



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC
November 24, 2013
THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

VOLUNTARY

Nun Danket Alle Gott

J. S. Bach

*HYMN 526

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

*GREETING

Jean-Dany Joachim

- L: Sisters and brothers, grace and peace!
To this service of worship and praise,
C: the God of creation says, "Come!"
L: To the rich earth, where roots stretch and seeds grow,
to the farm where calloused hands plant and tend,
C: Christ says, "Come!"
L: To the kitchen, where familiar hands prepare with love
to the Thanksgiving table of plenty,
C: the Spirit says, "Come!"
L: Then, come, thankful people, come,
give praise to God from whom all blessings flow!

WORDS OF WELCOME

Sarah Higginbotham

ANTHEM

Mercy's Free

Lionel Breedlove

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- L: Let us pray for healing, pardon, and peace.
All: God of grace and compassion,
when we have forgotten your tender mercies,
when we have not noticed our neighbor's pain,
when we have withheld your love
from each other and from ourselves,
heal and restore us, we pray.
Give us grateful hearts
and grant that we may rest in your forgiveness,

**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.*

**trust in your grace,
and live into the wholeness to which you call us.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*HYMN 529 *Let All Things Now Living*

*GREETING OF PEACE

Children from Preschool to 8th grade are now invited to leave for a Creative Arts Project. Teachers will meet children at the side door to accompany them to their classrooms: Godly Play 1 and 2 will be in the Choir Room and Bible 101 and the Middle School class will be in McKenzie Library. Parents can meet their children in these locations after worship.

*PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING Sheehan Scarborough

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Jeremiah 23: 1-6

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL Luke 23: 33-43

SERMON Peter Makari

*HYMN 515 *This Is My Song*

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD Dan Smith

L: God be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

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

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Danksagen Wir Alle Gott

Heinrich Schütz

Please place visitor/prayer request cards in the baskets, along with your offering.

*We say thanks to God and to our Lord Christ,
who enlightened us with his word,
and has redeemed us with his blood
from the force of the devil.
Therefore we must all sing and
with his angels praise with joyful sounds,
Glory be to God in the highest!
Amen.*

*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!**

*HYMN 26

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

*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,
Thuma mina, somandla*

VOLUNTARY

Nun Danket Alle Gott

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

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 Peter Makari, Executive for the Middle East and Europe of the Common Global Ministries Board of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Assisting with worship are Dan Smith, Senior Minister, Sheehan Scarborough, Ministerial Intern, and Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts. Our liturgist is Jean-Dany Joachim. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir.

The YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED section of the liturgy is omitted in the online version to respect the privacy of those mentioned. To find out who we are praying for this week, contact the church office at parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org or by calling 617-547-2724.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS HIGHLIGHTS

In an effort to reduce paper consumption and be better stewards of the environment, we will no longer be printing weekly bulletin announcements along with the liturgy. Instead, we will print bi-weekly booklets with news, announcements, and calendars, which will be available at the sanctuary entrances. For more information about these and other announcements, please pick up a News and Announcements booklet or visit the Latest News section of the website at www.firstchurchcambridge.org.

GUEST PREACHER PETER MAKARI ON NOVEMBER 24 Dr. Peter E. Makari, our national Executive for the Middle East and Europe of the Common Global Ministries Board of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), will be our guest preacher in Morning Worship on Sunday, November 24. Peter will have recently returned from a trip to the Middle East and Europe and will be able to share the latest news about our partner churches and programs there during the 10 O'Clock Hour.

LIFE TOGETHER LUNCH Sunday, November 24 at 12:30 p.m. in Margaret Jewett Hall Sundays at First Church tend to be full of many different activities and general busyness. To provide some balance, we celebrate Life Together lunches on the last Sunday of each month. No other activities will be scheduled until 1:30 p.m. on these Sundays and we'll have a chance to connect as a whole community in food, fellowship and fun.

YOUTH GROUP THANKSGIVING SERVICE PROJECT Sunday, November 24 at 1:30 p.m. We will meet at First Church and travel together to serve a Thanksgiving dinner at the Greater Love Tabernacle Church in Dorchester. We will help prepare the meal and serve it. Parents can pick up the teens at First Church at 5 p.m.

SPIRITUALITY & MENTAL HEALTH GROUP Sundays at 2 p.m., Tower Room We meet as persons with questions about our inner lives, pursuing wellness, and to consider how our faith and our soundness inform each other. Participation in the group is open to any and all who identify with our purpose. To learn more, see Carter West (cartergw24@gmail.com.) or Terry McKinney (tmckinney@firstchurchcambridge.org).

NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Sundays at 7:00 p.m., in the Night Song is based on Compline, the last daily service of Christian worship, dating back to monastic life in the Middle Ages. Offered in the quietness of the evening, Night Song invokes a sense of protection and peace for the night that is to come. Join us for Gregorian chant and Renaissance polyphony.

ADVENT STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW Sundays, December 1, 8, 15, and 22, 10:00 a.m., and new Small Group Offerings Brent Coffin and Dan Smith will be leading three 10 O'Clock Hours to introduce the Gospel of Matthew, what is unique about it and what characterizes it. They will bring specific texts for our study, texts that will serve as an introduction and show how Matthew's Gospel can be seen as a context for our lives.

ADVENT WORKSHOP Sunday, December 1, 12:15 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall As the Advent season approaches, we are preparing for our annual Advent Workshop, taking place from 12:30 to 2 pm on Sunday, December 1. Plan to stay after worship on the First Sunday of Advent to make an advent wreath, a tin can lantern, beeswax candles, some crafty ornaments, and even decorated cookies. A simple lunch of soup & bread will be provided by the Friends of Fellowship.

Please make sure you take a look at the News and Announcements booklet this week. It has all of the upcoming Advent events and activities listed.



You Are Cordially Invited to Participate in
City Mission Society's
2013 Christmas Shop



First Church will be receiving donations of NEW ITEMS for the annual CMS Christmas Shop on Sunday, December 8.

City Mission Society's **Christmas Shop** once again celebrates its partnership with local churches, businesses and individuals who give gifts of the heart to honor the birth of Jesus Christ and to help families and children in need. The CMS Christmas Shop brings the joys of giving and receiving to many people in the Greater Boston Metropolitan area annually. In 2012 over 4,200 adults and children benefited, thanks to the generosity of hundreds of members of more than 40 local churches, groups and organizations. **In 2013 we expect the need to be even greater.**

Gift Suggestions: We accept only **NEW** items. These are listed by priority.

- ◆ **Winter coats, sweaters and sweatshirts (large sizes especially)**
- ◆ **Hats, mittens, gloves and scarves**
- ◆ **Socks and underwear**
- ◆ **Blankets and backpacks**
- ◆ **Toys, games, and books for all ages**
- ◆ **Gift cards from Target, Marshalls, Walgreens, CVS, Kohls, Walmart, Stop and Shop, Shaw's and other merchants**

CMS Identifies Families in Need

Throughout the fall, CMS staff identifies children and families in need within CMS programs and partnerships. Together we assess the needs of the Boston community and identify persons in need of holiday assistance.

Partner Churches Donate Needed Items

NEW clothing, toys and other items including store gift cards come from over 40 churches, groups and organizations. They are purchased or hand-made by individuals and families who believe that Christmas is an important time to share hope, joy and love with others.

Volunteers Sort and Pack Gifts for Their Neighbors

More than 10,000 items are delivered to **First Church in Winchester**. They are sorted and repacked for distribution by volunteers from church youth groups, women's fellowships and other groups, including families who want to help.

Collection and Sorting Dates

December 8, 14, 15, 16, 2013. Please contact Sarah Higginbotham (shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org) if you are interested in joining the First Church group delivering and sorting on December 8.

Special thanks to our sponsors (partial list):

Muzi Ford, Whole Foods, Home Depot, Lowe's and Gentle Giant Movers.

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.

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE
CONGREGATIONAL
375 YEARS
ON·THE·WAY

The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

Senior Minister	Rev. Dan Smith, 617-547-2724, ext. 23 dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org
Minister of Mental Health & Healing	Rev. Terry McKinney tmckinney@firstchurchcambridge.org
Affiliate Minister of Stewardship and Finance	Rev. Karen McArthur, 617-547-2724, ext. 22 treasurer@firstchurchcambridge.org
Ministerial Interns	Jennifer Wenz, jwenz@firstchurchcambridge.org Sheehan Scarborough, sscarborough@firstchurchcambridge.org
<i>Havruta</i> Scholar-in-Residence	Rev. Brent Coffin
Director of Music	Peter Sykes, 617-645-0833 psykes@aol.com
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United Church of Christ

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