



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 22, 2013

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

VOLUNTARY *Kommst du nun, Jesu, vom Himmel herunter* J. S. Bach

*HYMN 114 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

*THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES Middle School Class

L: The light of Christ!

All: **Thanks be to God!**

*GREETING Kate Weller

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!**

WORDS OF WELCOME Dan Smith and Sarah Higginbotham

ANTHEM *All Night, All Day/Angels Watchin' Over Me* Traditional

REFRAIN:

All night, all day, angels watchin' over me, my Lord.

All night, all day, angels watchin' over me.

1. *Come to Bethlehem and see...*

Angels watchin' over me, my Lord.

Come adore on bended knee...

Angels watchin' over me.

2. *Glad tidings of great joy...*

God is here, he's a little boy...

REFRAIN

3. *Light and life to all he brings...*

Ris'n with healing in his wings...

**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.*

4. *Shepherds guard and angels sing...
Glory to the newborn King...*

REFRAIN

5. *Good Christians all, rejoice...
With heart and soul and voice...*

6. *On the earth let there be peace...
Let it begin and never cease...*

REFRAIN

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Emma Weller

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
are cast in shadow by what we do and by what we fail to do.
But we know a light shines in the darkness
and the darkness does not overcome it.
Pardon our deliberate faults.
Heal our weaknesses and fears.
Give us strength to grow in the love we lack.
Illumine our souls with the first glimmers
of the Coming Light of Christ, our Comfort and Redeemer. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 117

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

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.**

THE UNPAGEANT

NARRATION

READING

Isaiah 11:1-2 & 6-9

Julian Baxandall

NARRATION

*HYMN

My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise

*My heart sings out with joyful praise to God who raises me,
Who came to me when I was low and changed my destiny.
The Holy One, the Living God, is always full of grace
To those who seek their Maker's will in ev'ry time and place.

The arm of God is strong and just to scatter all the proud.
The tyrants tumble from their thrones and vanish like a cloud.
The hungry all are satisfied; the rich are sent away.
The poor of earth who suffer long will welcome God's new day.

The promise made in ages past at last has come to be,
For God has come in pow'r to save, to set all people free.
Rememb'ring those who wait to see salvation's dawning day,
Our Savior comes to all who weep to wipe their tears away.*

NARRATION

READING

Matthew 1:18-25

Nicole Haas-Loomis

ANTHEM

The Cherry Tree Carol

Traditional, arr. P. Sykes

(Mary & Joseph approach the creche during the anthem.)

*When Joseph was an old man,
An old man was he,
He married Virgin Mary,
The Queen of Galilee,
He married Virgin Mary,
The Queen of Galilee.*

*As Joseph and Mary
Walked through an orchard green,
There were apples and cherries
Plenty there to be seen,
There were apples and cherries
Plenty there to be seen.*

*Then Mary spoke to Joseph,
So meek and so mild,
"Joseph, gather me some cherries,
For I am with Child,
Joseph, gather me some cherries,
For I am with Child."*

*Then Joseph flew in anger,
In anger flew he,
"Let the father of the baby
Gather cherries for thee,
Let the father of the baby
Gather cherries for thee."*

*Then Jesus spoke a few words,
A few words spoke He,
"Let my mother have some cherries,
Bow low down, cherry tree,
Let my mother have some cherries,
Bow low down, cherry tree."*

*The tree then bowed low down,
Bowed low down to the ground,
And Mary gathered cherries,
While Joseph stood around,
And Mary gathered cherries,
While Joseph stood around.*

NARRATION

READING

Luke 2:1-7

Maggie LaMaster

*HYMN

Away in a Manger

(The Baby is brought forward during the hymn.)

*Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky look down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.*

NARRATION

READING

Luke 2:8-14

Alex Ball

*HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
(Angels approach the creche during the hymn.)

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"*

*Joyful all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the ever lasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.*

*Veiled the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased on earth with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.*

*Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise all souls on earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

NARRATION

READING

Luke 2:15-20

Liam Simons

*HYMN

The First Nowell
(Shepherds & sheep approach the creche during the hymn.)

*The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.*

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.*

*They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.*

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.*

*And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, Born is the King of Israel.*

NARRATION

READING

Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

*HYMN

We Three Kings of Orient Are
(Magi approach the creche during the hymn.)

*We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O, star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

*Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.
O, star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

*Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Sounds through the earth and skies.
O, star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

NARRATION

*OFFERTORY HYMN *O Little Town of Bethlehem (Forest Green)*

**(Villagers approach the creche during the hymn,
and offering and visitor/prayer request cards are received.)**

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast our our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

***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**

Joy to the World

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods,
rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.*

***BENEDICTION**

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 Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts. The Middle School church school class is lighting the Advent candles. Members of the youth group are doing the readings. In the Un-Pageant Mary is played by Ivy Seek, Joseph by Colin Harmer, the baby Jesus by Francesca Culpepper, and Sophia and Mellisha Culpepper are carrying the Star of Bethlehem. Sarah Higginbotham is directing the Family Choir. Susie Longfield is directing the Bell Choir. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir.

The YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED section of the liturgy has been 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 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.

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 singing the well-loved carols and donning costume bits found in the pews that transform us into angels, shepherds, sheep, wise folks, and villagers.

ADVENT STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW Sunday, December 22, 10:00 a.m. Brent Coffin and Dan Smith will present the final Ten O'Clock Hour introducing the Gospel of Matthew.

FAMILY CHOIR REHEARSALS December 22 at 10:15 a.m., in the Sanctuary 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.

LUNCH ON CHRISTMAS DAY Are you a "Christmas Day Orphan" with no family nearby to be with on Christmas Day? First Church has a tradition of a festive, leisurely lunch at Chang Sho restaurant on Mass. Ave. following the 11:00 a.m. Christmas Day service in the chapel. Lunch is pay-what-you-can (including zero), and everyone is welcome. Contact Paul Sawyer (sawyerp@acm.org or 978-692-3631).

EPIPHANY POTLUCK DINNER AND WORSHIP Monday, January 6 at 6 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall Save the date and join us in a candlelit sanctuary for this First Church traditional celebration of Epiphany. Details in the Epiphany, 2014, issue of EVENT.

WITNESS AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE AND INEQUALITY Those involved in the ministry to prevent gun violence are expanding their focus in 2014 to include a fundamental cause of gun violence, namely economic and social inequality. We'll pursue three related tracks, as indicated below.

- ◆ **January 5 10:00 Christian Education Hour Advocacy**—Learn about prospective gun legislation and how to lobby your legislators for specific provisions. **Action**—Hear about some programs and people working in urban communities to stem gun violence and address issues of inequality. Find out how we might take action. **Relationships**—Share our stories, relating what touches us about our own experiences with violence. To be led by Dan Smith, Ann McCann, Alice Kidder and others.
- ◆ **January 6 6:00 At start of Epiphany gathering** Help renew our installation on the corner of Garden and Mason Sts. by removing the flags representing those killed or injured by gun violence in the Boston area in 2013. Pray for peace in 2014.

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

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

A Note about “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” is a hauntingly beautiful hymn that for many captures the spirit of the Advent season. The text can be traced back to a set of 9th-century Latin antiphons commonly called the “O Antiphons” (“O Wisdom, O Lord, O Root of Jesse...”). The version we sing today is attributed to an Anglican hymn writer named John M. Neale (1818–1866).

The words to “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” found in our hymnal—especially the first verse—can be interpreted in different ways. For some they can evoke an age-old misguided attitude in the church that sees Israel and the Jews as “spiritually valid” only as precursors to Jesus and Christianity. To be clear: The idea that Israel/Judaism is “waiting in exile” until Jesus, Emmanuel, appears is a contradiction of Jewish self-understanding and an affront to our theology, which honors Judaism as a distinct faith tradition apart from Christianity. For others, however, these words simply evoke the “Israel” of Christian spiritual tradition, a reference to our ancestral heritage. While respecting what Israel did and does mean to the Jewish people, the hymn as written can continue to have a powerful meaning for Christians.

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

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