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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 22, 2013**  
**THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

VOLUNTARY *In Nomine* John Bull

\*HYMN 1 *We Limit Not the Truth of God*

\*GREETING Linda Ziebell

L: Grace, mercy and peace to you from God, brothers and sisters!  
C: **From God whose light and truth are breaking forth even now.**  
L: From morning to morning, from age to age,  
C: **God's spirit is with us.**  
L: In the silence of our hearts and in the depths of our needs,  
C: **in the potential of our love and in the beauty of our togetherness,**  
L: come in then, be at home!  
C: **Come, let us worship and give praise to God!**

WORDS OF WELCOME Sarah Higginbotham

MOMENT OF CONCERN Steve Weller

ANTHEM *Let Thy Merciful Ears, O Lord* Thomas Mudd

*Let thy merciful ears, O Lord,  
be open to the prayers of thy humble servants;  
and that they may obtain their petitions  
make them to ask such things as shall please thee;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, our Lord,  
Amen.*

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray for healing, pardon and peace.  
C: **God of all mercy and understanding,  
forgive us when we are quick and careless judges  
of ourselves, of others and of creation.**

*\*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.*

**Grant us your sense of time,  
your sense of proportion,  
your sense of the future.  
Expand our narrow minds and hearts  
until we know the fullness  
of your truth, light and grace.  
This 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 C-28

*God's Forgiveness Waits*

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Luke 15: 1-10

RESPONSIVE PSALM 51:1-10

- L: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.  
**C: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**  
L: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.  
**C: Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence  
and blameless when you pass judgment.**  
L: Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.  
**C: You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**  
L: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
**C: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**  
L: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.  
**C: Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.**

READING

1 Timothy 1: 12-17

SERMON

Dan Smith

\*HYMN 414

*This is a Day of New Beginnings*

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Sheehan Scarborough

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 THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Lord, for Thy Tender Mercy's Sake*

Richard Farrant

*Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake,  
lay not our sins to our charge,  
but forgive that is past,  
and give us grace to amend our sinful lives.  
To decline from sin and incline to virtue,  
that we may walk in a perfect heart before thee,  
now and evermore.  
Amen.*

\*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 12

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

\*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

*A Jigg (Doctor Bull my selfe)*

John Bull

## **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 Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts, and Sheehan Scarborough, Ministerial Intern. Our liturgist is First Church member Linda Ziebell. 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 of the liturgy to protect 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.

## **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).*

### **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.

**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).

**YOUTH GROUP GATHERING Sunday, September 22 @ 2:30 p.m. - SKYZONE** We'll leave First Church at 2:30 to head to Skyzone in Everett for some trampoline and 3D dodgeball fun!

### **SOLUTIONS AT WORK CLOTHING DRIVE Sundays, September 22, 29, and October 13.**

You are invited to donate gently used children's clothing, shoes, children's books, and interview appropriate adult clothing. A box will be in the Narthex. Clothes go to Solutions at Work, which is partially supported by our Mission and Social Justice committee. For information, call , Alice Kidder at (617) 924-7236.

**THE CREATIVE AGING/RETIREMENT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** will meet today, Sept. 29, after the Life Together Lunch in the Hastings Room at 1:30 pm.

**FAMILY NIGHT RETURNS Tuesday, September 24** Families with young children are invited to **Tuesday Family Night**, held **every other Tuesday, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., in Sage Hall**, our basement play space. We share a simple supper before the kids find their way to the toys and play structures, while the grown-ups catch a few minutes to check-in and share about their family's life together. All are welcome to join us (RSVPs to Sarah Higginbotham by Tuesday noon.)

**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.

**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.

**BLESSING OUR ANIMAL COMPANIONS Sunday, September 29, 11:00 a.m., in the Sanctuary** On Sunday, September 29, our Morning Worship will once again celebrate and give thanks for God's creatures great and small, especially our animal companions. Pets, photos of pets, and favorite stuffed animals are all welcome in the Sanctuary on this very special day.

### **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  
375 YEARS  
ON·THE·WAY

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### **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
Parish Administrator	Kirsten Manville, 617-547-2724, ext. 21 parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org
Pastoral Associate	Julie Rogers, 617-547-2724, ext. 41 jrogers@firstchurchcambridge.org
Facilities Manager	Dan dos Santos ddossantos@firstchurchcambridge.org
Sextons	Ronaldo dos Santos, Tina Quimby, George Williams, Kimel Williams, 617-642-3980



**FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL**

*United Church of Christ*

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