

the first church in chestnut hill

[UNITARIAN]

26 SUFFOLK ROAD OFF HAMMOND STREET



March 2023

SUNDAY SERVICE at 10:30

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

VERITAS, CARITAS, ET RISUS

What is on the dark side of the moon? This had been a mystery for most of human history because the “dark side” is never visible from Earth. This is because it is tidally locked. This means that the gravity of Earth has changed the rotation of the moon. As a result, the time it takes the moon to orbit the Earth equals the time it takes for the moon to rotate on its axis—the moon’s “day” and “year” are the same at 29.5 days. It is also not “dark” in any literal sense, as the light of the sun illuminates the far side equally, much like the phases of the moon seen from the near side.

And the far side is different. Photos taken by early Russian probes showed it to be more mountainous and craggier, without the large dark circles of the “man in the moon” seen on the near side. This was such an unexpected discovery, that some Western scientists wondered if the Russians had simply fabricated the photos. They hadn’t, of course, but there was that inherent suspicion about the source and the nature of the information.

As human beings learn more about the moon, the stars, and the universe, it is both fascinating and, for some, jarring. And this has gotten a few people in trouble. Centuries ago, Galileo got into trouble for suggesting that the Earth was not the center of the universe. Instead, he suggested that the Earth revolved around the sun, which suggestion ran against church teachings. He was convicted of heresy by the Catholic Church, forced to recant his ideas, and imprisoned for the rest of his life. And yet we know Galileo was correct and the Church was incorrect. What would it have meant for the Church and its leaders simply to accept this new understanding of the universe without defending its old ideas based on belief alone?

Similarly, few have ever seen the far side of the moon, but one imagines that it is there. That imagination has taken human beings in many directions about the moon, the stars, and the universe. In East Asian countries, the “man in the moon” is actually a rabbit, the Jade Hare or the Golden Hare. The rabbit is up on the moon preparing herbs and medicine for the immortals. Why do immortals need medicine? That is one way to become immortal.

We write and tell stories to help us understand that which is mysterious to us. We did not know what was on the far side of the moon, so we told stories derived from what we already knew or believed. When the photos of the far side became available, some scientists questioned them rather than acting like scientists, those who test hypotheses and follow the scientific method. And that was a mistake, if one truly places faith in science.

To some extent, Unitarianism is a scientific religion, one that does not shy away from new information and new ideas even when they upend prior thinking. In this way, the religion is not about predetermining acceptable information but instilling a sense of internal discipline. It is about cultivating the ways by which we encounter the world around us and remaining open to new and even challenging possibilities. On a good day.

God bless,
~Mark

MARCH 5

Sermon: Visiting minister, Rev. Hank Peirce
Scriptures: Genesis 12:1-4a, John 3: 11-17, Psalm 121
Scripture Reader: Joe Hicks
Usher: Westy Saltonstall
Coffee Hour: Vicky & Westy Saltonstall
Altar Flowers: The flowers are given in loving memory of Emily Saltonstall
Byrd by the Byrd family

MARCH 12

Sermon: One Sows, the Other Reaps
Scriptures: Exodus 17:1-7, John 4:31-38, Psalm 95
Scripture Reader: Carol Lohe
Usher: Werner Lohe
Coffee Hour: Carol & Werner Lohe
Altar Flowers: The flowers are given in loving memory of Anne & Werner
Lohe and Rita & Harry Troyen by their family

MARCH 19

Sermon: The Sins of the Past
Scriptures: Samuel 16:7-13, John 9:1-7, Psalm 23
Scripture Reader: Lisle Baker
Usher: Lisle Baker
Coffee Hour: Jennifer Morss Drayton
Altar Flowers: The flowers are given in loving memory of Jane Morss by the
Drayton Family

MARCH 26

Sermon: The Resurrection and the Life
Scriptures: Ezekiel 37:1-14, John 11:20-27, Psalm 130
Scripture Reader: Rev. Mark
Usher: Mark Chadbourne
Coffee Hour: Linda & Joe Hicks
Altar Flowers: The flowers are given in loving memory of Dr. Hans Frei by Joe
& Linda Hicks

MARCH MUSIC

March 5, 2023

Prelude:	<i>Dorian Echo Fantasy</i>	Sweelinck
Anthem:	<i>Ruhrt die Cymbal</i>	Schubert
Hymn:	<i>I to the Hills Will Lift Mine Eyes</i>	#85
Prayer Response:	<i>Oh How Blest Are Ye Whose Toils Are Ended</i>	Bach
Offertory Anthem:	<i>Tibi Laus</i>	Lassus
Hymn:	<i>I Look to Thee in Every Need</i>	#92
Hymn:	<i>Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty</i>	#251
Choral Amen:	<i>Threefold Amen</i>	Traditional
Postlude:	<i>Les Cloches</i>	Lebegue

March 12, 2023

Prelude:	<i>Chaconne in G minor</i>	Couperin
Anthem:	<i>O vos omnes</i>	de Victoria
Hymn:	<i>Morning Has Broken</i>	# 38
Prayer Response:	<i>Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake</i>	Bach
Offertory Anthem:	<i>Ave Maria</i>	Stravinsky
Hymn:	<i>Let Us with a Gladsome Mind</i>	#70
Hymn:	<i>For the Beauty of the Earth</i>	#66
Choral Amen:	<i>Threefold Amen</i>	Traditional
Postlude:	<i>Partita</i>	Pasquini

March 19, 2023

Prelude:	<i>Paso in D minor</i>	Casnovas
Anthem:	<i>Lord My Faithful Shepherd Is</i>	Schutz
Hymn:	<i>The King of Love My Shepherd Is</i>	#80
Prayer Response:	<i>O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee</i>	Bach
Offertory Anthem:	<i>God Is Our Refuge and Strength</i>	Mozart
Hymn:	<i>The Lord's My Shepherd</i>	#84
Hymn:	<i>Not Alone for Might Empire</i>	#439
Choral Amen:	<i>Fourfold Amen</i>	Barrow
Postlude:	<i>Basse et Deseus de Trompette</i>	Clerambault

March 26, 2023

Prelude:	<i>Adagio</i>	Mozart
Anthem:	<i>Ave Verum Corpus</i>	Mozart
Hymn:	<i>Crown Him with Many Crowns</i>	#199
Prayer Response:	<i>Sink Not Yet, My Soul, to Slumber</i>	Bach
Offertory Anthem:	<i>O Salutaris Hostia</i>	Rossini
Hymn:	<i>The Day of Resurrection</i>	#192
Hymn:	<i>All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name</i>	#195
Choral Amen:	<i>Sevenfold Amen</i>	Stainer
Postlude:	<i>Voluntary in D minor</i>	Stanley

MUSIC PROGRAM NOTES

Bernardo Pasquini (1637-1710) was an Italian composer of operas, oratorios, and keyboard music. A renowned virtuoso keyboard player, he was one of the most important Italian composers for harpsichord between Girolamo Frescobaldi and Domenico Scarlatti, having also made substantial contributions to opera and oratorio.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BARITONE!

We are so excited to welcome our new baritone, Guanghao Yu, to our quartet and to our community! Guanghao is a baritone and choral conductor based in Boston. He studied conducting and voice at Williams College, where he directed the college choral program during 2020-2021 as a student. He is currently the assistant conductor and a singer for the Longwood Chorus in Boston. Guanghao works as a clinical research coordinator at Boston Medical Center. Let's give Guanghao a warm welcome!

PREVIEW OF APRIL EVENTS

Easter Breakfast: On Sunday, April 9 at 9am the Easter Breakfast returns! We'll be sending an email out soon inviting RSVPs and sign ups to bring food or lend a hand. Your RSVPs and contributions will help make this a joyful celebration. Please feel free to send any question to Rev. Mark or to Ashley Mulcaire, our church administrator.

Holy Week Services:

April 2 – Palm Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

April 7 – Good Friday Meditations at 5:00 p.m.

April 8 – Easter Eve Taizé at 8:00 p.m.

April 9 – Easter Sunday at 10:30 a.m. (breakfast at 9:00 a.m.)

QUARTET “ON BROADWAY” CONCERT

Save the date! On Thursday, May 4th at 7 pm the FCCH Quartet will present a concert “On Broadway”. It is free and all are welcome. Please attend and join the fun!

BOOK GROUP

The next book will be *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver. We will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 30. Carolyn Osteen has offered to host.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Mark hosts bible study at 10:00am on Wednesdays on zoom. Contact him at mjtcaggiano@gmail.com to be included on the zoom invitation list. All are welcome.

DONATIONS

Collection has returned to its traditional format during the service. If you wish, you may also make your donation via Zelle or mail a check to the church, Attention: Treasurer, 26 Suffolk Road, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467. Many thanks for your anticipated generosity.

ALTAR FLOWERS



Attention flower donors: please contact Dana Flynn (617-680-0702) to coordinate the delivery of your flower donation. He will meet the florist (or you) at the church on the Saturday prior to your date. If you prefer, we also have tasteful silk arrangements which can easily be placed on the altar.

If you would like to donate flowers, April 30, 2023 is still available. Please contact our administrator Ashley Mulcaire, 26Suffolk@gmail.com if you are interested.

VOLUNTEER SCRIPTURE READERS

If you would like to join the group of volunteer scripture readers, please contact Carol Lohe (ctroyen@mfa.org.) This is a rewarding opportunity to be part of our Sunday services.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

..... *grow spiritually*
to *foster community*
..... *serve others*

ORGANIST and MUSIC DIRECTOR

Kathryn Rosenbach, 617-821-0385

SEXTON

Dana Flynn, 617-680-0702

ADMINISTRATOR

Ashley Mulcaire, 26Suffolk@gmail.com

FOR THOSE IN NEED THIS MONTH

Please contact the The Parish Service Committee Co-chairs:

Molly Batchelder 617-232-6213

Carol Stuart 617-731-0196

or Rev. Mark at the parsonage 617-232-0011 or via email

(mjtccaggiano@gmail.com)



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www.firstchurchchestnuthill.org