



Advent

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC

December 15, 2013

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

VOLUNTARY *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* Dietrich Buxtehude

INTROIT *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

*O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Bible 101 Class

L: The light of Christ!
All: **Thanks be to God!**

Please rise and join in singing the refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*GREETING Liam Simons

L: Sisters and brothers, rejoice, for God is ready to reveal God's glory!
C: **And with it, peace, hope, mercy and love for all!**
L: Make room in your hearts for this good, good news!
C: **Make room in your lives for this blessed invitation, gentle and deep!**
L: Emmanuel, God with us, is coming!
C: **Emmanuel, God with us, is near!**

*HYMN 127 *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates*

WORDS OF WELCOME Dan Smith

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

ADVENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Now let us ask for healing, pardon and peace.
C: **In your presence, God, and in each other's company,
we confess that our lives and the life of the world**

**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.*

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 HYMN 131 *Creator of the Stars of Night*

(Please remain seated during the hymn.)

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

*ADVENT DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Hope in our God who reigns above,
Who holds us all in steadfast love,
Whose Spirit blows across the earth,
Preparing us for second birth! Amen.**

*HYMN 116 *People, Look East*

*LEAVE-TAKING BLESSING

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *O Emmanuel* Healey Willan

*O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver,
for whom the nations wait, their only Savior,
come Thou, O Lord our God, be our salvation.*

VOLUNTARY *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* J. S. Bach

Machet die Tore weit
Georg Philipp Telemann

*Machet die Tore weit
und die Türen in der Welt hoch,
daß der König der Ehren einziehe.*

Lift up your heads, you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

*Wer ist der selbige König der Ehren?
Es ist der Herr, stark und mächtig im Streit.*

Who is this King of glory?
The Lord strong and mighty,
the Lord mighty in battle.

*Machet die Tore weit
und die Türen in der Welt hoch!*

Lift up your heads, you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

*Wer ist der selbige König der Ehren?
Es ist der Herr Zebaoth,
er ist der König der Ehren
Sela, Sela, Sela.*

Who is he, this King of glory?
The Lord Almighty—
he is the King of glory.
Selah, Selah, Selah.

Psalm 24: 7-10

***Christmas Worship at
First Church Cambridge, Congregational, UCC***

Sunday, December 22

Morning Worship, First Church Un-pageant
11:00 a.m.
Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 24,

Christmas Eve Vespers Service
6:00 p.m.
Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 25,

Christmas Day Worship Service and Communion
11:00 a.m.
Lindsay Chapel

*The Advent bulletin cover was created by Alice Dyer,
as part of a church school creative arts project.*

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.

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY ARE Dan Smith, Senior Minister, and Sheehan Scarborough, Ministerial Intern. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is giving today's reflection, as well as playing the organ and directing the choir. Our liturgist is First Church member Liam Simons. The Bible 101 church school class is lighting the Advent candles. String players for the Telemann Cantata are Dorian Bandy, Karen Burciaga, Anne Black, Denise Fan, and Deborah Dunham.

The YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED section of the bulletin is omitted in the online version to protect the privacy of those mentioned. For more information on who we are praying for this week, please contact the church office at parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org or call 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.

CHRISTMAS PARTY AND POTLUCK Sunday, December 15, 12:15 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall. All are welcome to gather together for a delicious potluck meal, caroling and fellowship. A spiral-cut ham and vegetable quiches will be the main course. If your household's last name falls between A-M, would you please bring a green leafy salad (with dressing) to Margaret Jewett Hall before worship. If your last name falls between N-Z, would you please bring a dessert. If you are in a pinch for time, juices and sparkling water would be most welcome!

ADVENT CHORAL MUSIC Sunday, December 15 For this year's special Advent Choral Music Sunday service the choir will sing "Machet die Tore Weit," by George Philipp Telemann, on the Advent text "Lift high your heads ye mighty gates. The piece is for choir, strings, and continuo.

ADVENT STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW Sundays, December 15 and 22, 10:00 a.m. Brent Coffin and Dan Smith will be leading two Ten 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, which will serve as an introduction and show how Matthew's Gospel can be seen as a context for our lives.

FAMILY CHOIR REHEARSALS December 15 and 22 at 10 a.m., in Margaret Jewett Hall Join the Family Choir as it prepares to sing in the Un-Pageant on December 22. All ages and musical experiences are welcome.

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 Sanctuary 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 HAVRUTA GROUPS Thursday, December 19 Two Advent *Havruta* groups on Matthew will be offered (one in the morning, one in the evening) on Thursday, December 19. These sessions will go very deeply into texts from Matthew and will provide a foundation and a vision for what these texts could mean to us. The morning group will meet at 7 a.m. in the Hastings Room. The evening group will meet at 7 p.m. in room 202.

FIRST CHURCH UN-PAGEANT Sunday, December 22, during Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m. The Un-Pageant is a fun and funky tradition at First Church! On the fourth Sunday of Advent we tell the Christmas story as a congregation in Morning Worship by donning costume bits found in the pews that transform us into angels, shepherds, sheep, wise folks, and villagers of Bethlehem. We sing the well-loved carols and gather close around the Baby Jesus to experience once again that miraculous love and light and hope and peace. Because it's unrehearsed, expect a few surprises and expect joyful hearts!

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

Havruta Scholar-in-Residence

Rev. Brent Coffin

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

Shelter Director

Jim Stewart, 617-661-1873
jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org

Parish Administrator

Kirsten Manville, 617-547-2724, ext. 21
parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org

Pastoral Associate

Julie Rogers, 617-547-2724, ext. 41
jrogers@firstchurchcambridge.org

Facilities Manager

Dan dos Santos
ddossantos@firstchurchcambridge.org

Sextons

Ronaldo dos Santos, Tina Quimby, George Williams,
Kimel Williams, 617-642-3980



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL

United Church of Christ

11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138