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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  
August 31, 2014  
THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

VOLUNTARY

\*HYMN 4                      *Come, Living God, When Least Expected*

\*GREETING

Nancy Kilburn

L:     Grace and peace to you from God!  
C:     **Peace to the earth and to every creature!**  
L:     Come at the beckoning of love:  
C:     **The hand of Jesus held out to all.**  
L:     Come at the Spirit's call:  
C:     **Young and old, journeying together  
          into more and deeper life.**  
L:     This is the day our God has made:  
C:     **May the joy of God be in this place!**  
L:     Let us lift our hearts in praise:

\*PRAYER OF PRAISE

**All:    We give our hearts to you, O God,  
          and with all that we are  
          we praise you and we bless you:  
          for the gift of this day, for life and breath,  
          for hope greater than our fears;  
          for hands to work and bodies to serve,  
          for sky and earth and daily bread,  
          for your love which outlasts the shadow of death:  
          O God, we praise you, now and forever!**

WORDS OF WELCOME

Sarah Higginbotham

ANTHEM

*Lead Me, Lord*

Wesley

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 in Cambridge.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Have mercy on us, O God,  
according to your steadfast love,  
according to your abundant mercy.  
Create in us clean hearts,  
and put new and right spirits within us.  
Restore us to the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in us willing, humble, hopeful spirits.  
We pray this in the name of Jesus,  
who offered forgiveness and grace to all. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

\*GREETING OF PEACE

\*HYMN 497 *When Israel Was in Egypt's Land*

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING Exodus 3: 1-15

RESPONSIVE PSALM 105: 1-6, 23-26, 45b

L: O give thanks to God, call on the Holy One's name,  
make known God's deeds among the peoples.

**C: Sing to God, sing praise;  
tell of all God's wonderful works.**

L: Glory in God's holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**C: Seek the Lord and the Lord's strength;  
seek God's presence continually.**

L: Remember the wonderful works God has done,  
the miracles, and the judgments uttered,  
you offspring of the Lord's servant Abraham,  
children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.

**C: Then Israel came to Egypt;  
Jacob lived as an alien in the land of Ham.**

L: And God made the people very fruitful,  
and made them stronger than their foes,  
whose hearts were turned to hate God's people,  
to deal craftily with God's servants.

**C: God sent Moses, and Aaron whom God had chosen.**

L: that they might keep the Holy One's statutes  
and observe God's laws.

**C: Praise God!**

READING

Matthew 16: 21-28

SERMON

\*HYMN 2

*The God of Abraham Praise*

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.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Thee We Adore*

Candlyn

\*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 485

*Bless Now, O God, the Journey*

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

*Ultimate Jude*

Paul Sawyer

VOLUNTARY

## **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 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 is Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts. Our liturgist is First Church member Nancy Kilburn. 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 offices at [parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org) or by calling 617-547-2724.

**IN THIS SPACE** we share personal, congregational, national, and global prayer requests. If you would like us to include a prayer request, please contact Dan Smith, Karin Case, or Kirsten Manville by Wednesday morning or fill out one of the prayer request cards found in your pew.

## TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

**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.

## FUTURE HAPPENINGS

**REGATHERING SUNDAY September 7** It is always a joy to witness the great regathering of our community in September. First Church members, friends, newcomers, and visitors all contribute to a glorious mix of welcome and reconnection. Plan to join us on Sunday, September 7, for a full day of fellowship and worship.

- ◆ **Coffee and Fall Program Orientation, Margaret Jewett Hall, 10:30 a.m.** Get a jumpstart on greeting old friends and making new ones over coffee and healthy snacks. Come hear about formation and fellowship opportunities for all ages.
- ◆ **Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m., Dan Smith, preaching** Regathering Sunday Morning Worship will include Communion. Church School-aged children in Pre-GP; GP1, 2, & 3; and Middlers (preschoolers to 7th graders) leave the sanctuary at approximately 11:20 a.m. to prepare the monthly Outdoor Church Offering and to meet their class teachers.
- ◆ **Regathering Sunday Lunch, Margaret Jewett Hall, 12:30 p.m.** Feast on great food with great friends, old and new. Help us celebrate the beginning of the fall season and our life together in Spirit-led community!

**FIRST CHOIR REHEARSAL AND HYMN SING Thursday, September 4** Our first choir rehearsal of the fall season will take place on Thursday, September 4, **in the Hastings Room**, beginning with a Potluck Supper at 6:30 p.m., followed by a Hymn Sing and then the choir rehearsal at 8:00 p.m. This year the first rehearsal will be an invitational open rehearsal in which anyone interested in singing can join, in order to meet and greet the lovely people of the choir. We will sing hymns together and rehearse some fun and easy music for the following Sunday. Here is the schedule:

6:30 p.m. Potluck Supper. Bring a favorite dish!

7:30 p.m. Hymn Sing

8:00 p.m. Open Rehearsal

Hope to see lots of new friends there!

**BACK-TO-CHURCH-SCHOOL NEWS** Our Sunday morning Church School programs for preschoolers through 7th graders resume on September 7. First Sundays continue to be our time for preparing lunches for the Outdoor Church Offering. Middle Sundays are a time for classroom-learning in same-age groups. And Last Sundays are devoted to Creative Arts projects. You can learn more about our formational programs for children by picking up a brochure outside the sanc-

tuary door or checking the children & youth pages on our website. Please register your children (from infants to teens) by completing a simple form on our website. We ask that parents and guardians complete the form each September, so that we have an accurate expectation for welcoming participants to each of our programs this fall. <http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/children-youth-program-registration-2014-2015>

**CONFIRMATION CLASS INFORMATION SESSION Sunday, September 7, at 1:15 p.m.**, in the Hastings Room. This year the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders of the church will walk together on the journey of Confirmation. Families with 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders received a letter of invitation to this information session, along with a schedule and syllabus for the confirmation program. This year's class will be co-taught by Dan Smith, Karin Case, and Sarah Higginbotham. Please contact any of the leaders if you have questions.

**YOUTH GROUP** Youth Group is a fun, creative place for First Church youth and friends in 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades. We normally meet two Sunday afternoons each month from mid-September to May. Save the dates for the following September gatherings. Contact Dan Smith or Stefanie Haug with any questions, and know that they'll be in touch directly with families with more details.

- ◆ **Sunday, September 7 @ 2:00 p.m.** We'll meet in Sage Hall for reconnection and reflection and will do some collective planning of our year ahead. Bring your ideas for activities (another "lock-in" anyone?)!
- ◆ **Sunday, September 21 @ 2:00 p.m. SKYZONE** Will gather at 2:00 for a round of our usual "high-point/low-point" check-in and then head off to Skyzone in Everett for some trampoline and 3D dodgeball fun!

**OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL)** This year our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will collaborate with other Harvard Square congregations in this comprehensive sexuality education program with a strong faith component. The group will meet most **Sunday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.**, with a **Fun & Fellowship event on September 14** and a required **Parent Orientation on September 21**.

**"GOING DEEPER." AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OF DISCERNMENT** Sundays, September 14 and 21, 10:00 a.m., Hastings Room Join us for two 10 O'Clock hour sessions, as we learn together about the Christian spiritual practice of discernment. From ancient monastic communities to our Puritans forebears to Quaker meetings, come find how we can make more spiritually grounded decisions in our individual lives and our life together. How can we "sort out" where God is leading us, and which among life's (and this church's!) many demands on our time has the marks of genuine calling? We hope this will be good groundwork for our fall retreat and will help us all to continue to "go deeper" in our relationships to God, self, and one another.

**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](mailto:klayzer@gmail.com) if you'd like to know more.

**FAMILY NIGHT RETURNS, Tuesday, September 16, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., Sage Hall**

Families with young children are invited to gather in Sage Hall (the basement play space) for a simple supper, fun free play, and good conversation. We meet every other Tuesday evening, strengthening our community connection through informal fellowship and structured programs offered at various times throughout the year. This fall we'll start up again on September 16. Scholar-in-Residence Brent Coffin will join us on September 30 and October 14 as a follow-up to our wildly successful Lenten Series.

**SPIRITUALITY & MENTAL HEALTH GROUP ON HIATUS, RESUMES SEPTEMBER 21**

SMHG is on its annual summer hiatus from August 24 through September 14, and will resume on September 21. Our Spirituality and Mental Health support group provides a safe, confidential environment where questions of mental well-being can be addressed in a context of faith, drawing upon each other's gifts. After Sept 21st S&MH meets every Sunday afternoon from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. in the Tower Room. It's co-facilitated by Mary Setterholm and Carter West, both theological school graduates. Contact Carter ([cartergw24@gmail.com](mailto:cartergw24@gmail.com)) or Mary ([mis541@mail.harvard.edu](mailto:mis541@mail.harvard.edu)) with your questions.

**PASTORAL CARE AT FIRST CHURCH** Many folks have served on the Pastoral Care Team during the past year. They are the ones who have volunteered to serve for one week each month to make calls or visits, provide meals or rides, and send cards to those among us who have experienced difficulties in their lives — or to those with blessings to celebrate. Over the next few weeks we will take time to celebrate these folks, learn more about what they do, and give you a chance to provide some pastoral care of your own:

- ◆ **A Time to Celebrate, Sunday, September 21** Our congregation will celebrate all the people who have served for the past year on Pastoral Care Teams. We will bless them and let them know of our gratitude for the important work they do. The liturgy and hymns on that day will focus on the ways we bring God's care to our community, trying our best to be — with God's help — God's hands, feet, loving voices, and listening ears for one another.
- ◆ **A Time to Learn Sunday, September 28, 10 a.m.** Would you like to know more about the ministry of the Pastoral Care Teams? Come and bring your questions, hear testimonies from those who have done this service and from those who have received care. We'll describe the nuts and bolts of how it all works. You may feel called to become part of a team!
- ◆ **Send a Pastoral Care Card Before or After Church** You are invited to write a simple note to First Church members who are on our weekly prayer lists. It may be to share congratulations, condolences, or get well soon wishes. Look for the "Card Table" before and after church on most Sundays. There you will find the weekly list of pastoral care needs, blank cards and pens, and a Parish List, so you can address the envelope. Just leave the completed

cards on the table, and our office staff will stamp and mail them first thing Monday morning. Many thanks in advance for sharing in this important ministry of outreach and care.

**GIFTS DISCERNMENT LUNCH Sunday, September 21, 12:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall** Join us for lunch after Morning Worship on Sunday, September 21, to share stories about how you have participated in formal and informal church groups and activities. We will discuss what type of participation supports where you are right now on your faith journey. Members of the Gifts Discernment Committee will be there to speak with you about your interests and how you might want to get involved. We are Audrey Bellinger and Stephen Weller (Co-chairs), Pauline Fennel, Devin Hansen, Laurie Williams, Beth Loomis, and Christine Reynolds. We will be hosting the lunch event as an opportunity for you to exchange ideas on how your engagement keeps the Church life and mission energized and how you would like to be involved in the future.

**FIRST CHURCH YOUNG ADULTS OPEN HOUSE Thursday, September 25, 6:00 p.m., at the Parsonage, 44 Garden Street** Whether you are just getting settled into a new apartment, a new program, a new city, or you've been coming to First Church for a while, whether you are single or coupled, LGBTQ or otherwise, "wherever you are on the journey of life or faith," come to 44 Garden Street, Cambridge (First Church's parsonage), for a relaxed evening of good food, good drink, and good conversation. No strings attached, we promise! Just a chance to get to know one another and maybe to do some wondering aloud about how faith and spirituality connect with our daily lives and especially in our hyper-connected world! Please e-mail Dan Smith, [dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org), or Julie Pridham, [julie.pridham@gmail.com](mailto:julie.pridham@gmail.com), if you think you can make it or if you have any questions. You can also feel free just to show up!

**CELEBRATION OF 10 YEARS OF CREATIVE WORSHIP AND ARTS (AND A SABBATICAL SEND-OFF FOR SARAH HIGGINBOTHAM!) Sunday, September 28, during Morning Worship** Join us for a very special worship service on Sunday, September 28, in which we celebrate 10 years of our Creative Worship and Arts program! We plan to offer a retrospective of some of the amazing visual arts, songs, and dance that have come out of this one-of-a-kind multigenerational program. We will also lift up and celebrate our fabulous CW&A Director, Sarah Higginbotham, before she heads off for her well deserved two months of sabbatical from early October (just after the retreat) to early December (back in time for Christmas). Sarah's deeply caring energy, her ever creative spirit, and her expertise in working with kids, families, and people of all ages have all been key elements in our church's recent growth and vitality. Come share in our heartfelt thanks and celebration of her gifts and of the 10th anniversary of this remarkable program!

**A FIRST CHURCH WEDDING** Karen Anne Zee and Eric Riedel joyfully invite you to their wedding on September 28, 2014 at 4 p.m., in the First Church sanctuary. There will be a reception immediately following in Margaret Jewett Hall; family and friends are welcome. Please RSVP by September 2 to RiedelER@hiram.edu. The dress will be business casual, and hats are welcome. No gifts, please.

**“ONE LIGHT, MANY CANDLES,” Sunday, October 26, 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary** Join us for a multifaith program in word and song presented by the Reverend Betty Stookey and Noel Paul Stookey. This is a fundraising event for First Church. All seats are reserved — Adults \$20, Students/Seniors \$10. There are some limited view seats in the balcony and behind the pillars for \$10. We expect the event to sell out, so tell your friends and neighbors, but reserve your seats, beginning September 12! Tickets available at: <http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/news-and-announcements>. Tickets will also be sold at coffee hour following Morning Worship on Sundays beginning September 14.

**SAVE THE DATE: KARIN’S INSTALLATION Sunday, November 2, 4:00 p.m.** Please come and joyfully celebrate the installation of our new minister Rev. Dr. Karin A. Case on Sunday, November 2, 2014, at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. A Reception will follow in Margaret Jewett Hall.

**FIRST CHURCH ON BOARD FOR LARGEST CLIMATE MARCH IN HISTORY**

**New York City, Sunday, September 21** The Earth Stewardship Team invites First Church members to consider joining the People's Climate March in New York City on Sunday, September 21. Several from our church are already planning to attend what promises to be "an unprecedented opportunity to show the strength of the climate movement on a world stage." The march will coincide with a climate summit of the world's presidents and prime ministers at United Nations Headquarters in New York in preparation for the Paris conference in 2015 that aims to enact a legally binding and universal agreement on climate change. The People's Climate March will be a demonstration to the world by the people who are standing up in our communities to shift power to a just, safe, peaceful world. If you are interested in going by train with a group from First Church, contact John Schultz, Earth Stewardship Team chair, at johnschultz831@gmail.com. Please also let him know if you are planning to travel by bus, or your automobile.

## The Week Ahead

### Sunday, August 31

- 9:00 a.m. Pick-up Choir
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Holy Communion, Dan Smith, preaching
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

### Monday, September 1

First Church building and office closed in observance of Labor Day

### Wednesday, September 3

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

### Thursday, September 4

- 6:30 p.m. First Choir Rehearsal and Hymn Sing, Hastings Room

### Saturday, September 6

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Hastings Room

### Sunday, September 7

#### REGATHERING SUNDAY!

- 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Regathering Celebration and Communion
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Outdoor Church Offering
- 12:30 p.m. Regathering Sunday Lunch, MJH
- 1:00 p.m. Outdoor Church, Cambridge Common
- 1:15 p.m. Confirmation Class Orientation Session (Kids and Parents), Hastings Room
- 2:00 p.m. Youth Group, Sage Hall
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

### Sunday, September 14

- 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, Sacrament of Baptism, Karin Case, preaching,
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Opening Day classes for preschoolers-7<sup>th</sup> grade
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee and Refreshments, MJH
- 12:30 p.m. Discernment and Formation Team Meeting, Dan's Office
- 12:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee, Room 22
- 4:00 p.m. Shelter Staff and Committee BBQ, Parsonage
- 6:00 p.m. Our Whole Lives (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders) Fellowship & Fun Event, First Parish
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, 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.

FIRST CHURCH  
IN CAMBRIDGE  
CONGREGATIONAL  
378 YEARS  
ON-THE-WAY

## The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

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**FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL**

*United Church of Christ*

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