



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 13, 2012
THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

VOLUNTARY

*HYMN 3 *God of Abraham and Sarah*

*GREETING Jim Rissling

L: Sisters and Brothers, break forth! Break forth into song and praise!

C: Let the trees and the floods clap their hands!

L: Let the hills and all creation sing together!

C: God is present with us, here and now!

L: Then, let us make a joyful sound! Let us pray!

*PRAYER OF PRAISE

**C: Living God, you are a new song,
a new joy, a new love, a new day!
The earth and all that is in it
sings your praise in every season!
Praise is the healing, God,
and praise, the glory!
Lift our songs to the heavens and
let our alleluias flood the skies!**

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan Smith

ANTHEM

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**C: God give us strength
to refrain from the unkind silence
born of hardness of heart,
from the unkind silence**

**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.*

**that clouds the serenity of understanding,
and that is the enemy of peace.
Give us strength, God,
to be the first to tender the healing word
and the renewal of friendship,
that the bonds of amity and the flow of love
may further your eternal and loving purpose. Amen.**

(adapted from Cecil Hunt)

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 391

God Made From One Blood

Children from PreK to 8th grade are invited to leave now for their Church School Classes. 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.

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

RESPONSIVE PSALM 98

L: Sing a new song to God, who has done marvelous things.

**C: whose right hand and holy arm
have gained victory.**

L: God has made known the victory;
he has revealed vindication in the sight of the nations.

**C: God remembered in love and faithfulness
the house of Israel.**

L: All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.

**C: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

L: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

**C: With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before God.**

L: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.

**C: Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy**

L: at the presence of God, who comes
to judge the earth.

**C: God will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.**

READING John 15: 9-17

SERMON Dan Smith

*HYMN 78 *There is Love All Around You*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*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.**

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD Karen McArthur

L: God be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

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.)

**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 27 *Now Thank We All Our God*

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

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 hope that you will stay for a bit after worship for refreshments and conversation. (Follow the crowd.) 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 speak to one of the ministers after church, or visit us on the web at www.firstchurchcambridge.org

Large print bulletins and assistive listening devices are available.

Please ask a greeter for assistance.

Activity packets for children's use during worship are also available near the sanctuary doors. Nursery care for infants and toddlers (through age 4) is located down the hallway and up four stairs to the door on the right. The worship service is also broadcast in the Hastings Room, across from the sanctuary entrance.

PREACHING TODAY IS Dan Smith, Senior Minister. Assisting with worship is Karen McArthur, Affiliate Minister of Stewardship & Finance. Our liturgist is Jim Rissling, co-chair of the Building & Grounds Committee. Daryl Bichel, Director of Night Song, is playing the organ.

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.

COMBINED CHOIR NEXT SUNDAY On May 20, the First Church Choir will be joined by the Chancel Choir of United Parish in Brookline to sing together Ralph Vaughan Williams' stirring and beautiful Mass in G Minor for Double Choir. This noble work was conceived for a worship service, but is now most often performed in concert since most church choirs are not large enough to meet its musical demands; combining two choirs together makes this possible, with a mix of Cambridge and Brookline singers in both choirs. This means that today, May 13, the First Church Choir is in Brookline to sing the piece for the service there.

PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE In addition to our recent 10:00 o'clock series on prayer in its various forms and traditions, some of you have participated in *Lectio Divina* or had recent experience with *Havruta*, two forms of praying with Scripture. Join Dan Smith and Terry McKinney for the 10:00 o'clock hour today in the Hastings Room, as we experience these prayer traditions further and explore their similarities and differences.

3rd SESSION INTRODUCTION TO "CENTERING PRAYER: A TRAINING COURSE FOR OPENING TO THE PRESENCE OF GOD" Since about 20 attendees at prior sessions expressed interest in more viewing and discussion of some highlights of the course, a 3rd session will be held at Christian Formation hour, Sunday, May 20. About half of this group directly expressed interest in viewing the full course in segments, with time for comments & discussion. Accordingly, time will be provided to discuss various ways we could make this happen. This course was developed by Thomas Keating, a leading proponent of Christian contemplative prayer (<http://www.contemplativeoutreach.org>). It has proven constructive for those trying to improve their attunement to spiritual experience and how such experience can be harnessed, so to speak, for discernment of God's will and plans as it works in each of us.

VEOLIA CAMPAIGN Veolia is a multinational company with headquarters in Paris, France. Its main business involvement is in transportation, and the company currently runs the Massachusetts Bay Commuter Railroad. Its contract with the MBCR expires in the fall. There is a campaign to not have the new contract renewed, and the reasons are both based on the local and the international front. In November 2011, the MBCR was charged with 22 serious health and safety offenses at the Somerville Maintenance Facility, which is run by Veolia. Money and service issues related to the running of the MBTA and the MBCR are in the paper almost daily -- one of the revelations that has come out recently is that in the last contract the MBCR/Veolia would be awarded \$42 million dollars for something they would be expected to do: run on time. The Palestine/Israel Task Team has joined others within Metro Boston area in this campaign because Veolia also runs the buses in the Occupied Territory Settlements and is planning to build a tramway between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem - taking more land, which is not legally theirs, from the Palestinians. Members of the Task Team will be asking you to consider signing a petition over the next several weeks and can provide you with more information as needed. Please attend a formal presentation given by one of the organizers, Kade Crockford, after church on May 20.

PENTECOST MULTI-GENERATIONAL BAPTISM SERVICE Sunday, May 27, is Pentecost, a festival day of joyous worship, when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit to the early church. It's also a day on which we'll be baptizing people of all ages. We have at least seven or eight baptisms already in the works. Please contact Dan Smith now if you are considering a baptism for yourself or your child, whether on Pentecost or at some other time. And plan for a joy-filled service where we will celebrate the Spirit through symbols of water, fire, breath, and doves! "The Holy Spirit descended like a dove at Jesus' baptism and said, 'You are my beloved child and with you I am well pleased.'"

DISABILITY ACCESS TEAM MEETING On May 27 at 12:30 after church in the Hastings Room there will be a meeting of the new Disability / Access Team. Whether or not you were at the Disability Forum back in February, you are welcome to come to this initial meeting to form a group that can work specifically on accessibility issues here at First Church. We have a list of ideas but welcome additional suggestions. For more information and to let us know you will be attending, please contact Carolyn Thompson at carolynrt@verizon.net.

ORGANIC VEGETABLES FOR MOM FROM ROCKVILLE MARKET FARM! Now's the time to sign-up for a farm share from Rockville Market Farm. Sign-up at <http://rockvillemarketfarm.com/> and select First Church Cambridge as your location. A bag of organic produce will be delivered to our Parsonage at 44 Garden Street each Thursday with your name on it. Easy pick-up from our garage fridge, whenever you can come by. Deliveries begin in mid to late June, can be paused for vacations, and are truly delicious!! Questions? Email Nancy at nkkilburn@comcast.net. Thank you for supporting organic farming!

TEACH IN THE 2012-13 CHURCH SCHOOL Are you seeking a meaningful way to connect with First Church members of all ages? Could you imagine that your faith journey might be enriched by sharing your experience with the children or youth of the church? If so, please consider whether you feel called to join the Church School next year. Teachers work in teams of three or four to lead classes in Godly Play or Seasons of the Spirit. Others will act as adult mentors for our newly-forming Youth Group (grades 8-12) as they pursue fun and interesting activities. The commitment generally includes two Sunday mornings per month, plus four teacher training meetings over the year. Youth Group leaders will likely need to volunteer other weekend hours, but might be free most Sunday mornings. Please contact Sarah Higginbotham for more details or to sign up.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SOON-TO-BE REV. TERRY MCKINNEY At a congregational meeting on Sunday, April 22nd, First Church voted unanimously to call Terry to be our new 1/2 time Minister of Mental Health and Healing. A Service of Ordination and Installation will be held in our sanctuary on Sunday, June 3rd at 4 p.m. with a reception to follow in Margaret Jewett Hall. Please save the date and plan to join us for this long-awaited celebration of Terry's gifts and calling!

COVENANT DINNERS – SIGN UP TODAY AND HOSTS NEEDED You are invited to a potluck “Covenant Dinner” to meet and get to know people from First Church. We hope you will join us for an enjoyable meal, spiced with good company and new friends. Choose the day and time that work best for you. Let us know if you have special needs (e.g.: accessibility, vegetarian, allergies), and if you need a ride. Children are welcome, and you are encouraged to come as a family. Your host will contact you a few days before your meal with details and to coordinate the menu. Is hospitality one of your gifts? If so, hosting a Potluck Covenant Dinner is a great way to meet people and develop new friendships. A covenant dinner host/hostess chooses the date and time, and then guests sign up either at the church or via email. All that’s required for a successful dinner are good food and conversation – both provided by the guests! To find out more about hosting or to sign up to attend a dinner, contact Marian Smith at msmith829@gmail.com, or (781) 648-1498.

THANK YOU FROM THE SHELTER Many thanks from the shelter for the highly efficient, and esthetically appealing, lights installed in the bunk room. They replace very inefficient and frequently malfunctioning halogen lights installed as part of the shelter renovation 11 years ago.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 3RD ANNUAL FALL FAMILY RETREAT

Families of all ages and sizes are invited to join us on the third annual Fall Family Retreat at Craigville Conference Center on October 13-14, 2012. Spend 24 hours on the Cape with your church friends - we'll play, sing, eat, worship, laugh, and pray together. If you know you're in, please email Sarah Higginbotham, so she can coordinate housing needs with Craigville. More details to come in September.

MAY 19 CHORAL WORKSHOP On Saturday, May 19th Night Song and First Church are jointly offering a choral workshop on Renaissance masterpieces from the Iberian Peninsula. The featured clinician will be Philip Lawson of The King’s Singers. The morning session is for individual registrants. In the afternoon masterclass established choral ensembles will be coached by Lawson. For further information and on-line registration see www.nightsong.org or call Daryl Bichel at (617) 312-8328.

COOPERATIVE METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES' 46TH ANNUAL MEETING Please come! First Church is hosting the Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries' 46th Annual Meeting, which includes a rousing address by preacher, broadcaster and humanitarian Rev. Liz Walker, pastor of Roxbury Presbyterian Church. Our own Kate Layzer will be among the award recipients for her work as one of the chaplains for Occupy Boston. Please mark your calendar for **Thursday, May 31st from 6 - 9 PM in Margaret Jewett Hall**. Dinner is included in the \$25 ticket. \$10 for students/low income. Hear great Jazz by the Aamir Mahdi Trio, and celebrate our diverse faiths. Register online at [Http://cmmanualmeeting.eventbrite.com](http://cmmanualmeeting.eventbrite.com) or buy tickets at the door. Kindly let Alice Kidder know if you are planning to attend at

flintkiddr@aol.com. You will enjoy this evening of faith and celebration. Details are on the Mission and Social Justice Bulletin Board.

213TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE UCC MASSACHUSETTS CONFERENCE Friday and Saturday, June 15 – 16, Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center, Sturbridge, MA How will we individually and collectively be transformed as we move together into the future of the United Church of Christ? How will we discern and work towards transformational ministries at the local, association, and conference levels in the name of Jesus Christ? The Rev. J. Bennett Guess, Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries, one of the five members of the Collegium of UCC Officers, will be with us keynoting on Friday evening and preaching on Saturday morning. We are gifted to have such a transformational leader present with us around this theme — “Be Transformed.” **Registration Information:** First Church can send 3 delegates to the conference. Please contact Kirsten Manville at parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org if you are attending would like to be one of our delegates. Register now online at www.macucc.org, or request a printed registration form by contacting Jane Logee, Registrar, logeej@macucc.org or 508-875-5233, ext. 221. Registration deadline is June 1.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE PURITAN TO GO ON A "PURITAN ROOTS" TOUR! The Congregational Library is offering a 12-day tour (June 18-30) that traces the path traveled by the Puritans who settled New England -- only in reverse. It begins in Salem, Mass., and winds up in East Anglia, the area northwest of London where many of the Puritans came from. In Old England, the tour includes London, Cambridge, Ipswich and other Puritan sites as well as some fun side trips to places such as the Viking ruins in Sutton Hoo. For more information, go to http://www.ipswichtours.com/east_anglia.html or contact Janet at Olde Ipswich Tours, (978 356 -5163).

The 2011-2012 bulletin cover art series was designed by Perry Neubauer and constructed by many hands, large and small. The Eastertide bulletin cover was created by Claudia Dyer.

SMALL GROUP AND WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

THIRD-SUNDAY JAZZ WORSHIP There are now regular monthly Jazz services! After experimenting with a variety of worship formats last year, it became clear that our Jazz service has the greatest draw and staying power. We are thrilled that Carolyn Wilkins and friends will continue to bring us vibrant and eclectic Jazz, Gospel, and African-American spirituals. Nancy Weil will continue to work with our staff to resource this service. The next service is **Sunday, May 20 at 5:00 p.m.** in **Margaret Jewett Hall** and will be followed by a time of fellowship.

NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Sundays in May and June at 8:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Night Song will continue in May and June - but with several changes. The starting time will be 8:30 PM, 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.

MONTHLY NEWCOMER SESSIONS ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH, 12:15 P.M. We are blessed to be graced by many visitors and newcomers to our church community. While we have always held newcomer sessions around a joining Sunday, we will now be offering monthly gatherings with a topical focus. Hopefully this will allow newcomers to get to know one another and to enter into engaging dialogue around topics ranging from our faith journeys to basic tenets of the Christian journey. We will also continue to share information about First Church and the UCC. Current members are also encouraged to attend to get to know people and share in the dialogue. Please fill a plate with lunch in Margaret Jewett Hall, and bring it with you to the Hastings Room. **The next Newcomer Session will be May 20 at 12:30 p.m. and the next Joining Sunday will be June 3.**

MENTAL HEALTH & SPIRITUALITY GROUP 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 (temckinney@msn.com) or Carter West (stbosal@arczip.com).

TUESDAY FAMILY NIGHT Family Night continues **every other Tuesday evening, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.,** in **Sage Hall.** Parents and children gather for a simple potluck supper, some active play in the indoor play space, and a chance to share the joys and challenges of family life together. If you have young kids and are looking for an easy weeknight dinner plan with friends, join us! Family Night is a wonderful way for families with children to spend time together outside of the Sunday morning routine. While most families who attend have preschool-aged children, families with older children are welcome as well! The main dish (usually pasta and sauce) is provided; bring a side dish, dessert, or drink to share. The last two Family Nights of the year are scheduled for May 15 and 29.

The Week Ahead

Today, Sunday, May 13

Mothers Day

- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Dan Smith, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School for PreK-8th Grade
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

Monday, May 14

- 6:00 p.m. Building & Grounds Committee, Room 204

Tuesday, May 15

- 5:30 p.m. Family Night, Sage Hall
- 5:30 p.m. Sabbatical Interim Search Committee, Dan Smith's office

Wednesday, May 16

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 3:00 p.m. Missions & Social Justice Committee, Dan Smith's office

Thursday, May 17

- 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Hastings Room

Sunday, May 20

- 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, Brookline Choir, Terry McKinney, leading
- 11:20 a.m. Church School for PreK-8th Grade
- 12:30 p.m. Social Justice Forum, Hastings Room
- 12:30 p.m. Newcomers Lunch, Library
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 5:00 p.m. Third Sunday Jazz Vespers Service, Margaret Jewett Hall
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline

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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