



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC
June 15, 2014
THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

VOLUNTARY

Toccata

Sweelinck

*HYMN C-20

The Household of God

*GREETING

Mark Destler

- L: Welcome to the house of God!
C: **God has invited us, and we have come!**
L: Make yourselves at home!
C: **God makes room for us all!**
L: May the peace of God dwell within you!
C: **May God's love never leave us!**
L: Praise God with me! Tell the world that God is good!

*PRAYER OF PRAISE

**All: Holy God, three in one,
by the Spirit's blessing
and the gift of daily grace
you are making us a people
restless and ready to follow you.
You are making us like Jesus,
proudly giving and receiving
your welcome in the world!
For the work you have done
and the work you have set before us,
for every word and action
of justice and of joy,
we praise you now and always. Amen!**

WORDS OF WELCOME

Kate Layzer

ANTHEM

Hymn to the Trinity

Tschaikovsky

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

**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 in Cambridge.*

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray for pardon, courage, healing, and peace.

**C: Gracious God, disturb us with your mercy,
And forgive us when we fail to love as you love us.
Teach us again that your kingdom is near.
Encounter us in everyone we meet along the journey,
Show us that your peace is real in our lives, and in our world.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 386

We Are One in the Spirit

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

RESPONSIVE PSALM 8

Sheehan Scarborough

L: O God, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.

**C: Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark
because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

L: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;

**C: what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?**

L: Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor.

**C: You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,**

L: all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

C: O God, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

READING

Matthew 28:16-20

SERMON

Dan Smith

*HYMN 355

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Karen McArthur

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 TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

God to Be in My Head

H. Walford Davies

*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 10

Holy, Holy, Holy

*BLESSING OF BRENT COFFIN, KATE LAYZER AND SHEEHAN SCARBOROUGH

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Ultimate Jude

Paul Sawyer

VOLUNTARY

O Most Holy Trinity

Helmut Walcha

Today's bulletin cover was created by Alex and Amy Matias.

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 Dan Smith, Senior Minister. Assisting with worship are Kate Layzer, community minister, Karen McArthur, Minister of Stewardship & Finance, and Sheehan Scarborough, Ministerial Intern. Our liturgist is First Church member Mark Destler. Peter Sykes, Director of Music is playing the organ and directing the choir.

The YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED section of the bulletin is 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 by calling 617-547-2724.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

THANK YOU TO SHEEHAN SCARBOROUGH, KATE LAYZER AND BRENT COFFIN

The end of the year often brings more than the usual number of leave-taking blessings and thank yous. Today we will be giving thanks for, blessing, and sending forth Sheehan Scarborough. As Ministerial Intern, Sheehan has participated in worship services, led 10 o'clock hours, and forged relationships throughout the congregation. Although not going anywhere (so we will not be sending them forth) we will also be giving thanks for and blessing Kate Layzer and Brent Coffin. Kate has been a tremendous help this program year in her roles as community minister, assisting Dan and the rest of the staff. She has preached, composed liturgy, performed pastoral care duties, and during her "off time" continued to run a Christian Meditation Group (which will carry on). And Brent has been our Havruta Scholar-in-Residence offering his leadership and expertise in our Executive Council meetings, in small group Bible studies throughout the year and in our recent Lenten program on the Gospel of Matthew. We have been extremely fortunate this year to be the recipients of Sheehan, Kate and Brent's gifts and talents.

SPIRITUALITY & MENTAL HEALTH GROUP Today at 2:00 p.m., Tower Room We meet as persons with questions about our inner lives, pursuing wellness. Yet we don't seek a fix for our problems. Instead, we bring our difficulties alongside our experience of that healing Spirit to consider how our faith and our soundness inform each other. We continue to meet every Sunday afternoon from 2:00 to 3:30 in the Tower Room. Participation in the group is open to any and all who identify with our purpose. For a warm welcome and to learn more, see Carter West or e-mail him at cartergw24@gmail.com.

NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Today at 8:30 p.m., Sanctuary (Please note the time change for the summer months) 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. Tonight, hear Compline setting adapted from ancient plainchant hymns and Motets for Trinity Sunday by Victoria. Beth Spaulding, soprano, Alison LaRosa Montez, alto, Daryl Bichel, baritone, and Bob Henry, bass. We will not be using incense and there will be no instruments.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

NEXT SUNDAY - WE WELCOME OUR NEW MINISTER THE REV. DR. KARIN

CASE! On Sunday, June 22, we welcome our new minister, Karin Case, to First Church—fresh from her adventures in Nepal and over a month off since leaving her last post as Interim Senior Minister at Wellesley Hills Congregational Church! We will take time in worship to welcome and get to know her. A celebration reception will be held after church in Margaret Jewett Hall after worship. This reception will include time to share with her some of our recent work of 'going deeper' into our faith and into our relationships. Please come ready to share a question about your faith and a brief personal story about why that question matters to you! We look forward to wel-

coming Karin to our community and to our staff. Karin will be working with us 3/4 time though as a full colleague with our Senior Minister, Dan Smith.

GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION (GBIO) CELEBRATION Monday, June 16, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Bethel AME Church, 40 Walk Hill St., Jamaica Plain GBIO is celebrating 1000 relationship-building conversations held by leaders of GBIO. There will be guest speakers, guest musicians, and great food. Please join us!

WEDNESDAY CHRISTIAN MEDITATION Christian Meditation is the ancient practice of opening the heart in silence to the indwelling presence of God. Join the circle any Wednesday from 6:00–7:00 p.m. in Lindsay Chapel. No experience is required, but all experience is welcome. Reach Kate Layzer at klayzer@gmail.com if you'd like to know more.

POETRY READING First Church member David McCann will be giving a reading with haiku poet and publisher Rick Black at Grolier Books, Saturday June 21 at 6:30. Rick, the publisher of Turtle Light Press, lived and worked in Israel for six years. He describes his own collection of haiku poems, *Peace & War*, as an attempt to “live with the paradoxes of life in Israel.”

ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL FOR ELLEN ROHAN BALL Wednesday, June 25 at 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary The Ecclesiastical Council for Ellen Rohan Ball has finally arrived! What is this event? It is a gathering of church representatives in the MBA who will hear some of Ellen's views on theology and church, ask questions, and then vote on her fitness for ministry. It is the final approval for Ellen before she seeks a call to ministry. Any and all are welcome to come and be present for this event!

OPPORTUNITIES WHILE CHURCH SCHOOL IS OFF FOR THE SUMMER While our Nursery continues to be staffed for infants and toddlers by our regular caregivers during the worship hour, children of the Church School have a choice for their participation on Sundays. We invite all Church School-aged children to remain in the sanctuary for the entire worship service. We hope that kids will join in the singing, praising, praying, and peace-passing. For quieter moments, such as the readings and sermon, books and activity packets are available in the Children's Worship Corner by the side entrance. If younger children are especially fidgety, families are welcome to move to the Hasting Room, where speakers connected to the sanctuary sound system allow you to hear the service. This year, parents are organizing to have two adults on the outdoor playground (or in the case of rain, in Sage Hall) during the latter half of the service. If you'd like to volunteer to supervise the playground on one summer Sunday, please contact Will Erickson (will.erickson@theshareunion.org).

SUMMER CHOIR AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE For the summer, the First Church Choir continues to sing for Sunday services, but does not rehearse on Thursday night. For the remaining Sundays in June, the pick-up choir will rehearse at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary. For the months of July and August, the pick-up choir will rehearse at 9 a.m. The music we sing during the summer is less complicated and perhaps more familiar to the average choral singer, and participation is open to anyone who would like to give it a try. The ability to read music and hold a part is desirable, and music for the following Sunday's service will be made available for those who would perhaps like to take it home and prepare over the week. This is a great opportunity to worship God in song, to sing some great music, and to meet a wonderful group of people! Ask Peter Sykes or any member of the choir for more details.

PARENT AND CHILD EXPERIENCE (PACE) AT CRAIGVILLE RETREAT CENTER, August 3-9, 2014 Enjoy a week of family camp at Craigville Beach on Cape Cod with your family this summer! Morning programming for children & teens and free afternoons to enjoy Craigville Beach and the rest of the Cape. Six nights and 17 meals are included in the reasonable price. All families are welcome. Contact Joanne Hartunian to learn more and to register (joannehartunian@gmail.com or 617-484-0776).

FIRST CHURCH FALL RETREAT 2014 - REGISTER NOW! Mark your calendars and register now for our annual First Church Retreat at Craigville Retreat Center on Cape Cod, October 3-5. Join us for a community gathering that will include time for beach-walking, game-playing, small group sessions, large group worship, music and art-making, and more. Registration is online - go to www.firstchurchcambridge.org/fall-retreat-2014-registration to sign up. Don't worry if you can't commit to the whole weekend or if you think the details of your participation may change by the fall - we are interested in getting an initial headcount, so let us know if you intend to join us!

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

BETHEL TABERNACLE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH'S CARNIVAL DAY Please volunteer and join Members of our Mission and Social Justice committee at the Bethel Tabernacle Pentecostal Church's Carnival Day on Saturday, June 28th from 9 - 2. Carpools leave First Church for Dorchester at 8 a.m. Share your love of fun, help award prizes, and make some new friends. Please RSVP to Alice Kidder at flintkiddr@aol.com or (617) 276-6227. Bring your kids and enjoy the day.

WELCOME, KARIN!

On Wednesday, June 18th, the Rev. Dr. Karin Case will be joining our staff as a new Minister. I am thrilled to have her as a partner in the sacred work of pastoring this congregation. Here's some info you may find helpful as she gets settled in.

Contact Information

Karin's office at First Church is on the second floor. She can be reached by telephone at 617-547-2724, ext. 26, and by e-mail at karincase@firstchurchcambridge.org. Karin's day off is likely to be Friday though this may shift as she gets to know the rhythms of our life together. She and I will be sharing "on-call" duties for pastoral emergencies and pastoral coverage in general. Karin has been called to work 3/4 time which for the time being will mean she will be "out of the office" two weeks out every two months. (When she is here, she will be working full-time.) Let's be respectful of this time, not as "time off" but as the way Karin has chosen to apportion her 3/4 time schedule with us.

What is Her Role with Us?

Karin will share in the full life and leadership of First Church, preaching regularly, leading worship, teaching, attending committee meetings, praying for us and caring for us all. She is here to share her many gifts with us "so near as God shall give her grace." She'll be helping us all to grow spiritually, through leading 10 am hours, small groups, helping us to discern our gifts and more fully respond to God's vision for each of our lives and community.

How You Can Help

Karin will need time to get to know us (again), our 375 year old history, our customs, virtues and quirks. A lot has changed for her and for us since she was with us as an Interim Minister five years ago. You can help her to get to know us and to get to know you! Don't hesitate to point things out to her, things she may or may not already know. Remind her of names (yours and that of others), and help her find her way around. Tell her what you love about First Church, and feel free to tell her about the hard parts too. She's a quick study, no doubt, but a little help can go a long way, especially when it comes to getting to know a place as complex as First Church. Finally please be sure to pray for Karin, and for the rest of the staff, and for our entire community as we build this new relationship and move forward together into God's future.

Whenever we welcome a new minister, we all become new. Perhaps the best welcome we can give to Karin is to re-commit ourselves to our covenant, to our ongoing process of "going deeper", and to open ourselves to the sacred and joyful transformation that God has in store for us through our new ministry together.

PRIDE MONTH AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

THE UCC MAKES HISTORY IN NORTH CAROLINA ON BEHALF OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND MARRIAGE EQUALITY

The United Church of Christ filed a landmark lawsuit in U.S. District Court on Monday, April 28, 2014, arguing that North Carolina marriage laws restrict freedom of religion. This is believed to be the first time a Christian denomination has filed a lawsuit against a state government. The UCC General Synod has asserted that North Carolina's ban on marriage equality is a violation of UCC clergy's free exercise of religion under the First Amendment as it is presently a misdemeanor crime in North Carolina for a clergy member to officiate a couple's marriage if that couple is lesbian, gay, or bi, because they cannot obtain a state-sanctioned marriage license. As an Open and Affirming congregation in the UCC, First Church gives thanks to those brave clergy members and couples who are courageously bringing much needed change to North Carolina. For more information on this case, visit www.ucc.org/ido/

CELEBRATING MOMENTUM IN MARRIAGE EQUALITY! As Massachusetts celebrates 10 years of equal marriage, we are also glad that this week the number of states recognizing same sex marriage has reached 14. Recently, a federal judge struck down Pennsylvania's ban on same sex marriages. On these laws of discrimination, Judge Jones wrote that "We are a better people than what these laws represent, and it is time to discard them into the ash heap of history." We also celebrated with Oregon as a judge there lifted the state's ban on same sex marriage and immediately began issuing marriage certificates to hundreds of couples.

Indeed, the Spirit is at work!

During this month of Pride, let us celebrate these steps towards justice while continuing to work tirelessly for a world where no one experiences violence, discrimination or rejection for ways of love in this world.

Looking Ahead

Sunday, June 15

Fathers Day

- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary (No Christian Formation)
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Dan Smith, preaching
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

Monday, June 16

- 7:00 p.m. GBIO Celebration, Bethel AME Church in Jamaica Plain

Wednesday, June 18

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 6:00 p.m. Christian Meditation, Lindsay Chapel

Thursday, June 19

- 9:30 a.m. Pastoral Care Team Leaders, Dan Smith's office

Sunday, June 22

- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary (No Christian Formation)
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Karin Case, preaching
- 12:30 p.m. Welcome Reception for the Rev. Dr. Karin Case, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

Monday, June 23

- 6:30 p.m. Executive Council Cook-Out, Parsonage (44 Garden St)

Tuesday, June 24

- 4:00 p.m. Witness Against Gun Violence and Inequality, Dan Smith's office

Wednesday, June 25

- 7:30 p.m. Ecclesiastical Council for Ellen Rohan Ball, Sanctuary

Sunday, June 29

- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary (No Christian Formation)
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Karin Case, preaching
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

*Through the months of July and August, **worship will be held at 10:00 a.m.**, with pick-up choir meeting at 9 a.m. The First Church office will be closed on Fridays throughout the summer. The building will remain open during usual business hours and a sexton will be in attendance.*

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
378 YEARS
ON-THE-WAY

The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

Senior Minister

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Minister of Stewardship and Finance

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