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**Regathering Sunday** **FIRST CHURCH  
IN CAMBRIDGE**

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

**FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC**  
**September 13, 2015**  
**REGATHERING SUNDAY**

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY *Prelude in C Major* J. S. Bach

\*HYMN C-25 *Let There Be Life in This House*

\*GREETING Taj Smith

L: Beloved of God, whether you are here for an hour or a lifetime  
welcome to this household of grace!

**C: Here, where our lives are grounded in the hope and healing of God.**

L: Here, where we grow together in community and belonging.

**C: Here, where we act together in daring love for a better world.**

L: Sisters, brothers, siblings in the Spirit, come gather in!

**C: And let there be life in this house!**

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM *Bwana Awabariki* African hymn

*Bwana awabariki. Bwana awabariki,  
Bwana awabariki milele.  
Ukimcha Bwana, Bwana awabariki.*

*May the Lord bless you, may the Lord bless you,  
May the Lord bless you, forever.  
Revere the Lord, May the Lord bless you.*

CONFESSING

INVITATION

*\*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.*

SUNG PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Lord Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary*

*Lord prepare to be a sanctuary*

*Pure and holy, tried and true.*

*With thanksgiving I'll be a living*

*Sanctuary for you.*

(Please sing through twice.)

SILENCE

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

\*GREETING OF PEACE

*All children from Preschool to 7th grade are now invited to leave for church school.*

*Teachers will meet children at the side door to accompany them to their classrooms.*

*Parents can meet their children in Lindsay Chapel (through Margaret Jewett Hall and to the left) after worship.*

\*HYMN 426

*I've Got Peace Like a River*

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

RESPONSIVE PSALM 26: 1-3, 8-12

L: Vindicate me, O God, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.

**C: Prove me, O Holy One, and try me; test my heart and mind.**

L: For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in faithfulness to you.

**C: O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell,  
and the place where your glory abides.**

L: Do not sweep me away with sinners, nor my life with the bloodthirsty,

**C: those in whose hands are evil devices,  
and whose right hands are full of bribes.**

L: But as for me, I walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me.

**C: My foot stands on level ground;  
in the great congregation I will bless the Holy One.**

READING

Ephesians 3: 7-21

SERMON

Dan Smith

\*HYMN 237

*How Firm a Foundation*

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Karin Case

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Kate Layzer

L: God be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray... (*silence, intercessions, and The Lord's Prayer*)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*(Please pray this prayer and address God in words most meaningful to your heart.)*

L: Hear us now as we pray in the spirit of our brother, Jesus:  
Our Creator, our Mother...

**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

Karen McArthur

OFFERTORY

*Ubi Caritas*

Maurice Duruflé

*Ubi caritas et amor Deus ibi est.  
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.  
Exultemus et in ipso jucundemur  
Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum.  
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero*

*Where there are charity and love, God is there.  
The love of Christ has bound us together.  
Let us exult and rejoice in this.  
Let us fear and love the living God.  
and esteem him with a sincere heart*

\*DOXOLOGY

**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.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH

\*HYMN 244

*Like A Tree Beside the Waters*

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

*Send me, Jesus (Thuma Mina)*

Hymn 344

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

*Send me, Jesus, send me Jesus*

*Send me, Jesus, send me Lord*

*Lead me, Jesus...*

*Fill Me, Jesus...*

VOLUNTARY

*Fugue in C Major*

J. S. Bach

*Today's bulletin cover was created by Perry Neubauer.*

## **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 are Karin Case, Minister, Karen McArthur, Minister of Stewardship & Finance, and Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach. Our liturgist is Taj Smith, Ministerial Intern. 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.

## **PRAYERS TO ADVANCE INTER-RELIGIOUS RELATIONS**

Today, tomorrow and Tuesday our Jewish neighbors will celebrate Rosh Hashanah. The festival of Rosh Hashanah, meaning, Head of the Year, is the anniversary of the creation of Adam and Eve. It emphasizes the special relationship between God and humanity: our dependence upon God as our creator and sustainer, and God's dependence upon us as the ones who make God's presence known and felt in the world.

Prayer: Oh Lord, bless our Jewish neighbors as they celebrate the festival of Rosh Hashanah, their New Year, this week. Let their festival remind us, as it does them, of the special relationship between God and humankind.

## **TODAY'S HAPPENINGS**

**REGATHERING SUNDAY TODAY** Join us again or for the first time for a First Church fall tradition we like to call Regathering Sunday. Through Morning Worship and with a fabulous feast after church, we will regather as a congregation and recommit ourselves to living and sharing lives that are grounded in God, connected in community, and acting boldly for the common good! Come early and connect over coffee in Margaret Jewett Hall at 10:30 a.m. There will be opportunities then and after worship to learn about and sign up for our fall programs. At 11:00 a.m. we'll share in an especially festive worship service. Come ready to sing and give God thanks for our life together! At 12:30 p.m. there will be plenty of time for conversation and reconnection over a delicious meal offered by our Friends of Fellowship

**CONFIRMATION CLASS ORIENTATION SESSION** Our 8th and 9th graders will be walking the journey of confirmation this year with Karin Case and Sarah Higginbotham. An orientation meeting for students and parents will take place after Morning Worship on Regathering Sunday, September 13, and twice monthly classes will begin on September 20, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in The Well.

**NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE** Tonight at 8:30 p.m., Sanctuary 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: Lydian plainchant setting for compline by Daryl Bichel, Motets by Capillas, Cardoso, Lobo and White. Sung by Canticum vespertinum in loving memory of Carole Lawton. We will be using incense this Sunday.

**WELCOME NEWCOMERS!** Whether you're new to the area or simply new to First Church, we're glad you're here! Please take a moment during church to fill out a pew card with your name and contact information, or stop by one of our tables after worship. You'll find a *Welcome Table* in Margaret Jewett Hall with information about First Church and someone to greet you and answer any questions you may have. We'd love to know that you've been here and help you connect with opportunities that interest you at First Church. Here are some ways to get connected:

- Request a nametag (Easy! Just fill out a pew card and we'll have one ready for you next Sunday.)
- Receive *First Glance*, our succinct, weekly e-communication about the events of the week. (Just check the box on your pew card and you'll receive next week's issue.)
- Receive *EVENT*, our e-newsletter (Also available in paper form) that comes out every couple of months. (Yup, check the box on your pew card to sign up.)
- Check out our web site: <http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/>

- Find us on FaceBook: <http://www.facebook.com/firstchurchincambridge>
- Watch the Sunday bulletin for information about the many activities and opportunities in our worship and community life.

Please come back and explore the rich worship, spiritual and community life at First Church in Cambridge!

### **FUTURE HAPPENINGS**

**FALL ALL-CHURCH RETREAT REGISTRATION - DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 15** Please register now for our annual First Church Retreat at Craigville Retreat Center on Cape Cod, October 2-4. 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 at <http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/fall-retreat-2015-registration#overlay-context=>. Registration deadline is September 15.

***Coming this Fall...FAITH AND LIFE GROUPS: WHERE FAITH MEETS THE WORLD*** Would you like an opportunity to get to know some new people at First Church? Are you looking for dynamic conversation and meaningful connections? Would you value an opportunity to think about how faith (and what we do at church) is relevant to “the rest of life? This fall you are invited to join a ***Faith and Life Group***. Each group will focus on a shared interest (such as homeless ministries, parenting, or caring for the earth) and will be led by someone with a passion for the subject. These groups are time-limited. They’re designed to meet for about six sessions on dates and times to be arranged with the group leaders. In September watch for specific details in *First Glance* (our weekly e-mail update), the Sunday bulletins, during fellowship hours (following Morning Worship on Sundays), and in the 10 O’clock Hours on September 20 and 27. Then sign up to participate! ***Faith and Life Groups will take place during October and November.***

**SPEAKING OF FAITH IN A SECULAR WORLD** Sundays, September 20 and 27 at 10 a.m., **Hastings Room** In a city and region like ours, speaking about (let alone living!) our faith outside of First Church circles can be a genuine challenge. We may mix it up all the time with secular friends, people at work, or people of other faiths, but how often do conversations turn to what matters most, and to what lies at the center of our life and faith? The conversations can be either totally amazing or totally awkward, and our fear of the latter may keep us quiet, even among close friends and family members. Join us as we share a few awkward or amazing stories and as we begin to explore the challenge of speaking our faith in a secular world. Dan Smith and Karin Case will co-lead two 10 o’clock Hour sessions in the Hastings Room.

**CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH** Please register your children for church school! If you haven't yet, please complete the brief online registration ([www.firstchurchcambridge.org/children-youth-program-registration-2015-2016](http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/children-youth-program-registration-2015-2016)) for each of your children participating in our Christian Formation programming this year. You'll also provide important info about allergies, permission for photographs and transportation, as well as contact info so we can stay in touch.

**YOUTH GROUP** Confirmants and older teens, from 8th to 12th grade, are invited to participate in our ever-growing youth group. There are lots of exciting plans in the works for a meaningful year of fun, service, and spiritual growth. Dan Smith and Becky Moyer will be taking the lead, beginning with a back-to-church gathering on **Sunday, September 20, at 2:00 p.m.** Teens, stay tuned for more details (and be sure to find and join our First Church Youth Group Facebook page!).

**FAMILY NIGHTS THIS FALL Alternate Tuesdays, beginning September 22, 5:30 p.m., in Sage Hall** Families with young children are invited to our biweekly Family Nights. Join us for supper with some free play for kids and conversation for adults every other Tuesday, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., in Sage Hall, our basement play space. Sarah provides pots of pasta and sauce, and you bring a dish to share. Salads, veggies, meatballs, garlic bread, or desserts are most welcome. Family Nights start up on September 22 and continue on October 6 and 20, November 3 and 17, and December 1 and 15.

**FIRST CHURCH YOUNG ADULTS OPEN HOUSE Thursday, September 24, 7:30 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 Karin Case, [karincase@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:karincase@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!

**GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION (GBIO) FORUM Sunday, September 27, 12:45 p.m., in the Hastings Room** For an update and general info session on First Church's work with the GBIO, come to the Hastings Room on Sunday, September 27, at 12:45 p.m., to learn more about this important ministry's role in the Boston area. If you are interested in becoming more deeply involved, there will be an opportunity to sign up for updates on upcoming events. For more information contact GBIO liaison Will Erickson, [will.erickson@theshareunion.org](mailto:will.erickson@theshareunion.org), or Ministerial Intern Taj Smith, [taj@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:taj@firstchurchcambridge.org).

**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 to 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.

**HYGIENE KITS FOR THE FRIDAY CAFÉ** Looking for ways to support the Friday Café that don't involve skipping work? Making hygiene kits is easy and so appreciated. To make a kit, just toss some travel-size deodorant, soap, toothpaste, a toothbrush, a comb, and a couple of razors in a ziplock bag. For a bonus, add things like: clean white socks, a washcloth or a package of wipes, a granola bar, some trail mix or a gift card (CVS, Dunkin, Starbucks, or Panera all work well). Drop your kits off at the church office any time. Thank you!

**REFUGEE CRISIS AND UCC RESPONSE** We have all been reading about the refugee crisis in Europe. Not since the Second World War have we seen such high numbers of refugees and displaced persons desperately seeking safety and refuge in lands not their own. Working with partners inside the country of Syria, and in surrounding countries, the UCC is providing emergency assistance to the millions of refugees who are trying to flee the conflict. Food, water, blankets, hygienic items, essential medicines, medical supplies and equipment have been and will continue to be provided. In addition, psychological, emotional, spiritual, and social support is being given, as are clothes, other non-food items, and support aimed at preparing for the winter cold season, just ahead. **How You Can Help:**

- Prayers are always needed. Please pray for all people having to flee their homes for safety.
- Make a gift. 100% of gifts designated to "Syria Humanitarian Crisis" will go directly to help Syrian refugees and those internally displaced in the Middle East and Europe. Checks payable to One Great Hour of Sharing with the above memo line can be placed in the offering plates and will be delivered to our UCC headquarters.

Thank you for your concern and generosity.

**THE FALL ISSUE OF OUR "EVENT" NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ELECTRONICALLY** The Fall 2015 issue of EVENT is electronic, and the link was sent in the September 4 and 11 issues of First Glance. It is in pdf format - easily readable, printable, and downloadable. Delivering an electronic version of EVENT saves on both paper postage costs. If you did not receive the link via email, please contact Kirsten Manville ([parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org)) and she will forward it to you. Also, if you prefer a paper copy there are some available at both entrances to the sanctuary, or you can contact Kirsten and she will mail a hard copy to you.

**NEW PARISH LIST AVAILABLE** Thanks to all of you who responded to our email regarding updating our database. We have entered the updates, and have prepared a new Parish List, which is available to you in three ways. Paper copies of the Parish List as of 8/31 are available this morning in Margaret Jewett Hall. If you would like a digital copy, please email Lang Haynes ([lang@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:lang@firstchurchcambridge.org)) and he will email a pdf to you. If you would like to set up an always-current, searchable directory on your phone or tablet, please email Lang, and he will email you the link and access codes.

**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR SABBATICAL UPDATE** First Church Parish Administrator Kirsten Manville is preparing for her upcoming sabbatical, October 1 through December 31. In addition to resting and recharging, Kirsten will be taking a course on concert venue management, the content of which should aid in her work dealing with outside groups using the church as a concert venue. The staff has done extensive planning for coverage of Kirsten's tasks while she is away. Staff members will take on pieces of her work and Facilities Manager Dan dos Santos hours will increase during her sabbatical time. To assume the majority of Kirsten's tasks, involving preparation for Sunday worship services and management of building reservations, Shannon Fuller has been appointed Acting Parish Administrator. Shannon will work half-time, beginning September 15 and continuing through December 31. Shannon has more than 14 years of experience in office coordination and support. Kirsten will be present for Morning Worship on **Sunday, September 27**, when we will celebrate and send her off on her sabbatical time. Please plan to join us!

**PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR VALUABLES** As the church program year begins, please be reminded that First Church is an open building in an urban area, and petty theft does occur here. Please make sure to not leave wallets, purses, phones, etc. unattended. And if you see anything suspicious, please contact a sexton immediately. Thank for your vigilance and care.

## The Week Ahead

### Sunday, September 13

#### 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, Dan Smith, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Opening Day classes for preschoolers-7<sup>th</sup> grade
- 12:30 p.m. Regathering Sunday Lunch, MJH
- 1:00 p.m. Capital Campaign Planning Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 1:15 p.m. Confirmation Class Orientation Session (Kids and Parents), Hastings Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

### Monday, September 14

- 7:00 p.m. Middler Teacher Orientation, Room 22

### Tuesday, September 15

- 3:45 p.m. Committee on Ministry Ordination Interview for Jenny Stuart, Second Church, Newton

### Wednesday, September 16

- 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 12:30 p.m. Sexton Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 6:00 p.m. Christian Meditation, Lindsay Chapel

### Thursday, September 17

- 7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Hastings Room

### Friday, September 18

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall

### Sunday, September 20

- 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, Karin Case, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Classes for preschoolers-7<sup>th</sup> grade
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee and Refreshments (Grab and Go Lunch), MJH
- 12:30 pm Faith and Life Groups Kick-Off, MJH
- 12:30 p.m. Third Sunday Newcomers Gathering, Hastings Room
- 2:00 p.m. First Youth Group Meeting, gather in church lobby
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class, Room 22
- 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

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## The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

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**FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL**

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