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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**  
**September 15, 2013**  
**THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

VOLUNTARY *All Glory Be To God On High* J. S. Bach

\*HYMN 378 *God, We Thank You for Our People*

\*GREETING Ellen Rohan Ball

L: Sisters and brothers, come into this place of peace  
**C: and let its welcome heal your spirit.**  
L: Come into this place of memory  
**C: and lets its history warm your soul!**  
L: Come into this place of prophecy and power  
**C: and lets its vision change your heart!**  
L: Come into this place of worship  
**C: and let us give praise to our living God!**

WORDS OF WELCOME Sarah Higginbotham

BLESSING OF THE CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS

ANTHEM *Remember Thou Thy Creator* Ebenezer Prout  
*Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw  
nigh wherein thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them. - Ecclesiastes 12:1*

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray for healing, pardon and peace:  
**C: God of mercy, awaken our hearts again  
to how precious and fragile  
are the ties that bind us in love and community.  
Forgive us when we take for granted  
the gift of our covenants with you,  
forgive us when we take for granted  
our connections with each other,**

*\*You are invited to stand. Hymns proceeded 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.*

**forgive us when we take for granted,  
the encouragement of your love, trust and hope in us.  
These things we ask in Jesus' name.  
Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

\*GREETING OF PEACE

*Children from Preschool to 8th 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*

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Sheehan Scarborough

READING

Psalm 77

READING

Hebrews 11:32 – 12:2

SERMON

Peggy Bendroth

RESPONSE OF FAITH

- L: Let us be together in one Holy Spirit  
and renew the Covenant Testimony of our congregation.
- C: **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 through justice and equity for all people;  
To engage in nonviolent 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 the love that overcomes fear and death.  
This we testify, confessing always our reliance on God's grace in Christ,  
and on the power of the Holy Spirit.**

\*HYMN (*insert*)

*What a Company*

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Dan Smith

L: God be with you.

**C: And with your spirit.**

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

*Jesu, Dulcis Memoria*

Juan Frances de Iribarren

*Jesu dulcis memoria  
Dans vera cordis gaudia:  
Sed super mel et omnia  
Ejus dulcis præsentia.*

*Jesus, sweet remembrance,  
Granting the heart its true joys,  
But above honey and all things  
Is His sweet presence.*

*Sis Jesu nostrum gaudium  
Qui es futurus præmium  
Sit nostra in te gloria  
Per cuncta semper sæcula.*

*Be our joy, O Jesus,  
Who will be the prize we win,  
May all our glory be in you, always  
And through all ages.*

\*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 237

*How Firm A Foundation*

\*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...*

*Thuma mina, thuma mina,*

*Thuma mina, somandla*

VOLUNTARY

*All Glory Be To God On High*

J. S. Bach

## **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** Peggy Bendroth, First Church member, Godly Play II teacher, and Executive Director of the Congregational Library. Assisting with worship are Dan Smith, Senior Minister, Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts, and Sheehan Scarborough, Ministerial Intern. Our liturgist is First Church member and candidate for ordination Ellen Rohan Ball. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir. The greeting in this morning's service is adapted from a quote by William F. Shultz which can be found in our hymnbook at page 250.

The **YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED** section is omitted in the online version of the bulletin for the privacy of those mentioned. For more information on who we are 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 that information to you/

**GBIO FORUM AT FIRST CHURCH Today, September 9 at 12:30 in the Hastings Room** The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization is not just a healthcare organization! We are multi-issue and are also working on public education, youth employment, and issues impacting small and minority business in Boston. Come to this after church session and learn about the breadth of GBIO's current work. Hear more about our early October Senate Candidate Action with Scott Brown and Elizabeth Warren. And learn about and share your thoughts about a possible new state revenue campaign that GBIO is beginning to consider. A representative of the non-partisan Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center will be with us to offer some ideas about why this may be a big issue in the Statehouse and across the Commonwealth in the coming year. After you've grabbed a bite and said a few hello's at our Regathering Reception, join us at 12:30 in the Hastings Room.

## **NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS HIGHLIGHTS**

*In an effort to reduce paper consumption and be better stewards of the environment, we will no longer be printing weekly bulletin announcements along with the liturgy. Instead, we will print bi-weekly booklets with news, announcements, and calendars, which will be available at the sanctuary entrances. For more information about these and other announcements, please pick up a News and Announcements booklet or visit the Latest News section of the website at [www.firstchurchcambridge.org](http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org).*

**NEWCOMER SESSION September 15 at 12:15 p.m., Hastings Room** We are blessed to be graced by many visitors and newcomers to our church community. We offer monthly gatherings during coffee hour for newcomers to talk about First Church and get to know each other a little better. Current members are also encouraged to attend to get to know people and share in the dialogue.

**FIRST CHURCH BELLS INTRODUCTION, September 15 at 12:30 p.m., Lindsay Chapel** First Church is starting an intergenerational handbell choir! Come to the chapel to see the bells and watch a demonstration of how they work. If interested in being a part of the handbell choir contact Susie Longfield at [susielongfield@gmail.com](mailto:susielongfield@gmail.com) or 617-967-8888.

**CALLING ALL “SENIORS”, RETIREES, AND SOON-TO-BE-RETIRES!** The book discussion group for *Creative Aging: Rethinking Retirement and Non-Retirement in a Changing World*, will be meeting Sundays, (starting today), 1-3 p.m. and Tuesdays 9:30 - 11 a.m., in the Hastings Room. If you need more information, contact Carolyn Thompson at [carolynrt@verizon.net](mailto:carolynrt@verizon.net).

**SPIRITUALITY & MENTAL HEALTH GROUP Sundays at 2 p.m., Tower Room** We meet as persons with questions about our inner lives, pursuing wellness, and to consider how our faith and our soundness inform each other. 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](mailto:cartergw24@gmail.com).

**REGISTER BY TODAY! FIRST CHURCH FALL RETREAT 2013: “Revealing Our Life Together” Friday, October 4 - Sunday, October 6, Craigville Retreat Center, Craigville, Cape Cod** First Church will host an all-ages, all-church weekend retreat this fall. The gathering will be based on the theme of revealing ourselves — to ourselves and to each other — by finding balance and wholeness through individual and communal spiritual practices.

**HOWARD THURMAN READING GROUP (Havruta Style!) Tuesdays, September 17 and 24 and October 1, 8, and 15, 8:00 - 9:30 a.m., Dan Smith’s Office** Dan Smith will be leading a new small group this fall focused on the writings of philosopher, theologian, and civil rights leader, Howard Thurman.

**NEW “FAITH ON TAP” GROUP FOR YOUNG ADULTS Thursday, September 19, 8:00 p.m., Cambridge Common** First Church 20s and 30s! Join us at our monthly Faith on Tap for casual drinks and conversation.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL 2013 Four Friday Evenings, September 20 and 27, October 11 and 18, 7:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall** Four films on current social issues will leave you inspired and ready to strike out against injustice.

**GIFTS DISCERNMENT COFFEE HOUR, Sunday, September 22, 12:15 p.m. Got Gifts? And want to share them?** Members of the Gifts Discernment Committee would like to speak with you about your interests and how you might want to get involved.

## 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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IN CAMBRIDGE  
CONGREGATIONAL  
375 YEARS  
ON·THE·WAY

## The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

Senior Minister	Rev. Dan Smith, 617-547-2724, ext. 23 dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org
Minister of Mental Health & Healing	Rev. Terry McKinney, on leave
Affiliate Minister of Stewardship and Finance	Rev. Karen McArthur, 617-547-2724, ext. 22 treasurer@firstchurchcambridge.org
Ministerial Interns	Jennifer Wenz, jwenz@firstchurchcambridge.org Sheehan Scarborough, sscarborough@firstchurchcambridge.org
<i>Havruta</i> Scholar-in-Residence	Rev. Brent Coffin
Director of Music	Peter Sykes, 617-645-0833 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**

*United Church of Christ*

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