Eastertide

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

Congregational 1633-1636
United Church of Christ
Garden and Mason Streets
Cambridge, Massachusetts
FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC
April 27, 2014
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

“I believe in intuitions and inspirations...I sometimes FEEL that I am right. I do not KNOW that I am.”

—Albert Einstein

VOLUNTARY

Christ ist erstanden

J. S. Bach

IN PRAISE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

HYMN 214

Thine Is the Glory

*GREETING                              Krysia Burnham

L:   Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
    may the grace, mercy and peace of God be yours.
C:   May the new life and living hope of Christ be yours.
L:   Friends, Easter is come!
C:   Christ is risen!  Death is not the end.
L:   Let us rejoice and be glad.
C:   Let us give thanks and praise.
L:   Let us worship God!

*PRAYER OF PRAISE

C:   Gracious God, giver of new life,
    by the strength of your love,
    by the gentleness of your power,
    resurrect our spirits.
    Raise us to wonder,
    raise our minds to curiosity, and
    raise our hearts to joy.
    Here in this place,
    now in this time,
    raise us up, O God,
    to live so that we may know you,
    and to know you so that we may live! Amen.

*You are invited to stand. Hymns proceeded 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
WORDS OF WELCOME
Karen McArthur

ANTHEM
Now the Green Blade Riseth
Trad. Carol,
arr. P. Sykes

IN CONFESSION BEFORE GOD

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray for healing, pardon, and peace.
C: Risen Savior, we stand in the light of Resurrection,
and cast our own shadows.
We do not expect our lives
to be changed by your presence.
We focus on discouragement and disappointment,
rather than sharing good news.
We let our doubts overwhelm us,
rather than helping us grow.
Lighten our spirits with your forgiveness,
and let us rise into the confidence of your peace. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 257
This is the Day

Children from PreK to 8th grade are invited to leave after the hymn for a creative arts project. Parents can meet their children in Sage Hall (the basement) after worship.

IN PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

EPISTLE READING
1 Peter 1:3-9
Sheehan Scarborough

GOSPEL READING
John 20:19-33
SERMON  

How Do We Know?  
Karen McArthur

*HYMN 216  
The Day of Resurrection!

IN RESPONSE TO GOD’S GRACE

CALL TO PRAYER

L:   God be with you.
C:   And with your spirit.
L:   Let us pray ... 

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

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 OFFERING

OFFERTORY  
Haec Dies  
Lodovico da Viadana

Please place visitor/prayer request cards in the baskets, along with your offering.

*EASTER DOXOLOGY

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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION
IN WITNESS OF THE GOSPEL

*HYMN 360  
* I Love to Tell the Story

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY  
Christ lag in Todesbanden  J. S. Bach
**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** Karen McArthur, Minister of Stewardship & Finance. Assisting with worship is Sheehan Scarborough, Ministerial Intern. Our liturgist is Krysia Burnham, Discernment and Formation student at First Church. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir. Dan Smith, Senior Minister, and Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts, are away this week.

**The YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED section of the liturgy 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 office at parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org or call 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, Kate Layzer, or Kirsten Manville by Wednesday morning or fill out one of the prayer request cards found in your pew.
TODAY’S HAPPENINGS

EARTH STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY Today Special events will include: 10:30 a.m. - Blessing of the Bikes & Bike Safety Check next to the bike racks, and 12:15 p.m. - Information Tables at Fellowship Hour. Learn what you can do to reduce your carbon footprint and cut down on waste, find out about local Earth Day happenings such as a planned Charles River cleanup, battery recycling, and more, and get information from Next Step Living professionals about making your home energy-efficient.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF SHARED INTEREST - 10 O’CLOCK HOUR Today at 10 a.m., in the Hastings Room Help to celebrate 20 years of reinvestment in South Africa at the Adult Formation hour on Sunday, April 27. During the struggle against Apartheid in South Africa in the 1980's, First Church voted to divest from companies that profited from the regime. When the new government came into power in 1994, we were the first church community to reinvest in the new South Africa through the organization, Shared Interest, which makes guarantees to South African banks so that they will make investments in low income communities. Millions of dollars in loans have now financed housing, small businesses, farms, and micro-enterprises. Come hear Donna Katzen, the Director of Shared Interest, update us on the work of Shared Interest and their exciting plans for the next decade.

SPIRITUALITY & MENTAL HEALTH GROUP Today at 2 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.

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.

FIRST CHURCH FRIEND ANGEL PADILLA lost his mother unexpectedly earlier this week. Angel is the young man whom Dan spoke about in his Easter Day sermon. Angel also spoke during morning worship some months ago regarding gun violence. If you would like to make a donation to help defray funeral costs, you may do so on line through Angel's gofundme account, or by writing a check payable to Angel Padilla. Alice Kidder will be collecting checks during today’s coffee hour. In addition, the Deacons have indicated that they expect to send support from the Deacons Fund. Please keep Angel in your prayers during this time of grief.
FUTURE HAPPENINGS

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION: Wednesdays from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Tower Room Christian meditation or centering prayer is the spiritual practice of sitting in silence, centering the attention on the indwelling presence of God. Many who have undertaken this way of prayer have found a path of healing and peace, as well as a means to draw closer to God. Our group begins with a spoken prayer and one or two brief readings, followed by an introduction to meditation and 30 minutes of silent practice. No prior experience is necessary, but all experience is welcome. Speak to Kate Layzer for more information, or e-mail her at klayzer@gmail.com.

GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION (GBIO) CONGREGATIONAL ORGANIZING INITIATIVE In the coming weeks, you may be approached to engage in a one-on-one conversation with a First Church community member as part of a larger GBIO effort to discern what are the pressing issues on the hearts of folks, from all faiths, throughout the Greater Boston area. If you have heard the call to go deeper into our life together as a church but have been wondering how, then please consider saying “yes” to this opportunity to be asked what issues matter most to you. It is also an invitation for you to get to know another more deeply: surprising, amazing conversations will ensue, guaranteed! Although this is part of larger public effort over the course of Spring, your anonymity and privacy will be protected. If you have any questions feel free to contact Bob Kelley (rkelley@gmail.com, 617-543-5479).

MEN’S BREAKFAST Saturday, May 3 at 8:00 a.m., Hastings Room 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. 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.

LITURGICAL DANCE Sundays, May 4 through June 1, 10:00 a.m. Building on the success of last year's liturgical dance offering led by dancer, teacher, and dance therapist Valerie Blanc, people of all ages are invited to a creative movement experience that will culminate in a dance offering in our Pentecost Sunday Morning Worship service on June 8. The theme will revolve around water and coming to the river, in preparation for a service when many little ones will be baptized. All ages and levels of experience are welcome; this will be a co-creation meant to be accessible to all. Contact Valerie, valerie.blanc@gmail.com if you have questions.

BIBLICAL LAMENT Sundays, May 4 and 11, 10:00 a.m., Hastings Room Biblical lament appears throughout the Old Testament. Most commonly associated with the Psalms, lament can also be found in the historical books and the prophetic books. Echoes of the Old Testament laments even show up in the gospels. Jesus' words in Matthew 27:46, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me," are the first words of the longer lament, Psalm 22. What is biblical lament? How do you know a lament when you encounter it in the Bible? How might lament have functioned in Israelite worship? And how might we approach biblical lament in the post-Resurrection Easter season? John Sheehan Scarborough for an exploration of biblical lament on May 4 and 11 at the 10 O’Clock Hours.
FEEDING SUNDAY, May 4, Guest Preacher: REV. THOMAS HATHAWAY Each spring we traditionally celebrate First Church’s relationship with the Outdoor Church by bringing the children’s practice of sandwich-making into the sanctuary during a Communion service. In our Morning Worship service on Sunday, May 4, 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. Come walk the “Open Road,” led by our children who have faithfully prepared lunches for homeless men and women every Communion Sunday for the past four-and-a-half years. This year Rev. Thomas Hathaway, Minister and Executive Director of the Outdoor Church, will offer our Feeding Sunday homily.

SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITIES

COOPERATIVE METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES ANNUAL ASSEMBLY Thursday, May 1st, 5:30 - 9 p.m. Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center (100 Malcolm X Boulevard, Roxbury) The First Church Mission and Social Justice Committee urges you to consider spending the evening of in deeply enriching interfaith dialogue. We will tackle questions of faith communities and the challenges of severe income inequality, and what six different faith communities are doing to address this challenge. Tickets are $25, if purchased before April 22. Four scholarships available. See Alice Kidder for tickets, or email flintkiddr@aol.com. Or go to www.coopmet.org to order tickets on line. Dinner is included. Carpoools are available. Please contact Alice if you need a ride.

BUILDING BRIDGES: RESPONSES TO GUN VIOLENCE AND INEQUALITY Sunday, May 4, 12:15 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall What can we do about gun violence and economic inequality? Have lunch and hear from a panel of speakers, to be followed by discussion and questions. See full page insert for details, or see Ann McCann, Alice Kidder, or Jean Bellow for more information. Presented by First Church Cambridge Witness Against Gun Violence and Inequality and the Missions and Social Justice Committee.

MOTHER’S DAY WALK FOR PEACE Sunday, May 11, 8-11 a.m., Town Field Park, Field's Corner, Dorchester Join mothers, fathers and children from all over the Boston area in a walk for peace. Sponsored by the Louis D. Brown Institute for Peace, an organization created in 1994 in honor of an innocent fifteen-year-old boy killed in gang crossfire, the Mother’s Day Walk gathers people to remember those lost to violence and to walk together in the hope of peace. This event is an opportunity to show solidarity with urban communities stressed by gun violence and to become more familiar with a vibrant part of Boston. For more information, see www.ldbpeaceinstitute.org. If you'd like to join others from First Church for the walk, see or email Ann McCann or Jean Bellow. We plan to meet in front of the church at 7:15 a.m. to travel via the Red Line to Field's Corners. Participants can walk a short or long route, or no route, and may return in time for church or other activities.
BUILDING BRIDGES:
RESPONSES TO GUN VIOLENCE
& INEQUALITY

Sunday May 4, 2014
12:15 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

First Church Cambridge Congregational
11 Garden St, Cambridge
(5 min. walk from the Harvard Square T Station, next
to the Sheraton-Commander Hotel)

LUNCH, SPEAKERS, AND DISCUSSION.
What can be done to prevent gun violence and to address
economic inequalities?
Add your voice to the discussion

Speakers:

Dan Gelbtuch, Community Organizer
Youth Force, Dorchester Bay Economic Development
Council: Economic issues - Summer jobs -
Youth employment

Andrea James, Families for Healing and Justice:
Criminal justice reform - Advocacy for women and
children affected by incarceration

Rachel Lewis, Organizer
Mass Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence and Jewish
Community Relations Council: Advocacy for
strong common sense gun laws in Massachusetts

Sunday worship service at 11 A.M. will precede the program.
All are welcome.
Looking Ahead

**Sunday, April 27**
- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation
- 10:30 a.m. Blessing of the Bicycles and Bike Safety Check, in the yard near the bike rack
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Karen McArthur, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Creative Arts (presch.- Grade 8)
- 12:15 p.m. Earth Stewardship Information Tables, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJBH)
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 3:00 p.m. Cambridge Concentus Concert, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

**Monday, April 28**
- 7:30 p.m. Executive Council, Hastings Room

**Tuesday, April 29**
- 5:30 p.m. Family Night, Sage Hall

**Wednesday, April 30**
- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith’s office
- 6:00 p.m. Christian Meditation, Tower Room

**Thursday, May 1**
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Hastings Room

**Saturday, May 3**
- 8:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast, Hastings Room

**Sunday, May 4**
**Feeding Sunday**
- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, MHB
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Multigenerational Holy Communion and Outdoor Church Sandwich Making, (A time for healing prayer offered immediately following service), Tom Hathaway preaching
- 12:30 p.m. Gun Violence and Inequality Forum, MJBH
- 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
First Church Covenant Testimony

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

Minister of Stewardship and Finance
Rev. Karen McArthur, 617-547-2724, ext. 22
karenmc@firstchurchcambridge.org

Ministerial Intern
Sheehan Scarborough,
sscarborough@firstchurchcambridge.org

Havruta Scholar-in-Residence
Rev. Brent Coffin

Director of Music
Peter Sykes, 617-645-0833
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

Pastoral Associate
Julie Rogers, 617-547-2724, ext. 41
jrogers@firstchurchcambridge.org

Facilities Manager
Dan dos Santos
ddossantos@firstchurchcambridge.org

Sextons
Ronaldo dos Santos, Tina Quimby, George Williams,
Kimel Williams, 617-642-3980

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational
United Church of Christ
11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138
617-547-2724