



**Earth Stewardship
Sunday**

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC
JUNE 2, 2013
THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

VOLUNTARY *Herzlich tut Mich Erfreuen* Johannes Brahms

*HYMN C-9 *Psalm 148*

*GREETING Barb Hume

One: Brothers and sisters,
if you lift your net and it is empty, come here!
All: We'll cast it out again into Christ's abundance.
One: If you open your eyes but do not recognize the Holy One, come here!
All: We'll find our God in all creation.
One: If your life is filled with mourning, come here!
All: The Spirit is leading a dance of joy.
One: Come here, sisters and brothers!
All: To give blessing and honor and glory to God!

WORDS OF WELCOME Dan Smith

ANTHEM *Blue Green Hills of Earth* Kim Oler
Arr. Carl Strommen

*For the earth forever turning, For the skies, for ev'ry sea;
To our Lord we sing returning home to our blue green hills of earth.*

*For the mountains, hills, and pastures in this silent majesty;
For all life, for all of nature sing we our joyfull praise to Thee.*

For the earth forever turning...

*For the sun, for rain and thunder, For the seasons's harmony,
For the stars, for all the heavens sing we our joyful praise to Thee.*

For the earth forever turning...

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

**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.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Let us pray for healing, pardon, and peace.
O God, your fertile earth is slowly being stripped of its riches,
All: Open our eyes to see.
One: O God, your living waters are slowly being choked with chemicals,
All: Open our eyes to see.
One: O God, your clear air is slowly being filled with pollutants,
All: Open our eyes to see.
One: O God, your creatures are slowly dying and your people are suffering.
All: Open our eyes to see.
One: God our Maker, so move us by the wonder of creation,
All: That we repent and care more deeply.
One: So move us to grieve the loss of life,
All: That we learn to cherish and protect your world.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GREETING OF PEACE

All children from PreK to 7th grade are invited to leave at this time to make sandwiches for today's Outdoor Church offering. The children will make the sandwiches in Margaret Jewett Hall, and return to the service in time for the sandwiches to be blessed with the weekly offering.

*HYMN 31 *O Sing to the Lord*

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING Genesis 1: 20-31

READING Matthew 22: 35-40

(Text to both the Genesis and Matthew readings may be found on page 6.)

SERMON Reebee Girash

*HYMN 461 *We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Beauty in God's Creation* A. F. Schultz

O blest Creator, who hast filled the world with beauty, open, we beseech thee, our eyes to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works; that rejoicing in thy whole creation, we may learn to serve thee with gladness; for the sake of him by whom all things were made, thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

*INVITATION

PREFACE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION PRAYER

One: God, may this bread connect us more closely with you
and with our neighbors near and far.

All: Bless this bread, we pray.

One: May this fruit of the vine remind us of the interconnectedness
of people around the world.

All: Bless this cup, we pray.

One: May this simple meal bring us into union with you,
your people and your world united in the One Body of Christ.
We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to say:

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.**

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

All who seek to follow Jesus' way of compassion, justice and peace are welcome at this table. It is our custom to eat the bread as it is passed and hold the glasses until everyone has been served, that we may drink as a single act of communion with Christ. A small number of rice crackers have been placed on each communion plate for those who require them because of allergies. Both red wine and white grape juice will be offered.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: Let us give thanks!

**All: Thank you, God,
for the gladness in this bread and cup,
for love that cannot die,
for peace the world cannot give,
for joy in the company of friends,
for the splendors of creation,
and for the mission of justice
you have made our own.
Give us the gifts of this holy communion --
oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies,
and the will to serve you all the days of our lives.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

*HYMN 54 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Send me, Jesus (Thuma Mina)*

The congregation is invited to join in the singing of this response.

*Send me/Lead me/Fill me
Thuma mina somandla*

VOLUNTARY

Fugue in C Major

Dietrich Buxtehude

Genesis 1: 20-31

*As Paraphrased by Australian pastor
Nathan Nettleton*

Then God called for the waters
to fill with living creatures,
and for the skies to fill with birds
flying over the earth.
God created all the creatures
that live and move in the water,
the enormous monsters of the sea and the
teeming fish,
and every kind of bird that wings its way
through the air.
God saw that this was a good thing
and set them up for life,
encouraging the fish to multiply and fill the seas
and the birds to multiply all over the earth.
Evening passed and morning came;
the fifth day was done.

Then God called for the earth
to bring forth all sorts of living creatures:
insects, reptiles, mammals;
animals of every kind, tame and wild.
That is what happened;
God made the wild animals of every kind
to fill the earth,
every kind of herd and flock,
and every creature that runs or jumps
or crawls on land.
God saw that this was a good thing.

Then God said:
“We will make people in our own image,
modeling them on ourselves.
We will *entrust* to them the fish of the sea,
the birds of the air, the flocks and herds,
and all the wild animals and
creepy-crawlies.”
So God created people as a reflection of God,
created them to be like God,
created them male and female.

God set them up for life,
and encouraged them to multiply
and fill the earth.
God told them to exercise control over the earth
and to manage the fish of the sea,
the birds of the air
and every living thing on earth.
God said to the people:
“Look, I have given you the grain crops
that grow and reproduce themselves
all over the earth,
and all the trees that grow from seed
and bear fruit;
they are all yours for food.
I have also provided vegetation galore
as food for the animals, birds and
creepy-crawlies,
for everything that lives and breathes.

So it all happened, just as God said.
Everything God had made was there to be seen
and *God was delighted with it all.*
Evening passed and morning came;
the sixth day was done.

Matthew 22:35-40
(NRSV)

...One of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to
test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law
is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the
Lord your God with all your heart, and with all
your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the
greatest and first commandment. And a second is
like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'
On these two commandments hang all the law and
the prophets."

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 Reebee Girash, Interim Minister. Assisting with worship is Dan Smith, Senior Minister, and members of the Earth Stewardship Team. Our liturgist is First Church Deacon Barb Hume. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir. The greeting is adapted from Quentin Chin, for Mission 4/1 Earth; the Prayer of Confession is from the Iona Community; the Prayer for Understanding is by Neil Paynter; and the Genesis reading is as paraphrased by Australian pastor Nathan Nettleton.

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

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HEALING PRAYER Every Communion Sunday, the deacons and ministers offer prayers for healing, peace, and reconciliation for anyone who desires them. The healing prayer teams will be positioned in the chancel (near the baptismal font). If you would like to share a healing prayer, receive an anointing or laying on of hands, please approach one of the teams at the end of the service and make your need known. In addition to healing prayers offered after the service today, members of the First Church community are welcome to contact a minister at any time for prayer or conversation about what is on your mind and heart.

OUTDOOR CHURCH OFFERING On Communion Sundays, it is our practice to prepare 3 dozen lunches for the Outdoor Church to distribute to those in need on the streets of Cambridge. The children of the church lead us in this discipline, leaving worship at 11:20 a.m. on the first Sunday of the month and return with the lunches in time for multigenerational Communion. As always, people of all ages are encouraged to participate by volunteering to deliver the lunches to the Cambridge Common at 1:00 p.m. Speak with Sarah Higginbotham or the Deacon serving as Head Greeter today if you'd like to get involved in the ongoing mission project.

EARTH STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY Today is a celebration of God's creation – and our role as stewards of the earth. You are invited to consider the earth – and your carbon footprint. After church we will have an Earth Stewardship Fair in Margaret Jewett Hall.

ISRAEL PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE REPORT Today and Sunday, June 9 at 10:00 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.

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).

CONFIRMATION CLASS (8th - 9th graders) Today at 4:00 p.m., Dan Smith's office This is the final meeting of the confirmation class for the program year, as they finish preparations for Confirmation Sunday on June 9.

FIRST CHURCH MUSICALE Today at 5:00 p.m. Margaret Jewett Hall The Musicale is today! 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.

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 DISCUSSION GROUP 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 ROHAN BALL in celebrating her graduation from Andover Newton this past May 18th. Ellen and her family are holding a celebration in Margaret Jewett Hall to share her joy and in gratitude for all the help and well-wishes received over her time here. 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 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 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.

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. 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, June 2

Earth Stewardship Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation for Adults, Hastings Room
- 10:45 a.m. Blessing of the Bicycles, Front Lawn
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Reebee Girash Preaching, Holy Communion
- 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, Dan Smith's office
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

Tuesday, June 4

- 7:30 p.m. Earth Stewardship Meeting, McKenzie Library

Wednesday, June 5

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 7:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee, Dan Smith's office

Saturday, June 8

- 10:00 a.m. Boston Pride Interfaith Service and Parade, Old South Church, Boston

Sunday, June 9

Confirmation Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation for Adults, Hastings Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Confirmation Sunday
- 12:15 p.m. End of Year Picnic on the Common
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 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

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FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL

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