



**Stewardship
Sunday**

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC
November 17, 2013
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

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

*HYMN 456 *God of the Fertile Fields*

*GREETING Karlene Griffiths Sekou

L: Sisters and brothers, grace to you and peace from God!
C: And to the whole world, peace!
L: Grace to you from the God who is with us,
C: in all our weeping and rejoicing,
L: in all our giving and receiving,
C: in all our living and dying.
L: Open your hearts then, and give praise to our God,
The source of all blessing, purpose, and promise!

WORDS OF WELCOME Karen McArthur

STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONY AND INVITATION Elizabeth Lovance

ANTHEM *For I am Persuaded* Mark Schweizer
(Romans 8)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray for healing, pardon, and peace.
**All: Forgive us, gracious God, for refusing your rest,
For forgetting your presence
and for trusting ourselves more than we trust you.
Call us to a centered life,
rooted in praise, adorned with thanks,
able to give and receive,
to serve and be served,
in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**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.*

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 415

When We Are Living

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READINGS AND REFLECTIONS

Dan Smith and Karen McArthur

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

*HYMN 244

Like a Tree Beside the Waters

BRINGING FORTH OUR PLEDGES

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Sheehan Scarborough

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And with your spirit.**

L: Let us pray . . . (silence, intercessions and 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

My God, My Portion

arr. Hopkins

Please place visitor/prayer request cards in the baskets, along with your offering.

*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 464

Take My Life, and Let it be Consecrated

*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

Fugue in C 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.

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY ARE Dan Smith, Senior Minister, Karen McArthur, Affiliate Minister of Stewardship & Finance, and Sheehan Scarborough, Ministerial Intern. Our liturgist is First Church member in discernment, Karlene Griffiths Sekou. Giving the Stewardship Testimony is Elizabeth Lovance. 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 respect the privacy of those mentioned. To find out who we are praying for this week, please contact the church office at 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.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY Sunday, November 17 Today is Stewardship Sunday and we will receive and dedicate our pledges during this morning's worship service. In preparation for presenting the budget at the Annual Meeting in January, we respectfully request that pledges be turned in by November 30. During December, members of the Stewardship Committee will follow up by phone with those whose pledges have not been received.

STEWARDSHIP 10 O'CLOCK HOUR Sunday, November 17, at 10:00 a.m., in the Hastings Room The Stewardship Committee is hosting the final session in a series of 10 o'clock hours exploring themes that will also be discussed on November 16 during our Life and Legacy Seminar. Today we will explore the legacies we have inherited and the kind of legacy each one of us would like to pass on to future generations.

MONTHLY NEWCOMER SESSION Sunday, November 17 at 12:15 p.m., in Margaret Jewett Hall We offer monthly gatherings during coffee hour for newcomers to talk about First Church and get to know each other a little better. Please join us at our "Newcomers Table" during coffee hour.

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. To learn more, see Carter West (cartergw24@gmail.com.) or Terry McKinney (tmckinney@firstchurchcambridge.org).

GBIO TRAINING AT FIRST CHURCH Sunday, November 17, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m., Margret Jewett Hall Having just celebrated its 15th Anniversary, Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) will soon be embarking on a 10-month internal organizing effort across its member institutions. Today we will host over 50 GBIO members and leaders from across the city for one in a series of trainings on individual meetings and house meetings that will prepare the way for this work. If you are interested in learning more or attending the training today, please talk to Dan Smith or Dave Kidder.

NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Sundays at 7:00 p.m., in the 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. Join us for Gregorian chant and Renaissance polyphony.

GUEST PREACHER PETER MAKARI ON NOVEMBER 24 Dr. Peter E. Makari, our national Executive for the Middle East and Europe of the Common Global Ministries Board of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), will be our guest preacher in Morning Worship on Sunday, November 24. Peter will have recently returned from a trip to the Middle East and Europe and will be able to share the latest news about our partner churches and programs there during the 10 O'Clock Hour.

Please make sure you take a look at the News and Announcements booklet this week. It has all of the upcoming Advent events and activities listed.



You Are Cordially Invited to Participate in
City Mission Society's
2013 Christmas Shop



First Church will be receiving donations of NEW ITEMS for the annual CMS Christmas Shop on Sunday, December 8.

City Mission Society's **Christmas Shop** once again celebrates its partnership with local churches, businesses and individuals who give gifts of the heart to honor the birth of Jesus Christ and to help families and children in need. The CMS Christmas Shop brings the joys of giving and receiving to many people in the Greater Boston Metropolitan area annually. In 2012 over 4,200 adults and children benefited, thanks to the generosity of hundreds of members of more than 40 local churches, groups and organizations. **In 2013 we expect the need to be even greater.**

Gift Suggestions: We accept only **NEW** items. These are listed by priority.

- ◆ **Winter coats, sweaters and sweatshirts (large sizes especially)**
- ◆ **Hats, mittens, gloves and scarves**
- ◆ **Socks and underwear**
- ◆ **Blankets and backpacks**
- ◆ **Toys, games, and books for all ages**
- ◆ **Gift cards from Target, Marshalls, Walgreens, CVS, Kohls, Walmart, Stop and Shop, Shaw's and other merchants**

CMS Identifies Families in Need

Throughout the fall, CMS staff identifies children and families in need within CMS programs and partnerships. Together we assess the needs of the Boston community and identify persons in need of holiday assistance.

Partner Churches Donate Needed Items

NEW clothing, toys and other items including store gift cards come from over 40 churches, groups and organizations. They are purchased or hand-made by individuals and families who believe that Christmas is an important time to share hope, joy and love with others.

Volunteers Sort and Pack Gifts for Their Neighbors

More than 10,000 items are delivered to **First Church in Winchester**. They are sorted and repacked for distribution by volunteers from church youth groups, women's fellowships and other groups, including families who want to help.

Collection and Sorting Dates

December 8, 14, 15, 16, 2013. **Please contact Carl McDonald at CMS to arrange a date/time in advance**—(617) 742-6830, ext. 210 or cmcdonald@cmsboston.org.

Special thanks to our sponsors (partial list):

Muzi Ford, Whole Foods, Home Depot, Lowe's and Gentle Giant Movers.

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

The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

Senior Minister

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United Church of Christ

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