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## **FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE**

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

**FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC**  
**JUNE 16, 2013**  
**THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

VOLUNTARY *Veni Creator* Nicolas de Griguy

\*HYMN 257 *This is the Day*

\*GREETING Dick Harter

One: This is the day. This is the place.  
**All: This is the day that our God has made,  
this is the place where we find God's love.**  
One: Every day, every place:  
**All: We find God's love and mercy.**  
One: Every woman and man, every boy and girl:  
**All: We will rejoice and be glad in it!**

WORDS OF WELCOME Dan Smith

ANTHEM *Cantate Domino* Gretchaninoff

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Let us pray for healing, pardon and peace.  
**All: Gracious God, we love you: help our failure to love.  
Remind us that we need fear nothing with you.  
For you know us intimately, and love us still.  
Our distance does not hide our sin,  
but keeps us from experiencing the grace that you offer.  
Grant us courage, we pray,  
that we might not only approach but embrace you;  
that our tears may fall upon you  
as embodied testimony to our repentance and trust.  
Forgive us, that we might know and reflect  
the awesome power of your unending love. Amen.**

*\*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.*

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

\*GREETING OF PEACE

\*HYMN 307

*Wonder of Wonders*

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

INVITATION

Dan Smith

ADDRESS

THE BAPTISMAL VOWS

THE CONGREGATION'S PROMISES

One: Jesus Christ welcomes everyone  
who desires new life  
into the faith and family of Christ.  
Do you who witness this sacrament  
promise this child your love, support and care?

**All: We do!**

One: Will you help him grow in faith  
and witness with him to the love and mercy of Christ?

**All: We will, with the help of God!**

One: Do you renew your own promises  
to live in the freedom of Christ, and resist the power of evil?

**All: We do, with the help of God!**

BLESSING OF THE WATER

THE BAPTISM

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

\*FINAL BLESSING

One: Sisters and brothers, let us ask God for a blessing!

**All: Holy God, Creator of us all,  
give to this child strength for life's journey,  
courage in the time of trial,  
the joy of faith, the freedom of love,  
and the comfort of everlasting life.  
And may the grace of Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all forevermore. Amen.**

PRESENTATION

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

RESPONSIVE PSALM - Adapted from Psalm 32

One: Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**All: Blessed are those whom God does not hold guilty,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

One: Therefore let those who are godly offer prayer to You,

**All: At a time of distress, the rush of great waters shall not reach them.**

One: Many are the pangs of the wicked;  
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in God.

**All: Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O Righteous.  
Shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**

READING

Luke 7:36-7:50

SERMON

Reebee Girash

\*HYMN 72

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

Thomson

\*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.**

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

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.**

\*HYMN 339

*Part in Peace*

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

*Ultimate Jude*

Paul Sawyer

VOLUNTARY

*Veni Creator*

Nicolas de Griguy

## **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](http://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** Reebee Girash, Interim Minister. Assisting with worship is Dan Smith, Senior Minister. Our liturgist is First Church deacon Dick Harter. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir. The Liturgy of Confession is written by Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy.

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](mailto:parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org) or 617-547-2724 and we'll get the information to you.

## **TODAY'S HAPPENINGS**

**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**

**EARTH STEWARDSHIP MEETING Tuesday, June 18 at 7:30 p.m., Tower Room** The Earth Stewardship Team is open to all! We will meet Tuesday June 18 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss topics as wide ranging as composting and divestment. Please join us!

**CHRISTIAN MEDITATION Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., Tower Room.** Come for 30 restful minutes of silent meditation in the company of others. No prior experience is necessary. This is an open group, so feel free to bring a friend! Get in touch with Kate Layzer (klayzer@gmail.com) if you'd like more information.

**FAREWELL TO REEBEE GIRASH Sunday, June 23 at 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary** 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 this date, and know that we'll be collecting cards and remembrances to send Reebee 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 Pastor 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.

**YOUTH PLANNING MEETING Sunday, June 23 at 1:00 p.m., Hastings Room** First Church Teens and their Families - It has been an exciting and busy year of starting up programs and activities for teens of First Church and we know that the future of these programs is looking bright! Please join Dan, Sarah and Julie at a meeting on Sunday, June 23 at 1 p.m. in the Hastings Room for a 30-40 minute meeting on next year's youth programs and ministries. At this meeting, we'll talk about some of the exciting plans that are already underway and we'll have some dates ready so you can mark your calendar now.

**GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE Sunday, June 23, 3:00 - 6:30 p.m. (registration at 2:30 p.m.), Andover Newton Theological - School 210 Herrick Road, Newton Centre (Newton Centre T stop)** Please join us at this public health conference, where workshops will include: *Holding Compassionate Health Care Conversations, Improving Patient/Physician Communication, Addressing Violence in Our Communities, and Evidence Based Care.* Also, Rev. Dr. Ray Hammond of Bethel AME Church in Jamaica Plain and former Chair of the Boston Foundation will offer a keynote address on gun violence as a public health issue. For more information, please contact Alliea E. Grouppe at [aegrouppe@aol.com](mailto:aegrouppe@aol.com) or (617) 435-4220.

**SAVE THE DATE - FIRST CHURCH FALL RETREAT: OUR LIFE TOGETHER Friday - Sunday, October 4-6 at the Craigville Conference Center on Cape Cod** Building on the success of three very-well attended family retreats, First Church will host an all-ages, all-church retreat this fall. Come for one night or two. The gathering will be based on the theme of finding balance and wholeness through individual and communal spiritual practices. It will balance our dual needs for time alone and time together, offering practical ideas for patterning our days and weeks, and our family, professional and church life in ways that reflect our faith and covenantal commitment. There will be time for adult conversation, teen gatherings and multigenerational fun and games. Childcare and children's activities will be organized by our nursery coordinator with help from parents and all of us. **REGISTRATION IS DUE BY JUNE 28th! Please register online.** Every effort has been made to keep this affordable and scholarships will be available. For more information and to register, please visit "Latest News" on our website or find the link in this week's First Glance newsletter. Please be sure to let us know if you plan to stay for one night or two.

### **GET INVOLVED**

**"PICKUP CHOIR"** For the summer, the First Church Choir continues to sing for Sunday services, but does not rehearse on Thursday night. 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 really fun and nice group of people! Rehearsal will be at 10 a.m. on June 9, 16, and 23, and then move to 9 a.m. for the months of July and August. Ask Peter Sykes for more details.

**DO YOU HAVE A LAPTOP YOU COULD DONATE TO FIRST CHURCH?** First Church is looking for a laptop with Windows 7, Vista, or XP to use in conjunction with our sound system for recording Sunday services and other special events in the sanctuary. The laptop currently in use is on its last legs and needs to be replaced. However, Windows 8 cannot be used with the current set up, so we are looking for an older laptop that is still in relatively good condition. If you have one to donate please contact Kirsten Manville at parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge or 617-547-2724 ext. 21. Thank you!

**CALLING ENERGETIC, CARING FIRST CHURCHERS OPEN TO THE SPIRIT OF SHARING!** We as a church have been invited to assist the members of Bethel Tabernacle Pentecostal Church in offering children in Dorchester a day of fun at their Free Fun Carnival on Saturday, June 29th. Bring your own children or come by yourself for a day of fun, sharing and hope. Carpools will leave First Church at 9 a.m. for the church at 12 Bicknell Street in Dorchester. You will run games and help with food concessions. All welcome! To sign up, please contact Jean Bellow at jean\_bellow@comcast.net or Alice Kidder at (617) 924-7236 or flintkiddr@aol.com. Thanks so much for your participation.

**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.

**"WRESTLING IN THE DAYLIGHT: A RABBI'S PATH TO PALESTINIAN SOLIDARITY: A BOOK TALK WITH RABBI BRANT ROSEN** Rabbi Rosen will read from and discuss his book, a compilation of posts from his blog, "Shalom Rav" and readers' comments reflecting the complex discussions in the American Jewish Community and beyond over the Palestine/Israel question. Rabbi Rosen is a congregational rabbi in Evanston, IL and the founder/co-chair of the Jewish Voice for Peace Rabbinical Council. In Margaret Jewett Hall, Tuesday, June 25 at 7:00 p.m.. Sponsored by Jewish Voice for Peace, Boston and the Palestine Israel Task Team of First Church. All are welcome.

## **SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE**

*Starting now and continuing throughout the summer, church-school aged children are invited to remain in the sanctuary for the entire worship service. (The Nursery will continue to be staffed by our regular caregivers during the worship hour for toddlers and infants.) We hope that kids will join in our congregation's singing, praising, praying, and peace-passing. For quieter moments, such as the readings and sermon, books and activity packets are available in the corner by the side entrance. We encourage children to pick a quiet activity to help them settle in during this time. If younger children are especially fidgety, families are welcome to move to the Hastings Room (with books and activity packets in hand), where speakers connected to the sanctuary sound system allow you to hear the service.*

*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 as usual, and a sexton will be in the building at all times.*

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## The Week Ahead

### Sunday, June 16

- 9:30 a.m. Search Committee Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Dan Smith Preaching
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH) - Newcomers Table
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

### Tuesday, June 18

- 7:30 p.m. Earth Stewardship Team, Tower Room
- 7:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee, Dan Smith's office

### Wednesday, June 19

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 6:30 p.m. Shelter Committee, Reebee Girash's office

### Sunday, June 23

- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Multigenerational, Dan Smith Preaching
- 12:15 p.m. Farewell Reception for Reebee Girash, MJH
- 1:00 p.m. Youth Planning Meeting, Hastings Room
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 3:30 p.m. GBIO Public Health Conference, Andover Newton Theological School (210 Herrick Road, Newton Centre)
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

*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.*

## 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.



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## 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
Affiliate Minister of Stewardship and Finance	Rev. Karen McArthur, 617-547-2724, ext. 22 treasurer@firstchurchcambridge.org
<i>Havruta</i> Scholar-in-Residence	Rev. Brent Coffin
Director of Music	Peter Sykes, 617-661-0570 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
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**FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL**

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