

**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 7, 2014
REGATHERING SUNDAY

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Prelude in E-Flat Major

J. S. Bach

*HYMN 253

God Is Here

*GREETING

Karlene Griffiths-Sekou

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

C: and to this place of belonging.

L: Wherever you are on the journey of life,

C: wherever we are on the journey of faith,

L: welcome to this community, which is both ancient and new,

C: a community of hope, faith and love.

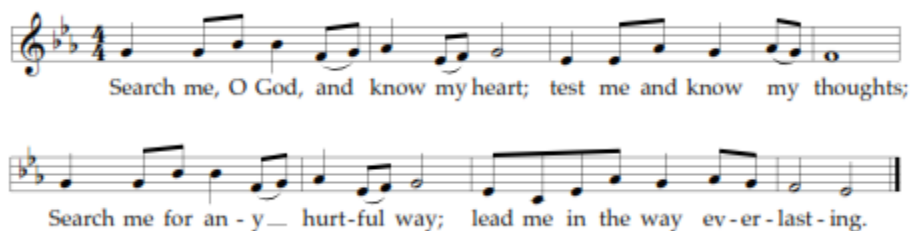
*WELCOME

Karlene Griffiths-Sekou, Taj Smith, & Hannah Erickson

CONFESSING

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (sung)



Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts;
Search me for an - y - hurt - ful way; lead me in the way ev - er - last - ing.

SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

**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.*

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN (*insert*)

Woke up This Morning

All children from Preschool 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.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Katie Omberg

READING

Exodus 24: 9-12

ANTHEM

Bwana Awabariki

Swahili hymn

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

*May God grant you a blessing evermore.
Revere the Lord!
May God grant you a blessing, evermore.*

READING

Matthew 18:15-20

SERMON

Dan Smith

*HYMN 318

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Karin Case

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Karen McArthur

OFFERTORY

O Sacrum Convivium

Giovanni Croce

*O sacrum convivium, in quo Christus sumitur: recolitur memoria passionis eius;
mens impletur gratia et futurae gloriae nobis pignus datur.*

*O sacred banquet, in which Christ is received, the memory of His Passion is renewed,
the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory given to us.*

*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.**

SHARING THE FEAST

GATHERING

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

L: Now, O God, with grateful joy, we remember Jesus,
his daring love, his open table.

Silence

L: We remember that he called us friends.

C: He told us everything you placed in his heart.

L: We remember that he gave us peace.

C: A peace no one else can give.

L: We remember that he did not leave us bereft.

C: He sent us a Helper -- the Spirit who dwells in our hearts!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT AND 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. Today, we will serve communion by intinction, which means that the community will be invited to come to the servers at one of several stations at the front of the sanctuary to receive the bread and dip it into the cup. The liquid is grape juice and the bread is gluten free. Please approach the communion stations from the center aisles, and return to your pews via the side aisles. In the North Transept (opposite the choir), please approach via the aisle closest to the door and return via the other aisle. Persons who for any reason are not able to come forward will be served in the pews. Young and old alike are welcome to share in the gift of holy communion!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: Let us give thanks, for what we have received and shared.

**All: Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus,
for 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 splendor 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,
the will to serve you every day,
and life that never ends.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

GOING FORTH

*HYMN C-25

Let There Be Life In This House

*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 E-Flat Major

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.

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, Katie Omberg, Ministerial Intern, Taj Smith, Ministerial Intern, and Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts. Our liturgists are First Church deacon Karlene Griffiths-Sekou and First Church child Hannah Erickson. 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 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

REGATHERING SUNDAY 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. Thank you for joining us 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!

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.

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 sanctuary 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 Today, September 7, at 1:15 p.m., in the Hastings Room. This year the 9th and 10th graders of the church will walk together on the journey of Confirmation. Families with 9th and 10th 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 9th through 12th 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.

- ◆ **Today, 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!

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

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.

OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL) This year our 7th and 8th 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 either September 10 or 21.**

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 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) or Mary (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 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.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE Sunday, September 21, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., on the Boston Common (near the Park St. Station) Celebrate the International Day of Peace with music, dance, story and art. The program will close with the recitation of names of those who have been murdered in Boston in the the past year, followed by a procession to the nearby Garden of Peace on Somerset St. More information at: www.ipdboston.com, or InternationalDay-ofPeaceBoston@gmail.com.

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, or Julie Pridham, 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!

THE BOSTON NEW SANCTUARY MOVEMENT INTERFAITH SUMMIT Saturday, September 27, 10:00 a.m.-- 4:00 p.m., at the Arlington St. Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston This theme of this summit is Immigration Justice and it will feature a panel of immigrant rights leaders. We will hear stories from immigrant families and learn about the conditions causing the crisis of immigrant children. There is no charge and lunch will be provided. Please RSVP via Eventbrite at bit.ly/interfaithsummit, email steering@bostonnewsanctuary.org or call 617-651-2676. On Sunday, September 28th at 2 p.m. there will be a Prayer Vigil for immigrant detainees at the Suffolk County House of Correction, 20 Bradston St., Boston.

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 8 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.

The Week Ahead

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

Monday, September 8

- 6:30 p.m. Godly Play Teacher Orientation, Room 22

Tuesday, September 9

- 6:30 p.m. Middler Teacher Orientation, Room 208
- 7:00 p.m. Capital Campaign Pre-planning Meeting, Dan Smith's office

Wednesday, September 10

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 3:30 p.m. Pre-Godly Play Orientation, Hastings Room
- 6:00 p.m. Christian Meditation, Lindsay Chapel
- 6:00 p.m. Building & Grounds Committee, Room 22
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting, Hastings Room
- 7:30 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) Parent Orientation, First Parish Church

Thursday, September 11

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

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-7th 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 (7th-8th 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

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