legacy Retreat

ANTHEM *Joy Flows Down* Patricia Van Ness

*Joy flows down like radiant moon on hidden and quiet forest.
O Creator of all joy, all Earthly beauty unceasingly extols you.
May my heart find words to sing a hymn of love to you, O God, forever.*

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

C: **Lord of Love, too often we forget that we are yours.**

We forget that in you, we are each other's.

**We confess that we let shame constrict our hearts,
fear make us small,**

**and doubt fill us with despair,
until we no longer see you in all things**

and we resist bringing you into every moment.

Open our eyes to see you as you really are –

**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.*

**already glorious, already within us.
Open our lives to share that good news with others. 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 (*insert*) *Bright Morning Stars*

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING John 17:20-26

READING Revelation 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20-21

SERMON Adwoa Lewis-Wilson

*HYMN 385 *Shadow and Substance*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Creation* William Billings

*When I with pleasing wonder stand,
And all my frame survey,
Lord, 'tis thy work; I own thy hand
Thus built my humble clay.
Our life contains a thousand springs,
And dies if one be gone.
Strange that a harp of thousand strings
Should keep in tune so long*

*EASTER DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Dan Smith

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 347

Go Now in Peace

*Please sing through once in unison,
and then the choir will lead us in singing the hymn as a round.*

*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

Allegretto

Felix Mendelssohn

The bulletin cover is an image of a ceramic mosaic created by the children of the church and designed by Perry Neubauer. The sunrise depicted recalls the morning of Jesus' resurrection when the women disciples visited the empty tomb at dawn. The sunrise theme also symbolizes Jesus' life and ministry as the Light of the World.

BRIGHT MORNING STARS

TRADITIONAL

Moderately ♩ = 88

A D A D A

1. Bright - morn - ing stars are ris - ing, Bright -
 2. Oh - where are our dear fa - thers? Oh -
 3. Oh, - where are our dear moth - ers? Oh, -

morn - ing stars are ris - ing, Bright, morn - ing stars are
 where are our dear fa - thers? They're down in the val - ley a -
 where are our dear moth - ers? They've gone to heav - en a -

ris - ing, Day is a - break - ing in my soul.
 pray - ing Day is a - break - ing in my soul
 shout - ing Day is a - break - ing in my soul

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 Adwoa Lewis-Wilson, First Church member. Assisting with worship are Dan Smith, Senior Minister and Reebee Girash, Interim Minister. Our liturgist is Melanie Beach. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, 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.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

LIVING FAITH AND FAMILY LIFE Today and Sundays, May 19 and 26 at 10:00 a.m., Hastings Room - Our congregation has recently engaged in conversations about "Learning, Living, and Sharing" the way of Jesus. But "Learning, Living and Sharing" are not just for grownups! We invite parents and caregivers of young children to a discussion series on faith formation at home. Topics may include: How should we engage Bible stories? How do our own faith journeys impact our parenting? What are age-appropriate responses to hard theological questions? Is Sabbath something we can practice as a family? Are there table graces beyond "God is great, God is good...?" When can our kids engage in service projects? Don't currently have children at home? We invite uncles and aunts, grandparents and caring grownups to offer wisdom and support in these conversations. Questions? Speak to Sarah Higginbotham (shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org) or Reebee Girash (rgirash@firstchurchcambridge.org).

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).

CONFIRMATION CLASS (8th - 9th graders) Today at 4:00 p.m., Dan Smith's office This year the 8th and 9th graders of the church are walking together on the journey of Confirmation. Confirmation Sunday will be June 9.

NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Today at 8:30 p.m., Sanctuary Night Song continues through the spring and summer - but with several changes. The starting time will be 8:30 p.m., as sunset is occurring later now. The setting will be simpler, with no icons, very few candles and no incense. And there will be no jazz instrumental component, making it 30 minutes in length and more traditional in nature. The music will be Gregorian chant and Renaissance polyphony. 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.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

DROP-IN HAVRUTA BIBLE STUDY - SEARCHING FOR WHOLENESS, ALONE AND TOGETHER These past weeks our congregation has been asking ourselves a deep set of questions. How do we sustain ourselves with renewed balance? How do we sustain ourselves toward greater wholeness? How do we do so alone and together? This conversation will continue to unfold in many ways. One place it will continue is in a *havruta* group meeting Thursday

mornings at 7:00-8:45 a.m. If there's a text that captures our focus, it comes from John's Gospel: *Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well.* We invite you to come and sit by the well. Come once. Come twice. Come every week. Come if you've done *havruta* before. (*Havruta* is Hebrew for "befriend.") Come if you've never tried it. Simply come and sit with us. We begin with breakfast. Several members of the group will take turns sharing a text, not necessarily Biblical, perhaps a poem or short reading. We explore the text through dialogue and conversation. And we listen for insights, images, common language to recognize more fully the grace of balance and wholeness, alone and together. For more information, contact Brent Coffin at brentbcoffin@gmail.com or Gaylen Morgan at photongm@comcast.net.

DOCUMENTARY SCREENING Thursday, May 16 at 7:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall Please join First Church friend Arleigh Prelow who will be screening her life-long work, a film, entitled "The Psalm of Howard Thurman" Rev. Howard Thurman (1899 – 1981) was an influential American author, philosopher, theologian, educator and civil rights leader. He was the Dean of Chapel at Howard University and Boston University for more than twenty years. He wrote twenty-one books, and in 1944 helped found a multicultural church. Carolyn Wilkins, Music Director for the Jazz Worship Service, will provide some musical accompaniment.

PENTECOST SUNDAY Next Sunday commemorates the day when the gift of God's Spirit fell on the early followers of Jesus, and everyone experienced the universal reach and reconciling power of God's mercy. In the weeks that follow we meditate on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, a member of the Church, and a witness in the world. This season is also called "Ordinary Time." It teaches us the sacred character of our ordinary lives and duties. *You are invited to please wear red to morning worship; red symbolizes the fire of God's Spirit.*

FLOWER PLANTING ON PENTECOST The additional flowers in the our sanctuary today are in honor of the mothers in our lives, and reflect a vision of peace on our world. They will be planted in the front yard next Sunday after worship. If you would like to participate please contact Laurie Friedman (friedmanlau@aim.com), and bring your gardening gloves and trowels with you to church next Sunday.

MONICA MAHER ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL AT FIRST CHURCH Wednesday, May 22 at 7:30 p.m., Hastings Room First Church member Monica Maher will have her Ecclesiastical Council. This is one of the final steps in her ordination process in the UCC. If you know members of other UCC churches in the area, encourage them to attend! And, if you can help 'host' the event by providing food or making phone calls, contact Linda Ziebell or Reebee Girash.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION Reebee will hold office hours in the community on Friday, May 31, from 9:00–10:30 a.m. at the 1369 Coffee House in Central Square. No agenda—just come and chat!

LIFE AND LEGACY RETREAT Saturday, June 1, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. *Okay, so you know how you would spend \$100,000, if you had it. Now, tell us, "How would you like to be remembered?"* Come to the Life and Legacy Retreat sponsored by the Stewardship Committee on Saturday, June 1, 10 a.m. -3 p.m. We will be discussing a lot more than money! Participants will have a chance to explore what it means to have a good life and a good death. A good life means finding comfort with our dreams, hopes and fears. A good death can occur with a little practical foresight. Specific workshops will be offered addressing all the paperwork involved at end of life, how to organize a memorial service or funeral, where to find good health care, and planned giving. Lunch will be provided. Register on line at the First Church website (<http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/about-us/stewardship-giving>) or email Tim Seery at tseery@college.harvard.edu by May 27. If you have any questions feel free to contact a Stewardship member: Deric Corwin, James Greaney (Chair), Beth Loomis, Elizabeth Lovance, Karen McArthur, Anne McClintock, or Tim Seery.

EARTH STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY RESCHEDULED FOR JUNE 2 As part of our observation of Mission 4/1 Earth, First Church observe a creation-themed Sunday on June 2. You are invited to consider the earth – and your carbon footprint – as you make your way to church on June 2. This is a great day to BIKE, BUS, CARPOOL OR WALK to church. At 10:45 on the walkway to the playground entrance, join us for a Blessing of the Bicycles! During worship, we will celebrate Creation and commit to being Earth Stewards. After church, we'll have an Earth Stewardship Fair in Margaret Jewett Hall and outside.

ISRAEL PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE REPORT Sundays, June 2 and 9 at 10 a.m., Hastings Room Please join Rev. Dan Smith and our *Havruta* Scholar-in-Residence, Rev. Brent Coffin, in the Hastings Room for two Sundays as they share observations and reflections from their recent trip to Israel and Palestine. This past January, and as part of Dan's sabbatical, these two long-time colleagues and friends spent time in Jerusalem, the Galilee and the West Bank, including Bethlehem and Ramallah. The trip was part spiritual pilgrimage, part socio-political education and part *havruta* text study. Come hear their stories and their questions, and feel free to bring your own! Brent and Dan will also share some ideas for how we might continue to reflect theologically on our ties to this region and the ongoing conflict there.

FIRST CHURCH MUSICALE Sunday, June 2 in Margaret Jewett Hall The Musicale is coming up! Mark your calendars: Early crowd at 5:00, potluck at 6:00, then late crowd after that. If you are interested in performing, you can email Mike Plum at mikeplum@gmail.com or call him at 857-523-0441.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY WITH ALL-CHURCH PICNIC - JUNE 9 On June 9, as the church program year comes to a close, we will celebrate with our Confirmation Class of eight young men and women as they complete one step on their ongoing faith journey and mark the end of the confirmation process. The Church School will assist in the liturgy that morning, and we will recognize and thank the teachers and leaders who have walked alongside our children throughout the year. Following worship, we'll gather across Garden Street on the Cambridge

Common for our annual All-Church Picnic, complete with an all-ages kickball game. Stay tuned for details on how you can contribute to the picnic fare. For now, plan to bring your lawn chairs, picnic blankets, and your kickball skills to church on June 9!

GET INVOLVED

CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHER RECRUITMENT, 2013–14 The Church School is actively recruiting teachers for the 2013–14 program year. Consider sharing your time and talents with the children of the church by walking with them as they hear the stories and engage with the teachings of our shared tradition. Learn a bit more about your own faith as you articulate the messages we seek to share with the youngest among us. Joining a teaching team requires just two Sunday mornings or less per month, plus a handful of teacher training meetings and a bit of preparation with your co-leaders. Please contact Sarah Higginbotham to learn more and to volunteer.

EXPLORING GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND IDENTITY Although our culture now recognizes many more types of sexual and gender expression than it did not very long ago, many people, including some at First Church, still have a hard time fitting their experiences into even these expanded categories. The social pressure to do so, and the expectations other people bring to interactions, can raise some tough questions of identity. Who am I when I don't feel like I fit into the basic categories of male or female, of gay or straight? First Church will soon be hosting a small group gathering (date to be arranged based on interest and availability of participants) that will provide a safe, non-judgmental, and confidential setting in which to share the experience of living in a world wherein feelings about one's gender and/or sexuality don't always seem to "fit". If interested, please call or email Rev. Dan Smith who has been working with church members on how to open a safe space for this conversation.

BOSTON PRIDE Saturday, June 8 in Boston Join First Church and march with other "Open and Affirming" UCC churches in celebrating the 43rd anniversary of Boston Pride! Whether you are gay or straight, PRIDE is a joyous opportunity to express the extravagant, inclusive love of God for all people. The day begins at 9:30 a.m. with gathering music at Old South Church (645 Boylston St) and an interfaith service of worship at 10:00, also at Old South. We will then gather on Tremont Street between 11:00 and 11:30 (rain or shine). The parade begins at noon with a minute of silence, and kicks off at 12:01 p.m. Contact Jim Rissling, james.rissling@gmail.com, for more information or to let us know you're coming. When we learn more details from the parade organizers, we'll let you know the exact location on Tremont Street where our group will meet. Look for updates and more opportunities to participate in the bulletins and on our website. The theme of the 2013 Boston Pride celebration is: *Moving Forward... Proud, Strong, United.* Please visit Boston Pride's website (<http://www.bostonpride.org/>) for more information.

The Week Ahead

Sunday, May 12

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation for Adults: Living Faith and Family Life
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Adwoa Lewis-Wilson, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School (grades PreK-7)
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, MJH
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

Monday, May 13

- 2:30 p.m. Building the Beloved Community, Dan Smith's office
- 6:00 p.m. Building & Grounds Committee, Room 204

Tuesday, May 14

- 7:30 p.m. Nominating/Gifts Discernment Committee, Dan Smith's office

Wednesday, May 15

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 7:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee, Dan Smith's office

Thursday, May 16

- 7:00 a.m. *Havruta* Bible Study (drop-in - all welcome), Hastings Room
- 7:30 p.m. Documentary Screening - *The Psalm of Howard Thurman*, Margaret Jewett Hall

Sunday, May 19

Pentecost

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation for Adults: Living Faith and Family Life
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Dan Smith Preaching
- 11:15 a.m. Church School Classes
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, MJH
- 12:30 p.m. Newcomers Lunch, Hastings Room
- 12:30 p.m. Teacher Training, Library
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 5:00 p.m. Jazz Worship, MJH
- 8:30 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

Senior Minister	Rev. Dan Smith, 617-547-2724, ext. 23 dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org
Interim Minister	Rev. Reebee Girash, 617-547-2724, ext. 26 rgirash@firstchurchcambridge.org
Minister of Mental Health & Healing	Rev. Terry McKinney, 617-299-1617 tmckinney@firstchurchcambridge.org
Affiliate Minister of Stewardship and Finance	Rev. Karen McArthur, 617-547-2724, ext. 22 treasurer@firstchurchcambridge.org
Affiliate Minister of Youth & Young Adults	Julie Rogers, 617-547-2724 jrogers@firstchurchcambridge.org
<i>Havruta</i> Scholar-in-Residence	Rev. Brent Coffin
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
Staff Composer	Patricia Van Ness
Shelter Director	Jim Stewart, 617-661-1873 jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org
Parish Administrator	Kirsten Manville, 617-547-2724, ext. 21 parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org
Administrative Assistant	Jim Tomlinson, 617-547-2724, ext. 41 jtomlinson@firstchurchcambridge.org
Sextons	Ronaldo dos Santos, Tina Quimby, George Williams, Kimmel Williams, 617-642-3980



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL

United Church of Christ

11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138

617-547-2724