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## **FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE**

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

**FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC**  
**November 11, 2012**  
**THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

VOLUNTARY *Toccata in C Major* J. S. Bach

\*HYMN 108 *Come, Christians Join to Sing*

\*GREETING Tim Seery

- L: Sisters and brothers, peace to you as we gather together  
to worship God in this place of extravagant welcome.  
**C: We gather together, listening to our still speaking God.**  
L: No matter who you love or what kind of body you have,  
**C: you are welcome here.**  
L: No matter where you come from, what your name is, or what you look like,  
**C: you are welcome here.**  
L: Skeptic, seeker, been with us a lifetime, joining us for the hour,  
**C: you are welcome here.**  
L: Friends, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,  
**C: you are welcome here.**

\*WORDS OF WELCOME Terry McKinney

ANTHEM *Amazing Grace* Traditional, arr. P. Sykes

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- L: Let us pray for pardon, healing, and peace.  
**C: Holy One, source of all Peace:**  
**your Son said, Blessed are the peacemakers,**  
**for they will be called the children of God.**  
**Yet we live in a world full of wars,**  
**and we fight with our family and our neighbors.**  
**Forgive your children, God.**  
**Give us wisdom as a people, that wars between nations**  
**and wars between families shall be no more,**

*\*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.*

**and our hearts may turn toward a just peace.  
Holy One, source of all Love:  
your Son called us to offer compassion and care to all who suffer,  
to visit the sick and heal the disheartened.  
Yet on this Veteran's Day  
we acknowledge we have not always taken care of our veterans.  
Forgive us, and help us never to forget what our country has asked of them  
and what they have given in return.  
Guide us to heal all who are wounded, in body and spirit.  
Holy One, this day,  
for whatever ways we have fallen short of your commandments,  
we ask for your forgiveness and compassion. Amen.**

#### DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*Children from PreK to 7th grade are now invited to leave for church school. Teachers will meet children at the side door to accompany them to their classrooms. Parents can meet their children after the fire drill at the designated gathering site, which is directly across Mason Street by the white pillars in front of Radcliffe.*

#### \*GREETING OF PEACE

\*HYMN 515 (verses 1 and 2 only)      *This is My Song*

#### PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

#### RESPONSIVE PSALM 146

One: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!  
**All: I will praise the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**  
One: Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.  
**All: When their breath departs, they return to the earth;  
on that very day their plans perish.**  
One: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
**All: whose hope is in the Lord their God,**  
One: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;  
**All: who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.**  
One: The Lord sets the prisoners free;  
**All: the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.**  
One: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
**All: the Lord loves the righteous.**

One: The Lord watches over the sojourners;

**All: God upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked God brings to ruin.**

One: The Lord will reign forever, your God, for all generations.

**All: Praise the Lord!**

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 12:38-44

SERMON

Reebee Girash

\*HYMN 26

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Adwoa Lewis-Wilson

L: May God be with you.

**C: And with your spirit.**

L: Let us pray...

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.**

STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONY

Andy and Amy Clark

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Oculi Omnium*

Heinrich Schütz

*Oculi omnium in te sperant, Domine:  
et tu das escam illorum in tempore opportuno.  
Gloria tibi, Domine. Amen.*

*The eyes of all wait upon Thee, O Lord:  
and Thou givest them their meat in due season.  
Glory to Thee, O Lord. Amen.  
(from Psalm 145)*

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Praise God, the source of life and birth,  
Praise God, the Word, who came to earth,  
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame,  
All glory, honor, to God's name. Amen.**

**\*HYMN 454**

*God Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

**\*BENEDICTION**

At this time, we will proceed with a Fire Drill including an orderly evacuation practice. Please follow directions to meet at the Radcliffe Gate across Mason Street. As we gather, we will sing *Thuma Mina*.

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE**

*Send me, Jesus (Thuma Mina)*

*The congregation is invited to join in the singing of this response.*

*Send me/Lead me/Fill me  
Thuma mina somandla*

*The bulletin cover art series was designed by Perry Neubauer and constructed by many hands, large and small. Today's bulletin cover was created by Jack Dyer, Martha Dyer, and Craig Williams.*

## **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, toddlers and preschoolers 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** Reebee Girash, Sabbatical Interim Minister. Assisting with worship are Terry McKinney, Minister of Mental Health & Healing, and First Church member Adwoa Lewis-Wilson. Our liturgist is First Church member, Youth Group Leader, and Harvard Divinity School student Tim Seery. Giving the Stewardship Testimony are First Church members Amy and Andy Clark. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir. The greeting and prayer for understanding were written by liturgist Tim Seery.

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](mailto:parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org) or 617-547-2724 and we'll get the information to you.

## **TODAY'S HAPPENINGS**

**LIVING THE QUESTIONS CAFÉ: STEWARDSHIP 10 O'CLOCK HOUR Today and November 18 at 10:00 a.m., Hastings Room** Our Living the Questions Café takes on a Stewardship theme through November 18. Members of the Stewardship Committee will share testimonies of church folks along with related Scripture passages. Then we'll ponder some deep questions about giving, abundance, generosity, and what we aspire to be and do as a congregation. Join us in the Hastings Room!

**FIRE DRILL** At the conclusion of today's Worship and Church School, we will have a Fire Drill. Church School Teachers and Nursery Staff will lead their classes directly to the Designated Gathering Area which is across Mason Street by the white pillars in front of Radcliffe. Adults will move from the sanctuary to the same Designated Gathering Area across Mason Street by the white pillars in front of Radcliffe. Specific directions will be given from the microphone when the evacuation begins.

**EARTH STEWARDSHIP TEAM Today at 12:30 p.m., Hastings Room** Join us as we look toward various spring events, including Mission 4/1 Earth — an April, 2013, program of the UCC.

**BOOK GROUP Today, at 1:30 p.m., Senior Minister's Office** The Book Group for *Take This Bread: The Spiritual Memoir of a Twenty-first-century Christian*, by Sara Miles, will meet today at 1:30 p.m., in the Senior Minister's office. We will cover the second third of the book in lively conversation and share communion with one another. You are most welcome to join us, even if you haven't gotten through chapter 17. Speak to Reebee for details.

**MENTAL HEALTH & SPIRITUALITY GROUP Today at 2:00 p.m., Tower Room** 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 (tmckinney@firstchurchcambridge.org) or Carter West (stbosal@arczip.com).

**CONFIRMATION CLASS (8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> graders) Today at 2:30 p.m. (please note time change), Senior Minister's office** This year the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders of the church are walking together on the journey of Confirmation.

**ALL-CHURCH DANCE & POTLUCK, Today at 4:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall** Don't miss today's All-Church Dance & Potluck! This will be a joyful all-ages event where you will learn simple dances taught by a skillful dance caller and accompanied by live music. Bring your friends to meet and dance with your church family! A potluck dinner will follow, and we'll get cleaned up and ready to head home or to Night Song by 7:00 p.m.

**NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Today at 7 p.m., Sanctuary** Bask in the beauty of Renaissance polyphony, Gregorian chant, introspective modal improvisations by jazz musicians, incense and icons. Participation in Night Song, about an hour in length, is through listening and silent prayer. It is not meant to be a performance, but rather a transformance – a medium for achieving inner peace, centering and spiritual renewal. Set apart from the sights, sounds, and values of current culture, Night Song helps participants enter an inner mystical silence. You are invited and encouraged to attend and to tell others about this opportunity at First Church. If you have any interest in singing, ushering or helping with publicity for Night Song, contact Daryl Bichel at 617-312-8328, daryl**bichel@aol.com**.

### **FUTURE HAPPENINGS**

**FAMILY NIGHT Tuesday, November 13, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.** First Church families gather every other week in **Sage Hall** for a simple potluck supper and a chance to share the joys and challenges of family life together. The main dish (usually pasta and sauce) is provided; bring a side dish, dessert, or drink to share. Upcoming Family Nights are scheduled for **November 27 and December 11.**

**GOT GIFTS?!!!! FIRST CHURCH COMMITTEE STEWARDSHIP OPEN HOUSE MEETING** Curious and interested about what the Stewardship Committee actually does? Wondering whether it's for you? You are invited to attend the next open house committee meeting on Wednesday, November 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Senior Minister's office. So drop in, observe and participate. All are welcome!!

**MONTHLY NEWCOMER SESSIONS November 18 at 12:15 p.m., Hastings Room** 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.

**YOUTH GROUP On Sunday, November 18th, the youth group is venturing to Sacco's Bowl Haven in Davis Square from 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.** We'll bowl a few games, share some delicious flatbread pizza and most importantly, enjoy some fun time together! We'll meet right at Sacco's at 4:00 p.m. (located at 45 Day Street, Somerville). As always, please feel free to bring friends with you to any and all youth events! Also, if you've never been a youth event before-- have no fear! We are welcoming new people all the time and we'd love to see you!

### **THIRD-SUNDAY JAZZ WORSHIP November 18 at 5:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall**

Come one and all for lively worship in a jazz and gospel style. Whether you are a Jazz regular or a curious newcomer to our afternoon worship, join us for communal prayer and Holy Communion, led by Nancy Weil, and Reebee Girash, as well as soulful singing and stirring music led by Carolyn Wilkins and her band.

**COFFEE & CONVERSATION WITH OUR SABBATICAL INTERIM MINISTER** Each month Reebee will be setting up shop for Coffee & Conversation at a local coffee shop. These will be very informal drop-in sessions with no agenda except chatting and learning more about our Cambridge neighbors. Stop by and let Reebee buy you a cup of tea or a scone!

- ◆ **Monday, November 19, 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.**, Harvard Science Center Greenhouse Café
- ◆ **Thursday, December 13, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.**, Starbucks in the “Garage” building in Harvard Square

### **GET INVOLVED**

**HURRICANE SANDY RESPONSE** There are a wide variety of ways to help our neighbors in the US, Cuba, Haiti and elsewhere impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Two church related relief efforts can be found online at [www.ucc.org/disaster/hurricane-sandy-update.html](http://www.ucc.org/disaster/hurricane-sandy-update.html) (UCC fund for Sandy relief) and [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org).

**COVENANT DINNERS ARE ON!** We have 5 terrific hosts for dinners between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Now we need guests. Here are the dinners we have so far:

1. Woburn: Thursday, November 22 (Thanksgiving) at 4:00PM -- pot luck (appetizers and dessert), accessible, max 8-10 guests
2. Cambridge: Sunday, December 2 at 4:30 p.m. -- pot luck, not accessible, max 7 persons, kids welcome
3. Somerville: Friday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m. -- pot luck, not accessible, max 7 persons, no young kids
4. Arlington: Saturday, December 8 at 6:00 p.m. -- pot luck, stairs, max 9 guests, young kids welcome
5. Arlington: Tuesday, December 25 (Christmas) at 5:00 p.m. -- pot luck (side dishes, desserts), condo with stairs, max 6 adults/4 children

Thanks to Sarah Higginbotham, you can now sign up to be a guest or host on the First Church website! From the home page, click on “Worship, Music and Spiritual Life.” Look for “Covenant Dinners” in the list under “Small Groups” and click on it to get to a form for signups. You can also continue to sign up with us by email or phone, or see us in coffee hour on Sunday. (Dave Kidder; [flintkidr@aol.com](mailto:flintkidr@aol.com); 617-924-7236; Beth Loomis; [bethloomis3@gmail.com](mailto:bethloomis3@gmail.com); 617-851-2505). Also, if you'd like to host a dinner, we're scheduling for January and February of next year. Thanks!

**HOUSEHOLD GOODS NEEDED FOR RIM** as we are settling a new family from Iraq into an apartment in West Roxbury. Especially needed are three single beds, one of which is for a six year old girl (so it could be a youth bed).

**HOSPICE OF CAMBRIDGE** is sponsoring a discussion on Palliative and Hospice Care on November 15, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St. Dr. Loring Conant, former medical director of the first hospice in Massachusetts, and an expert panel discuss options open to patients and families as they face the challenges of living with a terminal illness. Suggested donation: \$10. Preregistration is required at 617-547-6789 or [www.ccae.org/catalog/detail.php?id=564067](http://www.ccae.org/catalog/detail.php?id=564067). For more information speak with Lindsay Miller.

**SPIRITUALITY AND HEALING CONFERENCE Friday, November 16, 2012, All Saints Church, Brookline, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.** Explore the role of faith in healing, in approaching life fully despite chronic health issues, spirituality in dealing with youth violence, freedom from addictions, and other workshops. Hear keynote speakers Margaret Bullitt-Jonas and Rabbi Or Rose address the conference topic, “**How Do We Heal in a Broken World?**” Our own Rev. Terry McKinney is serving as a panelist. Cost \$65/person including lunch. The Mission and Social Justice Committee has two free scholarships available. Contact Alice Kidder at [flintkiddr@aol.com](mailto:flintkiddr@aol.com) for more information.

**SABBATICAL UPDATE** Senior Minister Dan Smith is on sabbatical through January 31, 2013. Our Sabbatical Interim Minister is Reebee Girash. She can be reached at church or by email or phone, and she invites you into thoughtful conversation during this season. Reebee and Terry McKinney will be jointly working to coordinate pastoral care. For pastoral emergencies please note that an on-call number is listed in Reebee's outgoing voicemail. For further details on Dan's sabbatical, see the brochure and recent Event Newsletters.

**MEMBERS' AREA SECTION OF CHURCH WEBSITE** The members' area section of the website is up and running! Please visit the First Church's homepage and click the link that says *Members Area* to login and try it out. Whether you have been a part of our congregation for a few weeks or for a lifetime, as an official member or a friend, you are welcome to sign on for access to our church directory, prayer requests, a First Church blog, small group announcements, board minutes, budgets, and more. Update contact information, post photos and also email each other through our site (note: actual email addresses remain hidden). Your information will not be accessible to anyone but members and friends of our community. Please login and check it out!

## The Week Ahead

### Sunday, November 11

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation for Adults: Stewardship, Hastings Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Reebee Girash, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School Classes (PreK - 7th grade)
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, MJH
- 12:30 p.m. Earth Stewardship Team, Hastings Room
- 1:30 p.m. Book Group, Senior Minister's Office
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 2:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Senior Minister's Office
- 4:00 p.m. All-Church Dance and Potluck, MJH
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

### Monday, November 12

First Church building and office closed in observance of Veterans Day

### Tuesday, November 13

- 5:30 p.m. Family Night, Sage Hall

### Wednesday, November 14

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Senior Minister's office

### Thursday, November 15

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

### Sunday, November 18

#### Thanksgiving Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation for Adults: Stewardship, Hastings Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Brent Coffin, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School Classes (PreK - 7th grade)
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour with Light Lunch, MJH
- 12:30 p.m. Israel-Palestine Social Justice Forum, Hastings Room
- 12:30 p.m. Church School Teacher Training, Choir Room
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Group
- 5:00 p.m. Jazz Worship, MJH
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, 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

Senior Minister	Rev. Dan Smith, on sabbatical from October 1, 2012 - January 31, 2013
Sabbatical Interim Minister	Rev. Reebee Girash, 617-547-2724, ext. 26 rgirash@firstchurchcambridge.org
Minister of Mental Health & Healing	Rev. Terry McKinney, 781-643-7324 tmckinney@firstchurchcambridge.org
Affiliate Minister of Stewardship and Finance	Rev. Karen McArthur, 617-547-2724, ext. 22 treasurer@firstchurchcambridge.org
Affiliate Minister of Youth & Young Adults	Julie Rogers, 617-547-2724 jrogers@firstchurchcambridge.org
<i>Havruta</i> Scholar-in-Residence	Rev. Brent Coffin
Director of Music	Peter Sykes, 617-661-0570 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
Administrative Assistant	Jim Tomlinson, 617-547-2724, ext. 41 jtomlinson@firstchurchcambridge.org
Sextons	William Glass, Tina Quimby, George Williams, Kacy Williams, 617-642-3980



**FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL**

*United Church of Christ*

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