



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC
November 15, 2015
25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY *Lied* (Song) Louis Vierne

*HYMN (insert) *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding*

*GREETING Emily Carduff

L: Dear friends, we come into the house of God seeking rest from our travails.
C: **We come into Her house seeking protection from harm.**
L: We come into the house of God seeking life-giving waters.
C: **We come into Her house seeking nourishment for the journey of faith.**
L: Some of us come into a house that has hurt us, and yet we dare return.
C: **We honor those who don't feel safe enough to walk through the doors.**
All: **We are in this house to worship the God of justice, and to throw open the doors: let Her kindom come!**

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM *How Can I Keep from Singing* Robert Lehman

CONFESSING

INVITATION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray for healing, pardon, and peace.
All: **Forgive us, Good Lord, for ignoring you,
for ignoring our neighbor,
for ignoring ourselves.
Your love is abundant,
your passion for your creation, eternal.
We ask that you hear the call of your people,**

**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.*

**From the street, the church, the home,
And grant us healing and forgiveness.
In Jesus' name, Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

Children from PreK to 7th grade are invited to leave now for their Church School Classes. Teachers will meet children at the side door to accompany them to their classrooms. Parents can meet their children in Lindsay Chapel (through Margaret Jewett Hall and to the left) after worship.

*HYMN 464

Take My Life and Let It Be

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Kate Layzer

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 5

- L: Give ear to my words, O Lord; give heed to my sighing.
Listen to the sound of my cry, my Protector and my God,
for to you I pray.
- C: O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice;
in the morning I plead my case to you, and watch.**
- L: For you are not a God who delights in wickedness;
evil will not sojourn with you.
The boastful will not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers.
You destroy those who speak lies;
the Holy One abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful.
- C: But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love,
will enter your house,
I will bow down toward your holy temple, in awe of you.**
- L: Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness
because of my enemies;
make your way straight before me.
- C: For there is no truth in their mouths; their hearts are destruction;
their throats are open graves; they flatter with their tongues.**
- L: Make them bear their guilt, O God;
let them fall by their own counsels;
because of their many transgressions cast them out,
for they have rebelled against you.
But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy.

**C: Spread your protection over them,
so that those who love your name may exult in you.
For you bless the righteous, Mighty God;
you cover them with favor as with a shield.**

READING Mark 9:2-8

SERMON Katie Omberg

*HYMN (insert) *Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain*

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS Karin Case

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD Dan Smith

L: God be with you.

C: And also with you.

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

STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONY & INVITATION TO OFFERING Caroline Daley

OFFERTORY *Joy Flows Down* Patricia Van Ness

*DOXOLOGY **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.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 527

For the Fruits of All Creation

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Send Me, Jesus (Thuma Mina)

Hymn 344

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

*Send me, Jesus, send me Jesus
Send me, Jesus, send me Lord*

Lead me, Jesus...

Fill me, Jesus

*Thuma mina...
Thuma mina somandla*

VOLUNTARY
Vierne

Scherzetto

Louis

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.

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 Katie Omberg, Ministerial Intern. Assisting with worship are Karin Case, Minister; Dan Smith, Senior Minister; Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach; and Caroline Daley, youth group member. Our liturgist is new member Emily Carduff. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED Please pray for justice and action in the passing of the Public Accommodations Bill, which provides for the dignity and safety of trans Bay Staters. Pray for the peace of Israel and Palestine in the face of rising violence and for relief for migrants and refugees from Syria and other regions. Please pray for our nation as we confront an epidemic of police brutality against person of color. Please keep in your prayers people struggling with grief, illness, addiction or mental health concerns, job related transitions, marital or relationship troubles, or loneliness. **IN THIS SPACE** we share personal, congregational, national, and global prayer requests.

Portions of the **YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED** section of the bulletin are 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 offices at parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org or by calling 617-547-2724.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

TRAUMA, RACE, AND THE WORK OF FORGIVENESS — Moving Toward Hope and Transformation Today at 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., in the Hastings Room Join recent Harvard Divinity School graduates Melissa Bartholomew and our own Jennifer Stuart for these second and third sessions exploring the role of trauma and forgiveness in the work of racial healing and what moves us toward hope and transformation. These offerings will be grounded in Christian theological reflection and in the rich and varied professional experiences of our presenters. We hope the sessions will offer a framework and a safe space for our congregation to begin to talk about this important work on an individual and community basis.

NEWCOMERS LUNCH Today at 12:30 p.m., Library Interested in learning more about First Church — our history — our community? Interested in meeting other folks who are new to First Church? Church leaders will host a newcomers exploration lunch following morning worship today.

NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Tonight at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary Join us for this contemplative and spiritually transporting candle-lit experience of choral literature, ancient and contemporary chant, and instrumental music.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

OUR BLACK LIVES MATTER SIGN which has been posted for many months on sandwich board on the front lawn of the church was vandalized on Saturday November 7. This is the second time our sign has been targeted. The first time, the entire sandwich board was stolen, including the Witness Against Gun Violence message which describes the white and red flags on our lawn. Our Black Lives Matter sign is an important testimony to our commitments as a congregation and an important witness to the world. As we discuss how to replace our signage and strengthen our witness, we are making plans for a representative of Black Lives Matter, Cambridge to join us for conversation and education about the movement and to engage with us in strategizing next steps (date and time still to be determined—please watch for details.) We recognize that this vandalism is a form of violence and some members of our community may be feeling that quite acutely. If you would like to have a conversation with any of the ministers, please let us know. Please continue to pray and work for God's justice and mercy to be made real in this beautiful yet broken world.

WEDNESDAY CHRISTIAN MEDITATION Christian Meditation is the ancient practice of opening the heart in silence to the indwelling presence of God. Join the circle any Wednesday from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Lindsay Chapel. No experience is required, but all experience is welcome. Reach Kate Layzer at klayzer@gmail.com if you'd like to know more.

CENTERING MEDITATION Take an hour out of your week and gather with First Church friends to explore centering meditation. 6:00-7:15 pm Mondays and Thursdays in Room 22 (The Well). No prior meditation experience necessary. Contact Karin Case for more information: KarinCase@firstchurchcambridge.org.

BELL CHOIR Bell Choir is always looking for ringers; no prior experience needed. Reading music a plus but not required. All ages welcome to come to a rehearsal and try it out! We rehearse in the Chapel on the other side of Margaret Jewett Hall from 10:00-10:50 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Come to rehearsals in November and December and play with us during the Unpageant on December 20. Please email susielongfield@gmail.com for more information.

FAMILY NIGHT This Tuesday, November 17, 5:30 p.m. in Sage Hall Families with young children are invited to our biweekly Family Nights. Join us for supper with some free play for kids and conversation for adults every other Tuesday, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., in Sage Hall, our basement play space. Sarah provides pots of pasta and sauce, and you bring a dish to share. Salads, veggies, meatballs, garlic bread, or desserts are most welcome.

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES Saturday, November 21, 7:30 p.m. at Korean Presbyterian Church of Boston, 32 Harvard Street in Brookline. All proceeds go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Program will include Vivaldi's Four Seasons and Haydn's Symphony #44 played by the Hwaum Boston Chamber Orchestra. Razek Siriani, who spoke at First Church on October 18, will also talk about the Syrian refugee crisis.

ALL-CHURCH MUSIC FORUM WITH PETER SYKES Sunday, November 22 Who can we invite to become members of our musical family? Join us to share in this All-Church Forum to discuss, discern, and dream following morning worship. Come with your ideas and your hopes for the future of worship music at First Church!

THE UCC MIDDLE EAST INITIATIVE Sunday, November 22, 10:00 a.m., in the Hastings Room The Global Ministries Middle East Initiative of the UCC and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) invites the whole church to focus on the region of the Middle East for an extended period of time. Through highlighting aspects of mission and partnership, the Initiative offers an opportunity for the church to become familiar with the range of denominational partners in the region and the issues they face and the context in which they face them.

SAVE THE DATE! Advent Meditation Retreat on Saturday November 28, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Treat yourself to a morning of meditation and reflection in preparation for the Advent Season. Join Karin Case on Saturday November 28--the day before Advent begins. We will open ourselves to scripture and sacred music and we'll have plenty of time to explore a variety of meditation approaches including breath-centered meditation, walking meditation, and compassion meditation. No experience necessary. All are welcome. Childcare at the church can be arranged upon request. **Please register now on the First Church web site, <http://>**

www.firstchurchcambridge.org/ or e-mail Karin Case karincase@firstchurchcambridge.org to reserve a space.

COLLECTING TIN CANS AND GLASS JARS FOR THE ADVENT WORKSHOP. Please consider donating clean tin cans and glass jars from your recycling bins to the Advent Workshop. We will be accepting cans and jars on November 15 and 22, in advance of the workshop on November 29. Contact Sarah Higginbotham (shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org) with questions.

VOLUNTEER FOR THE ADVENT WORKSHOP, NOVEMBER 29 Do you enjoy crafting? Would you enjoy helping others enter the Advent season in a creative way? Consider volunteering to supervise a craft table at our annual Advent Workshop after worship on the First Sunday of Advent, November 29. You can choose which craft you'd like to teach; instructions for your activity will be provided. Responsibilities include set-up and craft tutorial during the 10:00 o'clock hour and staffing of the table from 12:30 to 2:00 pm. Contact Sarah Higginbotham (shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org) to sign up.

THE FIRST CHURCH SHELTER welcomes donations of volunteer time and meal or dessert items for then upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday. If you want to help out, please contact Jim Stewart (jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org or 617-694-7894).

TOWARD AN IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING OF ISLAM AND YOUR MUSLIM NEIGHBORS. Last session this Thursday, November 19, 7:00-8:30 p.m. in Classroom 101, Davis Hall, Andover Newton Theological School. Please consider attending one or more sessions of this series on one of the important Abrahamic faiths. Now in times of disconcerting demonstrations, we affirm our respect and concern for Muslims. The program is free and sponsored by the Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries. Register now on Eventbrite at: <http://islamcoursecmm.eventbrite.com>. For information contact Alice Kidder at flintkidr@aol.com.

CAMBRIDGE READS *Brown Girl Dreaming*—a memoir by Jacqueline Woodson has been chosen by the Cambridge Public Library for its citywide reading program this year. *Brown Girl Dreaming* is the recipient of the 2014 National Book Award, the Coretta Scott King Award, a Newberry Honor Award, the NAACP Image Award, and the Sibert Honor Award. Library Director Susan Flannery says: “Jacqueline Woodson’s rich and lyrical voice transcends time and place to bring readers of all backgrounds together to share her experience of coming of age in South Carolina and Brooklyn.” This memoir is written in free verse accessible to both children and adults. Cambridge Reads will host author Jacqueline Woodson on November 18 at 7:00 p.m. at Cambridge Rindge and Latin. Multiple copies are available from local libraries, and FCC has purchased several copies which you can borrow or purchase for a \$10.00 contribution to offset the cost of the book. If you are interested in going with people from First Church, contact Jean Bellow at jean_bellow@comcast.net.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FRIDAY CAFÉ

Friday Café would be very happy for contributions of Thanksgiving side dishes and pies to serve on Friday, November 27. If you have the day off from work and have been waiting for a chance to participate in the Café, volunteers are also needed! Get in touch with Kate Layzer at klayzer@gmail.com.

PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR VALUABLES Please be reminded that First Church is an open building and petty theft does occur here. Please make sure to not leave wallets, purses, phones, etc. unattended. And if you see anything suspicious, please contact a sexton immediately. Thank you for your vigilance and care.

Today's bulletin cover was created by Perry Neubauer.

The Week Ahead

Sunday, November 15

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. "Trauma, Race, and the Work of Forgiveness," Part II, Hastings Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Katie Omberg, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Classes for preschoolers-7th grade
- 12:30 p.m. "Trauma, Race and the Work of Forgiveness," Part III, Hastings Room
- 12:30 p.m. Newcomers Orientation and Lunch, McKenzie Library
- 2:00 p.m. Youth Group Meeting (meet in church lobby)
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class, Room 22
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

Monday, November 16

- 4:00 p.m. Faith and Life: Racism, Room 22 (the Well)
- 4:00 p.m. Capital Campaign Consultant Meetings, Dan Smith's office
- 6:00 p.m. Faith and Life: Centering Meditation, Room 22 (the Well)
- 7:30 p.m. Deacon's Meeting, Hasting Room

Tuesday, November 17

- 1:00 p.m. Capital Campaign Consultant Meetings, Dan Smith's office
- 5:30 p.m. Family Night, Sage Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Faith and Life: I Was a Stranger, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Faith and Life: Faith and Work, Room 22 (the Well)
- 7:15 p.m. Faith and Life: What Words Can You Use, Room 204
- 7:30 p.m. Gifts Discernment, Dan Smith's office

Wednesday, November 18

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 1:00 p.m. Palestine Task Force, Hasting's Room
- 3:00 p.m. Missions and Social Justice Committee, McKenzie Library
- 6:00 p.m. Christian Meditation, Lindsay Chapel

Thursday, November 19

- 6:00 p.m. Faith and Life: Centering Meditation, Room 22 (the Well)
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Hastings Room

Friday, November 20

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall

Sunday, November 22

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. UCC Middle East Initiative Presentation, Hastings Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Karin Case
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Classes for preschoolers-7th grade
- 12:30 p.m. All-Church Music Forum, Hastings Room
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

Senior Minister	Rev. Dan Smith, 617-547-2724, ext. 23 dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org
Minister	Rev. Dr. Karin Case 617-547-2724, ext. 26 karincase@firstchurchcambridge.org
Minister of Stewardship & Finance	Rev. Karen McArthur, 617-547-2724, ext. 22 karenmc@firstchurchcambridge.org
Minister of Street Outreach	Rev. Kate Layzer, 617-851-5074 klayzer@gmail.com
Ministerial Interns	Katie Omberg, katie@firstchurchcambridge.org Taj Smith, taj@firstchurchcambridge.org
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 www.patriciavanness.com
Shelter Director	Jim Stewart, 617-661-1873 jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org
Parish Administrator (on sabbatical)	Kirsten Manville, 617-547-2724, ext. 21 parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org
Acting Parish Administrator	Shannon Fuller, 617-547-2724, ext. 21 sfuller@firstchurchcambridge.org
Administrative Assistant	Lang Haynes 617-547-2724, ext. 41 Lang@firstchurchcambridge.org
Financial Assistant	Chelsea Turgeon, 617-547-2724, ext. 22 chelsea@firstchurchcambridge.org
Facilities Manager	Dan dos Santos ddossantos@firstchurchcambridge.org
Sextons	Douglas Casey, 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