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**Easteride**

**FIRST CHURCH  
IN CAMBRIDGE**

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC  
May 25, 2014  
THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

VOLUNTARY

\*HYMN 261 *The Sun Is on the Sea and Shore*

\*GREETING Rich Goode

L: Sisters and brothers, a new day has begun!  
C: **God's gifts are every morning new!**  
L: Gifts of grace, beauty and peace -  
C: **For us and for the whole world!**  
L: Then let your hearts find gladness here!  
C: **We lift our hearts to God; our praise will never cease!**  
L: Then let us praise God now, and bless her holy name!

WORDS OF WELCOME Sheehan Scarborough

ANTHEM *This Is the Day* Anon 16thC

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us ask God for pardon, healing and peace.  
All: **Loving and Merciful God -  
For all the ways in which we fail to love you,  
forgive us and hold us close.  
For all the ways in which we fail to love one another,  
forgive us and bind us together.  
For all the ways we fail to love ourselves,  
forgive us and reveal how you delight in us.  
Draw us more tightly into your embrace,  
and heal us with your love that casts out all our fear and shame.  
We pray in the name of your love made flesh,  
Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*\*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 in Cambridge.*

## DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

### \*GREETING OF PEACE

*Children from Preschool to 8th grade are now invited to leave for a Creative Arts 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.*

### \*HYMN 223

*Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me*

## PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

### FIRST READING

John 14:15-21

### RESPONSIVE PSALM 66:8-20

- L: Bless our God, O peoples,  
let the sound of the Holy One's praise be heard,  
C: **who has kept us among the living,  
and has not let our feet slip.**
- L: For you, O God, have tested us;  
you have tried us as silver is tried.  
C: **You brought us into the net;  
you laid burdens on our backs;  
you let people ride over our heads;**
- L: we went through fire and through water;  
yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.  
C: **I will come into your house with burnt-offerings;  
I will pay you my vows,  
those that my lips uttered  
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.**
- L: I will offer to you burnt-offerings of fatlings,  
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;  
C: **I will make an offering of bulls and goats.**
- L: Come and hear, all you who fear God,  
and I will tell what God has done for me.  
C: **I cried aloud to the Holy One,  
and God was extolled with my tongue.**
- L: If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,  
the Lord would not have listened.  
C: **But truly God has listened;  
and has given heed to the words of my prayer.**

SECOND READING

Acts 17:22-31

SERMON

Dan Smith

\*HYMN 12

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Kate Layzer

L: God be with you.

**C: And with your spirit.**

L: Let us pray . . . (intercessions, silence, 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.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Alleluia*

John Taverner

\*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.**

\*HYMN 352

*Go Forth for God*

\*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

## **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](http://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** Dan Smith, Senior Minister. Assisting with worship are Kate Layzer, community minister, and Sheehan Scarborough, Ministerial Intern. Our liturgist is First Church deacon Rich Goode. Louise Mundinger is playing the organ and directing the choir. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is in Europe, just now ending the first of a three-week concert tour: This week he performed outside of London, in Bath, and in Beverwijk, close to Amsterdam.

**YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED** on this Memorial Day weekend in solemn gratitude for the men and women who lost their lives in the service of our country's armed forces. Please pray for Cynthia Shoemaker, who is recovering after a fall this weekend, and for Joan Reddy, former First Church member, who is recovering from a recent serious fall. Please also pray for Jean Miller, whose sister, Ava Nowlan, passed away recently. Please keep in your prayers the Nigerian schoolgirls kidnapped by terrorists; may they be safely returned to their homes. **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, Kate Layzer, or Kirsten Manville by Wednesday morning or fill out one of the prayer request cards found in your pew.

## **TODAY'S HAPPENINGS**

**LIFE TOGETHER LUNCH Today at 12:30 p.m. in Margaret Jewett Hall** Sundays at First Church tend to be full of many different activities and general busyness. To provide some balance, we celebrate Life Together lunches on the last Sunday of each month. No other activities will be scheduled until 1:30 p.m. on these Sundays and we have a chance to connect as a whole community in food, fellowship and fun. This is our final lunch of the program year, so please join us. The menu includes hummus and raw vegetables, eggless salad, egg salad sandwiches, kale salad, PBJ sandwiches, roasted beet salad, and Iggy's bread.

**SPIRITUALITY & MENTAL HEALTH GROUP Today at 2:00 p.m., Tower Room** We meet as persons with questions about our inner lives, pursuing wellness. Yet we don't seek a fix for our problems. Instead, we bring our difficulties alongside our experience of that healing Spirit to consider how our faith and our soundness inform each other. We continue to meet every Sunday afternoon from 2:00 to 3:30 in the Tower Room. Participation in the group is open to any and all who identify with our purpose. For a warm welcome and to learn more, see Carter West or e-mail him at [cartergw24@gmail.com](mailto:cartergw24@gmail.com).

**NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Today 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, hear the Compline setting in the Lydian mode by Daryl Bichel and choral music by G.P. da Palestrina and Patricia Van Ness. Julie Button and Beth Spaulding, cantus. Alison LaRosa Montez and Michael Terranova, altus. We will not be using incense this Sunday. *Please note: On June 1st the starting time for Night Song will change to 8:30 p.m..*

## **FUTURE HAPPENINGS**

**CHRISTIAN MEDITATION HAS A NEW HOME!** Our growing midweek Meditation group has moved to the Chapel. Join us there any Wednesday from 6:00–7:00 p.m. as we open our hearts to the indwelling presence of God. No experience is required, but all experience is welcome. Reach Kate Layzer at [klayzer@gmail.com](mailto:klayzer@gmail.com) or (617) 851-5074 if you'd like to know more.

**FINAL FAMILY NIGHT, MAY 27** This Tuesday will be our final Family Night gathering of the year. Families with young children will gather at 5:30 pm in Sage Hall for a simple supper of pasta and sauce, supplemented with an array of potluck options. We'll connect with each other over food, play, and good conversation. If you've been thinking about checking out this super-lively gathering of First Church folks, come join us as we celebrate a good year together!

**GBIO RELATIONAL MEETINGS DEMONSTRATION OPPORTUNITIES** **Sundays, June 1 and June 8 at 10 a.m., Hastings Room** As part of a larger GBIO campaign to engage people of all faiths to collectively discern what are some of the most pressing, or perhaps overlooked, issues on people's hearts and minds today. The goal is to have 1200 relational meetings across the Greater Boston Area, and we have pledged to do our part. If you are interested in hearing more about the campaign, seeing a relational meeting in action, or wish to do one yourself, please join us in the Hastings room on June 1<sup>st</sup> and June 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST Saturday, June 7 AT 8:00 a.m., Hastings Room AND MEN'S RETREAT TO JAFFREY, NEW HAMPSHIRE Saturday, June 14 - Sunday, June 15, at Marc O'Brien's and David Torrey's places in Jaffrey, NH.** Gentle men of First Church! Join us for a hearty Men's Breakfast and even heartier conversations about topics that connect our faith to our lives and our world. Note the new time of the breakfasts: We now begin at 8:00 a.m., not 7:30. Also, sign up now for our Men's Retreat. One-time visitors, friends, and newcomers are always welcome. Questions? Contact David Torrey, davidtorrey@comcast.net, or Paul Efthim, pweftim@verizon.net. If you'd like to sign up for the Men's Breakfast e-mail list to receive monthly reminders, contact Kirsten Manville, parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org.

**PENTECOST SUNDAY, JUNE 8** Our Pentecost celebration will be a festival day of joyous worship, when we will celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit to the early church. We will baptize people of all ages and enjoy an offering of liturgical dance on the theme of baptismal waters. We will hear testimonies about what First Church means to several members of our community. We will honor the work of our Church School teachers and Youth Group leaders, and we'll cap it all off with the All-Church Picnic and Kickball Game! Don't miss this Spirit-filled day!

**215TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CONFERENCE, UCC: RISKING VISION June 13-14, 2014 Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center** The theme for this year's meeting is "Greater Works Than These" and is taken from John 14: 12 which states "Very truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do, and in fact, will do greater works than these...." We will celebrate the accomplishments of the conference, hear "testimonies to knock your socks off" and engage this scripture deeply. Please contact Joanne Paul asap, if you would like to serve as a delegate for First Church.

**THANK YOU TO SHEEHAN SCARBOROUGH, KATE LAYZER AND BRENT COFFIN** The end of the year often brings more than the usual number of leave-taking blessings and thank yous. On June 15, we will be giving thanks for, blessing, and sending forth Sheehan Scarborough. As Ministerial Intern, Sheehan has participated in worship services, led 10 o'clock hours, and forged relationships throughout the congregation. Although not going anywhere (so we will not be sending them forth) we will also be giving thanks for and blessing Kate Layzer and Brent Coffin. Kate has been a tremendous help this program year in her roles as community minister, assisting Dan and the rest of the staff. She has preached, composed liturgy, performed pastoral care duties, and during her "off time" started a Christian Meditation Group (which will be con-

tinuing). And Brent has been our Havruta Scholar-in-Residence offering his leadership and expertise in our Executive Council meetings, in small group Bible studies throughout the year and in our recent Lenten program on the Gospel of Matthew. We have been extremely fortunate this year to be the recipients of Sheehan, Kate and Brent's gifts and talents. Please mark your calendars for this date and plan to join us as we wish them well!

**FIRST CHURCH FALL RETREAT 2014 - REGISTER NOW!** Mark your calendars and register now for our annual First Church Retreat at Craigville Retreat Center on Cape Cod, October 3-5. Join us for a community gathering that will include time for beach-walking, game-playing, small group sessions, large group worship, music and art-making, and more. Registration is online - go to [www.firstchurchcambridge.org/fall-retreat-2014-registration](http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/fall-retreat-2014-registration) to sign up. Don't worry if you can't commit to the whole weekend or if you think the details of your participation may change by the fall - we are interested in getting an initial headcount, so let us know if you intend to join us!

### **SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

**COMMUNITY SUMMIT 2014** Join Mayor Walsh, Boston residents, businesses, and community leaders on May 31st, 2014 for the Greenovate Boston Community. The Summit is a free, one-day event that's all about empowering the Boston community to address climate change and help make Boston the greenest, most climate-prepared city in the U.S. The Summit will include world-class speakers, interactive workshops and trainings, the Greenovate Boston Awards Ceremony, and a Marketplace of Ideas to showcase local innovations, products, and services. Participants will also have the opportunity to provide direct input into the 2014 Climate Action Plan Update. The event will take place at the Joseph B. Martin Conference Center at Harvard Medical School from 10AM-5PM. Registration is free but space is limited so reserve your spot today at [summit.greenovateboston.org](http://summit.greenovateboston.org) and join the conversation on Facebook and Twitter (#EngageBOS).

### **ACTION DAY AT THE STATEHOUSE, Tuesday, June 3, 10:30 a.m., Statehouse Steps**

What's happened to the drive for common sense gun laws, to assure greater safety on our streets, in our parks and schools? Stalled in the Statehouse. To get this important legislation moving, make your presence and commitment known on ACTION DAY, JUNE 3 at the Statehouse. Registration begins at 10:00 a.m., rally at 10:30 a.m., to be followed by visits to the offices of State Senators and Representatives. Our numbers will tell a story, so please join others from the churches, temples and organizations of the Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence in this important demonstration. A group will depart from First Church to travel downtown by the Red Line at 9:15 a.m. See Ann McCann, Dan Smith or Jean Bellow for further information.

**INTERFAITH FORUM ON ECONOMIC JUSTICE Wednesday, June 4th, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at All Saints Parish, 1773 Beacon Street, Brookline, MA** Follow up our vital May 4th discussion on economic inequality, by coming to the Interfaith Forum on Economic Justice, an opportunity to meet persons of faith working actively for economic justice in the metropolitan areas of Boston. Hear presentations by Jobs Not Jails, United for a Fair Economy, the Massachusetts Community Action Network, Social Action Massachusetts, and the Boston Faith and Justice Network. Dinner will be served, and plenty of opportunity for sharing. The event is free, so please register promptly at <http://cmmeconjustforum.eventbrite.com> or register through Alice or Dave Kidder. All welcome! Need a ride? Call Alice at (617) 276-6227.

## **PRIDE MONTH AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE**

**PRIDE MORNING WORSHIP: CELEBRATING TEN YEARS OF EQUAL MARRIAGE** Saturday, June 14, at 10:00 a.m., at Old South Church in Boston, 645 Boylston Street This year the Pride Morning Worship features award recipients Bishop Tom Shaw and Rev. Frank Schaefer, and Hillary Goodridge, reading from *The Goodridge Decision, Introducing the Litany: Ten Years and the Sky Hasn't Fallen!* Information about Old South Church at [oldsouth.org](http://oldsouth.org). Happy Pride! If you'd like to march in Pride Parade as part of a First Church and UCC contingent, please contact Jim Rissling, [jrisslingcls@yahoo.com](mailto:jrisslingcls@yahoo.com).

**THE UCC MAKES HISTORY IN NORTH CAROLINA ON BEHALF OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND MARRIAGE EQUALITY** The United Church of Christ filed a landmark lawsuit in U.S. District Court on Monday, April 28, 2014, arguing that North Carolina marriage laws restrict freedom of religion. This is believed to be the first time a Christian denomination has filed a lawsuit against a state government. The UCC General Synod has asserted that North Carolina's ban on marriage equality is a violation of UCC clergy's free exercise of religion under the First Amendment as it is presently a misdemeanor crime in North Carolina for a clergy member to officiate a couple's marriage if that couple is lesbian, gay, or bi, because they cannot obtain a state-sanctioned marriage license. As an Open and Affirming congregation in the UCC, First Church gives thanks to those brave clergy members and couples who are courageously bringing much needed change to North Carolina. For more information on this case, visit [www.ucc.org/ido/](http://www.ucc.org/ido/)

**CELEBRATING MOMENTUM IN MARRIAGE EQUALITY!** As Massachusetts celebrates 10 years of equal marriage, we are also glad that this week the number of states recognizing same sex marriage has reached 14. On Tuesday, a federal judge struck down Pennsylvania's ban on same sex marriages. On these laws of discrimination, Judge Jones wrote that "We are a better people than what these laws represent, and it is time to discard them into the ash heap of history." This week, we also celebrated with Oregon on Monday as a judge there lifted the state's ban on same sex marriage and immediately began issuing marriage certificates to hundreds of couples.

*Indeed, the Spirit is at work!*

*During this month of Pride, let us celebrate these steps towards justice while continuing to work tirelessly for a world where no one experiences violence, discrimination or rejection for ways of love in this world.*

## Looking Ahead

### **Sunday, May 25**

- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary (No Christian Formation)
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Dan Smith, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Creative Arts, Choir Room
- 12:30 p.m. Last Sunday Life Together Lunch, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

### **Monday, May 26**

First church office and building closed in observance of Memorial Day

### **Tuesday, May 27**

- 4:00 p.m. Witness Against Gun Violence and Inequality, Dan Smith's office
- 5:30 p.m. Family Night, Sage Hall

### **Wednesday, May 28**

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 4:00 p.m. Finance Team Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 6:00 p.m. Christian Meditation, Lindsay Chapel

### **Thursday, May 29**

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

### **Sunday, June 1**

- 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 Communion, Joining Sunday, Sheehan Scarborough, preaching (A time for healing prayer offered immediately following the service)
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Outdoor Church Offering
- 12:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee, Dan Smith's Office
- 12:30 p.m. Arts & Communications Committee, McKenzie Library
- 1:00 p.m. Outdoor Church, Cambridge Common
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, 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.



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## The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

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**FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL**

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