

the first church in chestnut hill

[UNITARIAN]

26 SUFFOLK ROAD OFF HAMMOND STREET



February 2018

SUNDAY SERVICE at 10:30

Rev. Mark J. T. Caggiano, *Minister*

VERITAS, CARITAS, ET RISUS

Why do we do what we do? Why is the pattern of our Sunday morning worship the way it is?

We begin with the doxology, a hymn glorifying God. *Be thou O God exalted high...* A musical prelude sets the stage for worship, but the doxology commences it. *And as thy glory fills the sky...* It is a prayer, praising God and seeking God. *So let it be on earth displayed, till thou are here, as there, obeyed.*

Then we confess. The confession embodies a sentiment that we are all sinful, we all make mistakes. The contrary proposition is that someone could be without sin, blame, or blemish. Therefore, this assumption seems apt, as is the assumption that we might prefer to forget such common imperfection. This is a moment for honesty in the service.

And then there are prayers, such as the Lord's Prayer followed by the Psalms. The Psalms are themselves prayers. Not revelations, not statements of absolute truth. They are the heartfelt words of people raised up to God, not received from God. Such prayers are often wide-ranging in sentiment: prayers of hope and happiness, prayers for deliverance and for vengeance. Prayers are an expression of our needs and wants, our desires and devices.

Our prayer book versions of the Psalms are expurgated, scrubbed long ago of references to enemies and other topics. This was done in a moment of extensive religious editorializing last century. In fact, the text of the church prayer book has not been changed in any major fashion since that time, back in 1923. I thought that was worth mentioning and worthy of some thought.

God bless,

— Mark

OUR SCRIPTURES FOR THIS SEASON

- February 4:* Isaiah 40:26-31, Mark 1:29-39, Psalm 147
February 11: 2 Kings 2:6-12, Mark 9:2-9, Psalm 50
February 18: Genesis 9:8-17, Mark 1:9-15, Psalm 25
February 25: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Mark 9:2-9, Psalm 22

FEBRUARY SERVICES

- February 4:* My Precious
February 11: The Lazy and the Light
February 18: Passions and Promises (First Sunday of Lent)
(*Greg Jones, Preacher*)
February 25: What's in a Name (Special Service)

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR FEBRUARY

- February 4:* The flowers are given in loving memory of Agnes Brown Welch and Charles W. Brown, Jr. by the Brown family.
February 11: The flowers are given in loving memory of Mary (Mimi) Beck and William W. Beck by the Baker family.
February 18: The flowers are given in loving memory of Madeline and Walter Van Tassel, Robert Vanderkay, and Robert Vanderkay, Jr. by Judith Vanderkay.
February 25: The flowers are given in loving memory of John Beals Cornish and Maude Macomber Cornish by their family.

USHERS

- February 4:* Mark Chadbourne *February 11:* David Brooks
February 18: John Wyman *February 25:* G. West Saltonstall

COFFEE HOUR AFTER THE SUNDAY SERVICE

All are welcome at the coffee hour following the service each Sunday. On Sunday, February 4, Brian Cartwright will be in charge of refreshments, and on February 11, the Saltonstall family. February 18 will be Sue Butler, and on February 25, Pauline Ho Bynum will be our host. We thank you all for your participation!

Sally Baker (sallybbaker@comcast.net; 617-566-7564)

Carol Lohe (ctroyen@mfa.org; 617-739-0892)

MUSICAL NEWS

We welcome our guest cellist on Sunday, February 4. Sarah Freiberg will be performing during both the prelude and the postlude.

Don't miss the Evening of Italian Opera on Friday, February 16 at 7:30 p.m. With Kathryn on piano, our very own quartet will be singing many beloved pieces including Puccini, Rossini, Verdi, and Mozart, in honor of Rossini's birthday. Coffee and pastry will be served after the concert. Admission is free. Please bring a friend!

February 4, 2018

Preludes	<i>Sarabande</i> <i>Prelude</i> <i>The Swan</i> (Sarah Freiberg, cello)	Bach Saint-Saëns
Anthem	<i>Tanquam ad Latronem Existis</i>	M. Haydn
Response	<i>All Depends on Our Possessing</i>	Bach
Anthem	<i>Praise the Lord, His Glories Show</i>	Pooler
Choral Amen	<i>Threefold Amen</i>	Traditional
Postlude	<i>Allegro</i> (Sarah Freiberg, cello)	Vivaldi

February 11, 2018

Preludes	<i>Lyric Piece</i> <i>2 Miniatures</i>	Merkel Peeters
Anthem	<i>Adoramus te, Christe</i>	Mozart
Response	<i>In God, My Faithful God</i>	Bach
Anthem	<i>Ach, arme Welt, du trugest mich</i>	Brahms
Choral Amen	<i>Sevenfold Amen</i>	Stainer
Postlude	<i>Canzona in C major</i>	Buxtehude

February 18, 2018

Preludes	<i>Voluntary</i> <i>Piece pour Orgue</i>	Stanley Franck
Anthem	<i>Awake, My Heart</i>	Marshall
Response	<i>Awake, My Heart</i>	Bach
Anthem	<i>Brother James' Air</i>	arr. Jacob
Choral Amen	<i>Twofold Amen</i>	Persichetti
Postlude	<i>All Glory Be to God on High</i>	Coe

February 25, 2018

Preludes	<i>Idyl</i> <i>Behold, A Rose is Blooming</i>	Karg-Elert Brahms
Anthem	<i>Glory to God in the Highest</i>	Thompson
Response	<i>Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide</i>	Bach
Anthem	<i>Lacrimosa</i>	Mozart
Choral Amen	<i>Threefold Amen</i>	Traditional
Postludes	<i>The Fifers</i> <i>Miniature</i>	Dandrieu Peeters

PROGRAM NOTES

This February, the quartet will sing a wide variety of anthems. Of special interest is the second anthem on Sunday, February 25, when the quartet will sing the *Lacrimosa* from Mozart's Requiem. Mozart began to compose the Requiem in 1791, however it remained unfinished at the time of his death in December of that year. It is hauntingly beautiful and is a true masterpiece.

INTERN INSIGHTS

I recently completed a course called “*Sustaining Ministry*.” It addressed the challenges faced by ministers in keeping themselves physically and spiritually whole and healthy. We read some excellent books on pastoral self-care and watched presentations by leading experts in ministerial leadership. We also considered how some of these ideas apply to the congregations that we serve. Much of what we discussed tapped into a core principle of organization and leadership development: the differences between *technical* challenges and *adaptive* challenges.

Technical challenges can be remedied by skills and programs. Fundamentally, they are engineering problems: “*If we just do this or that, or offer this program, or hire this staff person, we will be okay.*” Think tune-ups and repairs. Technical challenges respond to reconfiguring existing parts, smoothing out dents, tweaking around the edges. This is handiwork – work of the hands.

Adaptive challenges require *transformative* change. Adaptive change happens when we realize that we have problems we cannot solve through engineering. When adaptive change is needed, the focus shifts from “What do we need to *do*?” to “What do we need to *be*?” This is work of the *heart*.

This year, Lent begins on February 14. In my own life, I’ve found Lent to be a time to pause and reflect on my purpose and path. My prayer for Lent is that, individually and together as a gathered church community, we do the heart-work, and deepen our understanding of who and what we are called to *be*.

In peace and service,

Greg

SAVE THE DATE

The Strategic Planning Committee will have a further congregational forum **after the Sunday service on February 11**, beginning at about 11:45 a.m. The Committee will discuss in more detail the results of the congregational survey and seek further input regarding the future direction of First Church.

VOLUNTEER LECTORS FOR FEBRUARY

February 4: Mark Chadbourne *February 11:* Carol Lohe
February 18: Sally Baker *February 25:* Greg Jones

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We will have Sunday school during church services on **Sunday, February 11**, with Early Church at 10:00 a.m.

A special service will be held on **Sunday, February 25**, with families all together for church in the sanctuary. We will be varying our liturgy on that day, following a printed order of service and enjoying new music.


MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible Study group meets on **Wednesday afternoons at 3:00 p.m.** We are currently studying the Book of Proverbs. Please join us.

BOOK GROUP

Our next meeting will be on **Monday, February 12** at Melinda Donovan's (4 Alwyngton Road, Chestnut Hill) and we'll be discussing *The Sympathizers* by Viet Thanh Nguyen. Meetings take place at 3:00 p.m. As always, all are welcome!

2018 SNOWSTORM POLICY



Services are not formally canceled for snowstorms. As a standing policy, I will open the church on Sunday mornings regardless of weather. However, because neither the church grounds nor the surrounding streets may be plowed in time for church, parking may not be available. Each person should decide what to do with an eye firmly on safety. I would rather have fewer people in the pews than any one of you in an orthopedist's office.

Be safe, be warm.
— Mark

ORGANIST and MUSIC DIRECTOR

Kathryn Rosenbach, 617-821-0385

MINISTERIAL INTERN

Gregory A. Jones, 917-687-6368

SEXTON

Dana Flynn, 617-680-0702

ADMINISTRATOR

Lisa Piel, 617-965-1551

26suffolk@gmail.com

**BUILDING AND GROUNDS
COMMITTEE**



Susan Farist Butler, Chair

Gigi Saltonstall

G. West Saltonstall

Mark J. T. Caggiano, Minister



Church telephone: 617-566-6237

Parsonage telephone: 617-232-0011

www.firstchurchchestnuthill.org