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## **FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE**

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



**and the lack of grace towards those who have sinned against us  
that has led us into self-righteousness.**

**We confess that even when we have tried hard,  
and given your way our best shot,  
we sometimes managed to screw things up.**

**Forgive us, merciful God. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

#### DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

#### \*GREETING OF PEACE

*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 in Lindsay Chapel (through Margaret Jewett Hall and to the left) after worship.*

#### \*HYMN C-29

*Perfect, Yet Unfinished*

#### PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

#### READING

Psalm 103

*The Psalm will be read out loud by the congregation, section by section. Part 1 will be read by those seated in the choir area, part 2 by those seated in the three middle section of pews, part 3 by those sitting in the transept/family area, and part 4 by all.*

#### *PART I (Choir Section)*

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless God's holy name.**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and do not forget all the Holy One's benefits—  
who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the Pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
who satisfies you with good as long as you live  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

*PART II (three middle section of pews)*

**The Lord works vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.  
God, you made known your ways to Moses,  
your acts to the people of Israel.  
You are merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
You will not always accuse,  
nor will you keep you anger for ever.  
You do not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love towards those who revere you;  
as far as the east is from the west,  
so far you removes our transgressions from us.  
As parents have compassion for their children,  
so do you have compassion for your worshippers.**

*PART III (transept/family section)*

**For you know how we were made;  
you remember that we are dust.  
We mortals, our days are like grass;  
we flourish like a flower of the field;  
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,  
and its place knows it no more.  
But your steadfast love, God, is from everlasting to everlasting  
on those who fear you,  
and your righteousness to children's children,  
to those who keep your covenant  
and remember to do your commandments.**

*PART IV (all)*

**The Lord has established a throne in the heavens,  
and God's reign extends over all.  
Bless the Lord, O you angels,  
you mighty ones who do God's bidding,  
obedient to the Holy One's spoken word.  
Bless the Lord, all you hosts,  
ministers that do God's will.  
Bless the Lord, all creation,  
in all places of God's reign.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul.**

SERMON

Brent Coffin

\*HYMN 19

*Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven*

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Terry McKinney

L: God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

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

INVITATION FOR STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES AND OFFERINGS

Karen McArthur

*You are invited to come forward and place in the basket your offering for this week, as well as your pledge of support for next year, and remain in the chancel area, standing in a circle.*

OFFERTORY

*Locus Iste*

Anton Bruckner

*Locus iste a Deo factus est,  
inaestimabile sacramentum,  
irreprehensibilis est.*

*This place was made by God,  
a priceless mystery;  
it is without reproof*

\*DOXOLOGY

**From all who dwell below the skies,  
let the Creator's praise arise. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Let the Redeemer's name be sung,  
through every land by every tongue.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

\*DEDICATION OF PLEDGES AND OFFERINGS

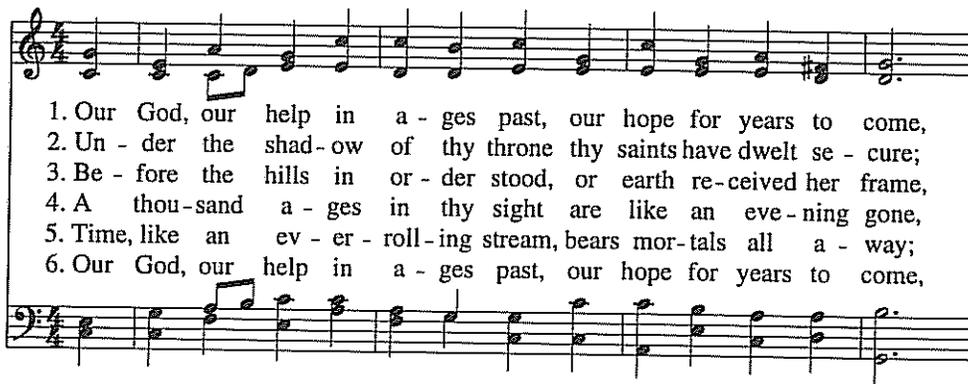
Elizabeth Lovance & Evan Ingersoll

\*HYMN (*insert*)

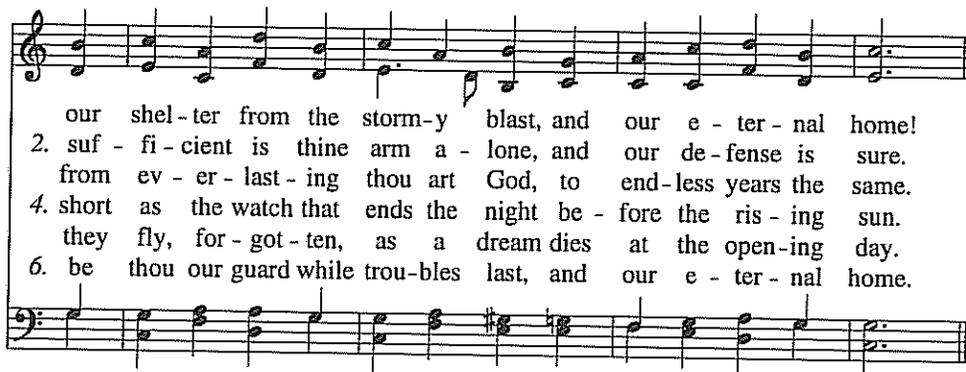
*Our God, Our Help in Ages in Past*

\*BENEDICTION

## Our God, Our Help in Ages Past



1. Our God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
2. Un - der the shad - ow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,  
4. A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone,  
5. Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, bears mor - tals all a - way;  
6. Our God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home!  
2. suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.  
4. short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.  
they fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the open - ing day.  
6. be thou our guard while trou - bles last, and our e - ter - nal home.

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.  
MUSIC: Atr. William Croft, 1708

ST. ANNE  
CM

Watts wrote this hymn, based on Psalm 90, while serving as pastor of Mark Lane Independent (Congregational) Church in London.

## 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** Brent Coffin, *Havruta* Scholar-in-Residence. Assisting with worship are Terry McKinney, Minister of Mental Health & Healing, Karen McArthur, Affiliate Minister of Stewardship & Finance, Julie Rogers, Affiliate Minister of Youth & Young Adults, and Evan Ingersoll and Elizabeth Lovance, members of the Stewardship Committee. Our liturgist is First Church member Karlene Griffiths Sekou. Giving the Stewardship Testimony is First Church member Deric Corwin. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir. The greeting is written by Rev. Dr. Laurel Koepf Taylor and Prayer of Confession is adapted from Bruce Prewer.

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 at 10:00 a.m., Hastings Room** Our final Living the Questions Café continues with its Stewardship theme on this pledge Sunday. 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. There will be no 10 o'clock hour next Sunday, November 25. Stay tuned for information about the Advent 10 o'clock hours starting on December 2.

**DON'T MISS THE FEAST!** There will be a community lunch after church today, made with love by First Church members as we continue to learn together how to live out our ministry of hospitality. We will be using veggies and meat from local farmers to make two yummy soups: chili pumpkin bisque with apple cranberry salsa and Zuppa Toscana, a soup with sausage, kale, and potatoes. The meal will be friendly to those with gluten allergies, vegetarians, vegans, and carnivores alike. All are welcome - please join us!

**MONTHLY NEWCOMER SESSIONS Today 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.

**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](mailto:tmckinney@firstchurchcambridge.org)) or Carter West ([stbosal@arczip.com](mailto:stbosal@arczip.com)).

**YOUTH GROUP Today at 4:00 p.m., Sacco's Bowl Haven in Davis Square** The youth group is venturing to Sacco's Bowl Haven in Davis Square today from 4 to 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 Today 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.

**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, [darylbichel@aol.com](mailto:darylbichel@aol.com).

### **FUTURE HAPPENINGS**

**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

**ADVENT WORKSHOP, DECEMBER 2 - CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPLIES** We'll mark the first day of Advent with our annual Advent Workshop in Margaret Jewett Hall after worship. This year, Nancy Cyr is returning to coordinate a wonderful selection of craft projects, including candle-dipping, wreath-making, cookie-decorating, and more! If you would like to help oversee an activity table at the workshop, please contact Sarah Higginbotham to sign up. We are also collecting glass jars and tin cans in preparation for two crafts - please drop off jars and tins at Sarah's office upstairs.

### **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). Yet another way to respond with needed supplies for NYC and NJ people is through the Occupy Boston drop-off and delivery system: <http://sandyrelief-boston.tumblr.com/> The website lists items needed and local places to leave supplies for transport to NYC. Among the items needed are blankets, candles, flashlights, batteries, and winter outdoor wear - see the website for more needs. There is a drop off spot at 74

Amsden St, Arlington, MA (just north of Cambridge), and other drop off spots listed online. If you have a whole lot of stuff to donate but cannot drop it off yourself, please email us at [sandyreliefboston@gmail.com](mailto:sandyreliefboston@gmail.com); we may be able to pick it up.

**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; [flintkiddr@aol.com](mailto:flintkiddr@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).

**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 18

#### Thanksgiving Sunday

- 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, 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. New Members Session, Hastings Room
- 12:30 p.m. Church School Teacher Training, Library
- 12:45 p.m. Earth Stewardship Team, Senior Minister's Office
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Group, Sacco's Bowl Haven (45 Day Street, Somerville)
- 5:00 p.m. Jazz Worship, MJH
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

### Wednesday, November 21

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

### Thursday, November 22

First Church Building and office closed in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday

### Friday, November 23

First Church Building and office closed in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday

### Sunday, November 25

- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Terry McKinney, preaching
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, MJH
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class, Senior Minister's Office
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

*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.*

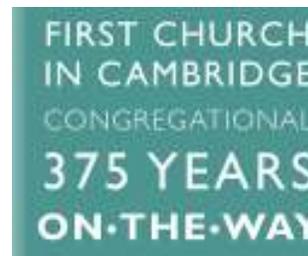
## First Church Covenant Testimony

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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