



A Service of Healing

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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

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 been blind to our neighbor's pain,
when we have withheld your love from each other and from ourselves,
heal and restore us, we pray,
and grant that we may rest in your forgiveness,
trust in your grace,
and live into the wholeness to which you call us.
In Jesus' name. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

Children from PreK to 7th grade are now invited to leave for a creative arts project. Teachers will meet children at the side door to accompany them. Parents can meet their children in Margaret Jewett Hall after worship.

*HYMN 302

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

RESPONSIVE PSALM 138

L: I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;

**C: I bow down towards your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;
for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.**

L: On the day I called, you answered me,
you increased my strength of soul.

**C: All the sovereigns of the earth shall praise you, O God,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.**

L: They shall sing of the ways of the Holy One,
for great is the glory of God.

**C: For though you, O God, are high, you regard the lowly;
but the haughty you perceive from far away.**

L: Though I walk in the midst of trouble,

you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
you stretch out your hand,
and your right hand delivers me.

**C: Holy One, you will fulfill your purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O God, endures for ever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

READING Romans 12: 1-18

REFLECTION Dan Smith

INVITATION TO TIME OF HEALING PRAYER

BLESSING OF OIL AND HANDS

HYMNS

394 I Have No Bucket, and the Well is Deep
229 Spirit, Come Dispel Our Sadness
399 From the Crush of Wealth and Power
424 We Walk by Faith and Not By Sight

CONCLUDING PRAYER AND 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 *Eden's Song* arr. Mark Schweizer

*A memory of Eden stirs,
and walks within the warmth of spring;
It whispers ev'ry hope God has
to Life Eternal, listening*
*Stretch past the gloom of winter's grey,
unfurl by faith and not by sight;
to touch the light of length'ning days
that calls thee forth to green delight.*

*The season of new growth begins,
embrace the promise we all share;
lift ev'ry voice and celebrate,
the living God, who's always there.
- Beverly Easterling*

***PENTECOST DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**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.**

*HYMN 352

Go Forth for God

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Ultimate Jude

Paul Sawyer

VOLUNTARY

Andante

Felix Mendelssohn

The Pentecost bulletin cover is an image of a ceramic mosaic created by the children of the church and designed by Perry Neubauer. The flames recall the story in Acts when Jesus' followers, meeting together, were visited by tongues of fire over their heads. This symbolized the presence of the Holy Spirit and ignited their mission of spreading the Good News to all people.

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, 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 Dan Smith, Senior Minister. Assisting with worship is Reebee Girash. Our liturgist is First Church member Jim Cairns. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir.

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 or 617-547-2724 and we'll get the information to you.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

HEALING SERVICE TODAY At today's worship service, we will have an opportunity to reflect together on God's healing peace, and to participate in a simple healing ritual involving a brief prayer, laying on of hands, and for those who wish, anointing with oil — an ancient Christian practice now being revived across the ecumenical spectrum of churches. The morning service will follow the normal order, but at the time of the sermon, we will offer instead a brief introduction to the ritual, and then invite forward all who would like to participate. For those who prefer to remain seated, there will be music and a time of silence for individual prayers.

LIVING FAITH AND FAMILY LIFE Today at 10:00 a.m., Hastings Room Our congregation has recently engaged in conversations about "Learning, Living, and Sharing" the way of Jesus. But "Learning, Living and Sharing" are not just for grownups! We invite parents and caregivers of young children to a discussion series on faith formation at home. Topics may include: How should we engage Bible stories? How do our own faith journeys impact our parenting? What are age-appropriate responses to hard theological questions? Is Sabbath something we can practice as a family? Are there table graces beyond "God is great, God is good...?" When can our kids engage in service projects? Don't currently have children at home? We invite uncles and aunts, grandparents and caring grownups to offer wisdom and support in these conversations. Questions? Speak to Sarah Higginbotham (shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org) or Reebee Girash (rgirash@firstchurchcambridge.org).

SPIRITUALITY AND MENTAL HEALTH 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) or Carter West (stbosal@arczip.com).

NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Today at 8:30 p.m., Sanctuary Night Song continues through the spring and summer - but with several changes. The starting time will be 8:30 p.m., as sunset is occurring later now. The setting will be simpler, with no icons, very few candles and no incense. And there will be no jazz instrumental component, making it 30 minutes in length and more traditional in nature. The music will be Gregorian chant and Renaissance polyphony. 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.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION Reebee will hold office hours in the community on Friday, May 31, from 9:00–10:30 a.m. at the 1369 Coffee House in Central Square. No agenda—just come and chat!

MEN'S BREAKFAST Saturday, June 1 at 7:30 a.m., Hastings Room Gentle men of First Church! Join us for a hearty breakfast and even heartier conversations about topics that connect our faith to our lives and our world. One-time visitors, friends, and newcomers are always welcome. Questions? Contact Paul Efthim, pwefthim@verizon.net. If you'd like to sign up for the Men's Breakfast e-mail list to receive monthly reminders, contact Kirsten Manville, parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org.

LIFE AND LEGACY RETREAT Saturday, June 1, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. *"If I had a \$100,000 to give away, how would I do it?" Okay, so you know how you would spend \$100,000, if you had it. Now, tell us, "How would you like to be remembered?" "What has been important in my life?" "Did I do everything I wanted to do?" "What do I hope for in the future?"* Come to the Life and Legacy Retreat sponsored by the Stewardship Committee on Saturday, June 1, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. We will be discussing a lot more than money! Participants will have a chance to explore what it means to have a good life and a good death. A good life means finding comfort with our dreams, hopes and fears. A good death can occur with a little practical foresight. Specific workshops will be offered addressing all the paperwork involved at end of life, how to organize a memorial service or funeral, where to find good health care, and planned giving. Lunch will be provided. Register on line at the First Church website (<http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/about-us/stewardship-giving>) or email Tim Seery at tseery@college.harvard.edu by May 27. If you have any questions feel free to contact a Stewardship member: Deric Corwin, James Greaney (Chair), Anne Holtzworth, Beth Loomis, Elizabeth Lovance, Karen McArthur, Anne McClintock, or Tim Seery.

EARTH STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS JUNE 2! Please join us for this celebration of God's creation – and our role as stewards of the earth. You are invited to consider the earth – and your carbon footprint – as you make your way to church on June 2. Please Bike, Bus, Carpool, or Walk to church if possible. At 10:45 on the walkway to the playground join us for a Blessing of the Bicycles. After church we will have an Earth Stewardship Fair in Margaret Jewett Hall.

ISRAEL PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE REPORT Sundays, June 2 and 9 at 10 a.m., Hastings Room Please join Rev. Dan Smith and our *Havruta* Scholar-in-Residence, Rev. Brent Coffin, in the Hastings Room for two Sundays as they share observations and reflections from their recent trip to Israel and Palestine. This past January, and as part of Dan's sabbatical, these two long-time colleagues and friends spent time in Jerusalem, the Galilee and the West Bank, including Bethelhem and Ramallah. The trip was part spiritual pilgrimage, part socio-political education and part *havruta* text study. Come hear their stories and their questions, and feel free to bring your own! Brent and Dan will also share some ideas for how we might continue to reflect theologically on our ties to this region and the ongoing conflict there.

FIRST CHURCH MUSICALE Sunday, June 2 in Margaret Jewett Hall The Musicale is coming up! Mark your calendars: Early crowd at 5:00, potluck at 6:00, then late crowd after that. If you are interested in performing, you can email Mike Plum at mikeplum@gmail.com or call him at 857-523-0441.

EARTH STEWARDSHIP DISCUSSION GROUP JUNE 4TH Tuesday, June 4 at 7:30 p.m., McKenzie Library Please join us for a discussion on faith and climate change. We will look at articles from the May 2013 Sojourners Magazine, all focused on Climate Change. You can download the articles via a link on the First Church Blog, or get copies at coffee hour this week or next from Reebee Girash. Additionally, we will discuss the Resolution on Fossil Fuel Divestment which comes before the UCC General Synod this summer. That resolution can be read at uccfiles.com/pdf/gs29-6-FossilFuelDivestment.pdf.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY WITH ALL-CHURCH PICNIC Sunday, June 9 at 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary and Cambridge Common On June 9, as the church program year comes to a close, we will celebrate with our Confirmation Class of eight young men and women as they complete one step on their ongoing faith journey and mark the end of the confirmation process. The Church School will assist in the liturgy that morning, and we will recognize and thank the teachers and leaders who have walked alongside our children throughout the year. Following worship, we'll gather across Garden Street on the Cambridge Common for our annual All-Church Picnic, complete with an all-ages kickball game. Stay tuned for details on how you can contribute to the picnic fare. For now, plan to bring your lawn chairs, picnic blankets, and your kickball skills to church on June 9!

PLEASE JOIN ELLEN in celebrating her graduation from Andover Newton this past May 18th. Ellen Rohan Ball and her family are holding a celebration in Margaret Jewett Hall of First Church in Cambridge, Congregational to share her joy and in gratitude for all the help and well-wishes received over her time there. Come for a light food fare and homegrown music, Sunday June 9 from 3 to 5 p.m. All are welcome! Please RSVP Ellen at erohanball@aol.com, and please, no gifts necessary.

FAREWELL TO REEBEE GIRASH AND JULIE ROGERS The end of the year often brings more than the usual number of leave-taking blessings. This year is no exception. On June 9, Confirmation Sunday, we will be giving thanks for, blessing, and sending forth Julie Rogers. Julie has been doing excellent work this year with our Confirmation Class, Youth Group and Young Adults, and has also built a strong foundation for future growth in those ministries. Then, on June 23, we will say farewell to our fabulous Interim Minister, Reebee Girash. On that day, we will recognize and give thanks for her wonderfully competent and caring ministry over the course of this past Sabbatical year. There will be a reception in MJH following a special farewell Sunday service. Please mark your calendars for both of these dates, and know that we'll be collecting cards and remembrances on those dates to send Reebee and Julie off with our love and lasting affection.

PASTORAL TRANSITION NOTES As Sabbatical / Interim Minister Reebee Girash's departure approaches, she has been working with the rest of the staff and her Pastoral Relations Committee to prepare. Every pastor has their own practice regarding pastoral transitions. Reebee has written a blog post outlining her specific practice, and you can read it at <http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/members/blog/a-word-on-transition>. You are welcomed and encouraged to speak with Reebee directly, or with Dick Harter, Chris Reynolds, or Jean Bellow (Reebee's PRC) with any questions about this transition.

GET INVOLVED

BOSTON PRIDE Saturday, June 8 in Boston Join First Church and march with other “Open and Affirming” UCC churches in celebrating the 43rd anniversary of Boston Pride! Whatever your sexual orientation or gender identity, PRIDE is a joyous opportunity to express the extravagant, inclusive love of God for all people. The day begins at 9:30 a.m. with gathering music at Old South Church (645 Boylston St) and an interfaith service of worship at 10:00, also at Old South. We will then gather on Tremont Street between 11:00 and 11:30 (rain or shine). The parade begins at noon with a minute of silence, and kicks off at 12:01 p.m. Contact Jim Rissling, james.rissling@gmail.com, for more information or to let us know you’re coming. When we learn more details from the parade organizers, we’ll let you know the exact location on Tremont Street where our group will meet. Look for updates and more opportunities to participate in the bulletins and on our website. The theme of the 2013 Boston Pride celebration is: ***Moving Forward... Proud, Strong, United.*** Please visit Boston Pride’s website (<http://www.bostonpride.org/>) for more information.

SEEKING A FEW MORE VOLUNTEER TEACHERS FOR CHURCH SCHOOL 2013-14 The Church School will run four classes on Sunday mornings, plus a youth program on Sunday afternoons. Every class and group is anchored by experienced teachers, but most teaching teams still have opportunities for new folks to join. If you can commit to two Sundays or less per month, plus a handful of teacher training meetings and a bit of lesson preparation, please contact Sarah Higginbotham to explore the options for supporting this vital ministry of First Church.

EXPLORING GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND IDENTITY Although our culture now recognizes many more types of sexual and gender expression than it did not very long ago, many people, including some at First Church, still have a hard time fitting their experiences into even these expanded categories. The social pressure to do so, and the expectations other people bring to interactions, can raise some tough questions of identity. Who am I when I don't feel like I fit into the basic categories of male or female, of gay or straight? First Church will soon be hosting a small group gathering (date to be arranged based on interest and availability of participants) that will provide a safe, non-judgmental, and confidential setting in which to share the experience of living in a world wherein feelings about one's gender and/or sexuality don't always seem to "fit". If interested, please call or email Rev. Dan Smith (dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org) who has been working with church members on how to open a safe space for this conversation.

The Week Ahead

Sunday, May 26

Trinity Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation for Adults: Living Faith and Family Life
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Dan Smith Preaching, Healing Service
- 11:15 a.m. Children's Creative Arts Project
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, MJH
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

Monday, May 26

First Church office and building closed in observance of Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 28

- 7:00 p.m. Search Committee Meeting, Dan Smith's office

Wednesday, May 29

- 8:30 a.m. Staff Retreat, Friends Meeting House

Saturday, June 1

- 7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Hastings Room

Sunday, June 2

Earth Stewardship Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation for Adults
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Reebee Girash Preaching, Communion in Pews
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour & Earth Stewardship Fair, MJH
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

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.



The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

Senior Minister	Rev. Dan Smith, 617-547-2724, ext. 23 dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org
Interim Minister	Rev. Reebee Girash, 617-547-2724, ext. 26 rgirash@firstchurchcambridge.org
Minister of Mental Health & Healing	Rev. Terry McKinney, 617-299-1617 tmckinney@firstchurchcambridge.org
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FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL

United Church of Christ

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