



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC
November 25, 2012
THE TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

VOLUNTARY *Nun bitten wir den Heiligen Geist* Buxtehude

*HYMN 210 *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

*GREETING Dave McCann

L: Sisters and brothers, God be with you,
C: **in this holy time and in this holy place.**
L: Friends in Christ, we gather in song and prayer.
C: **We praise God, in whom all time and space is holy.**
L: To the Lord, we lift up our joy and our thanks,
C: **for all we've received, and all we've given.**
L: Then let us worship our Living God in this hour,
C: **proclaiming God the source of all!**

WORDS OF WELCOME Karen McArthur

ANTHEM *Cantate Domino* Pitoni

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray for healing, pardon and peace.
All: **Lord of mercy, God of Grace,
We confess that we have not loved you with our whole hearts,
nor our neighbors as ourselves.
Even so, your loving kindness always goes before us.
We go wayward from your path,
yet you pour forgiveness on us.
We stumble and fall along the way,
yet you pour your grace upon us.
We count our own blessings
while ignoring our neighbors' needs,**

**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.*

**yet you pour your pardon on us.
Grant that we, who have received your mercy,
may follow more closely in all our ways,
with thankful hearts, and open hands,
ready to serve as you would have us serve,
and ready to love as you would have us love.
In the name of Jesus, the head of the church,
Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 527 *For the Fruit of All Creation*

Children from PreK to 7th grade are now invited to leave for a creative arts projects. Teachers will meet children at the side door to accompany them to the Choir Room. Parents can meet their children in the Choir Room after worship.

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING Revelation 1:4b-8

READING John 18:33-37

SERMON Terry McKinney

*HYMN 107 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

L: God be with you.

C: And also with you.

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

Psalm 139

Wigtown

*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 27

Now Thank We All Our God

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Send me, Jesus (Thuma Mina)

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

*Send me/Lead me/Fill me
Thuma mina somandla*

VOLUNTARY

Moments Musicaux in A-Flat

Schubert

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, toddlers and preschoolers 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 Terry McKinney, Minister of Mental Health & Healing. Assisting with worship is Karen McArthur, Affiliate Minister of Stewardship & Finance. Our liturgist is First Church member David McCann. Suzie Cartreine is playing the organ and directing the choir. Reebee Girash, Sabbatical Interim Minister, and Peter Sykes, Director of Music, are away this weekend.

The **YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED** section of the bulletin is omitted from this online version to preserve the privacy of those mentioned. If you'd like more information on the people we're praying for this week, please contact the church office at parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org or 617-547-2724 and we'll get the information to you.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

MENTAL HEALTH & SPIRITUALITY GROUP Today at 2:00 p.m., Tower Room How do emotional struggles and mental health difficulties affect your relationship with God? Does your faith change your experience of mental health issues? Join us in the Tower Room each Sunday from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. as we hold these questions and our experiences in the healing light of Christ. The group is open: you may attend as often or as little as you like, and newcomers are always welcome. Talk to or e-mail Terry McKinney (tmckinney@firstchurchcambridge.org) or Carter West (stbosal@arczip.com).

CONFIRMATION CLASS (8th - 9th graders) Today at 4:00 p.m., Senior Minister's office
This year the 8th and 9th graders of the church are walking together on the journey of Confirmation.

NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Today at 7 p.m., Sanctuary Bask in the beauty of Renaissance polyphony, Gregorian chant, introspective modal improvisations by jazz musicians, incense and icons. Participation in Night Song, about an hour in length, is through listening and silent prayer. It is not meant to be a performance, but rather a transformance – a medium for achieving inner peace, centering and spiritual renewal. Set apart from the sights, sounds, and values of current culture, Night Song helps participants enter an inner mystical silence. You are invited and encouraged to attend and to tell others about this opportunity at First Church. If you have any interest in singing, ushering or helping with publicity for Night Song, contact Daryl Bichel at 617-312-8328, daryl**bichel@aol.com**.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

FAMILY NIGHT Tuesday, November 27, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. First Church families gather every other week in **Sage Hall** for a simple potluck supper and a chance to share the joys and challenges of family life together. The main dish (usually pasta and sauce) is provided; bring a side dish, dessert, or drink to share. The final Family Night of 2012 will be **December 11**.

ADVENT WORKSHOP, DECEMBER 2 - CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPLIES We'll mark the first day of Advent with our annual Advent Workshop in Margaret Jewett Hall after worship. This year, Nancy Cyr is returning to coordinate a wonderful selection of craft projects, including candle-dipping, wreath-making, cookie-decorating, and more! If you would like to help oversee an activity table at the workshop, please contact Sarah Higginbotham to sign up. We are also collecting glass jars and tin cans in preparation for two crafts - please drop off jars and tins at Sarah's office upstairs.

JERUSALEM: THE EAST SIDE STORY This film by Mohammed Al Atar will be screened on December 4 in Margaret Jewett Hall at 7:30 p.m. It is sponsored by American Jews for a Just Peace and the Palestine Israel Task Team of First Church. Beginning in 1967, the eastern part of Jerusalem has been under Israeli occupation. Since then the Israeli government has pursued a

policy of Judaizing the city. The East Side Story takes you on a journey outlining this policy through interviews with Palestinian and Israeli leaders, human rights activists, and political analysts. The director will be present and there will be a Q & A after the screening. Also an opportunity to buy Palestinian crafts. Please join us.

PLEASE JOIN WITH OTHER FIRST CHURCH MEMBERS IN ATTENDING THE GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION (GBIO) DELEGATES

ASSEMBLY on Thursday, December 6th from 7:30 - 9:00 PM at the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center, 100 Malcolm X Boulevard, Boston. The Assembly will decide whether and how to support revenue reform in Massachusetts. Come and be part of the First Church caucus. More information to follow. Please let Karen Anne Zee, Dave or Alice Kidder know that you are planning to come. We may schedule a briefing before the meeting. ISBCC is easily accessible by T. Take the Orange Line to Roxbury Crossing. Need a ride? Can you give a ride? Contact Alice Kidder at (617) 276-6227 or flintkiddr@aol.com.

COFFEE & CONVERSATION WITH OUR SABBATICAL INTERIM MINISTER Each month Reebee will be setting up shop for Coffee & Conversation at a local coffee shop. These will be very informal drop-in sessions with no agenda except chatting and learning more about our Cambridge neighbors. Stop by and let Reebee buy you a cup of tea or a scone!

- ◆ **Thursday, December 13, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.**, Starbucks in the “Garage” building in Harvard Square

GET INVOLVED

STEWARDSHIP 2013 Thank you to all who have returned a pledge card for 2013. Your financial support, and the sharing of your time and talents are the heartbeat of our mission and ministry. If you haven't yet returned a pledge card, blank cards are available on the back table in the sanctuary, and may be returned via the offering plate, US mail, to Karen McArthur's mailbox in the church office or by email to Karen at treasurer@firstchurchcambridge.org. We hope to have all pledges in by December 12th. Thank you for your generous support of First Church!

MEDICINE WHEEL Saturday, December 1st, Cyclorama, Boston Center for the Arts, 2012, 24-hour vigil Medicine Wheel is an epic work of public art produced annually since 1992 in conjunction with World AIDS Day. It is a 24-hour vigil with a major sculptural art installation, bringing people together to commemorate the tragedy of the AIDS epidemic, or any loss, in their own communities and worldwide. As in years past, all are invited to leave personal mementos such as jewelry, letters, poems, photos and other items in Medicine Wheel. Medicine Wheel will be open to the public Thursday, November 29, through Friday, November 30, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and for the full 24-hours on Saturday, December 1. For more details see: http://mwponline.org/wordpress/?page_id=734

HURRICANE SANDY RESPONSE There are a wide variety of ways to help our neighbors in the US, Cuba, Haiti and elsewhere impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Two church related relief efforts can be found online at www.ucc.org/disaster/hurricane-sandy-update.html (UCC fund for Sandy relief) and www.churchworldservice.org. Yet another way to respond with needed supplies for NYC and NJ people is through the Occupy Boston drop-off and delivery system: <http://sandyrelief-boston.tumblr.com/> The website lists items needed and local places to leave supplies for transport to NYC. Among the items needed are blankets, candles, flashlights, batteries, and winter outdoor wear - see the website for more needs. There is a drop off spot at 74 Amsden St, Arlington, MA (just north of Cambridge), and other drop off spots listed online. If you have a whole lot of stuff to donate but cannot drop it off yourself, please email us at sandyreliefboston@gmail.com; we may be able to pick it up.

COVENANT DINNERS ARE ON! We have some terrific hosts for dinners between now and Christmas. Now we need guests. Here are the dinners we have so far:

1. Cambridge: Sunday, December 2 at 4:30 p.m. -- pot luck, not accessible, max 7 persons, kids welcome
2. Somerville: Friday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m. -- pot luck, not accessible, max 7 persons, no young kids
3. Arlington: Saturday, December 8 at 6:00 p.m. -- pot luck, stairs, max 9 guests, young kids welcome
4. Arlington: Tuesday, December 25 (Christmas) at 5:00 p.m. -- pot luck (side dishes, desserts), condo with stairs, max 6 adults/4 children

You can now sign up to be a guest or host on the First Church website! From the home page, click on "Worship, Music and Spiritual Life." Look for "Covenant Dinners" in the list under "Small Groups" and click on it to get to a form for signups. You can also continue to sign up with us by email or phone, or see us in coffee hour on Sunday. (Dave Kidder; flintkiddr@aol.com; 617-924-7236; Beth Loomis; bethloomis3@gmail.com; 617-851-2505). Also, if you'd like to host a dinner, we're scheduling for January and February of next year. Thanks!

HOUSEHOLD GOODS NEEDED FOR RIM as we are settling a new family from Iraq into an apartment in West Roxbury. Especially needed are three single beds, one of which is for a six year old girl (so it could be a youth bed).

SABBATICAL UPDATE Senior Minister Dan Smith is on sabbatical through January 31, 2013. Our Sabbatical Interim Minister is Reebee Girash. She can be reached at church or by email or phone, and she invites you into thoughtful conversation during this season. Reebee and Terry McKinney will be jointly working to coordinate pastoral care. For pastoral emergencies please note that an on-call number is listed in Reebee's outgoing voicemail. For further details on Dan's sabbatical, see the brochure and recent Event Newsletters.

MEMBERS' AREA SECTION OF CHURCH WEBSITE The members' area section of the website is up and running! Please visit the First Church's homepage and click the link that says *Members Area* to login and try it out. Whether you have been a part of our congregation for a few weeks or for a lifetime, as an official member or a friend, you are welcome to sign on for access to our church directory, prayer requests, a First Church blog, small group announcements, board minutes, budgets, and more. Update contact information, post photos and also email each other through our site (note: actual email addresses remain hidden). Your information will not be accessible to anyone but members and friends of our community. Please login and check it out!

Mission Moment

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving occupies a profoundly unique place among our holidays. While it is thoroughly American, it isn't patriotic. And while it is essentially Christian, it isn't sectarian.

Thanksgiving is Christian not only because the Pilgrims set aside the day in order to give thanks to God for their first harvest. But also because they understood that the Kingdom of God, which they intended to model in the New World, is like a banquet. And Jesus had made it clear that when you give a dinner party everyone is to be invited.

In the English and Dutch societies, where the Pilgrims had come from, everyone else looked pretty much like them. But at Plymouth they encountered people of color, the Wampanoag Indians. Still, that didn't make any difference to the Pilgrims. And so they invited them to the Thanksgiving feast.

That's what makes Thanksgiving so American. It's inclusive. When the Congress of the new nation adopted the motto, e pluribus unum, in 1782, they were not so much expressing a hope as stating a fact. For, from the very beginning, we have been a diverse people.

Today all Americans, of course, revere the Pilgrims—especially during the fourth week in November. But we in the United Church of Christ have a special bond with the pioneers who came over here on the Mayflower. So we especially owe it to them, our forebears, to make sure that the welcome to the Thanksgiving table is always extravagant and inclusive.

November 2012

God is still speaking,



The Week Ahead

Sunday, November 25

- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Terry McKinney, preaching
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class, Senior Minister's Office
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

Monday, November 26

- 6:30 p.m. Staff Relations Committee, Senior Minister's Office
- 7:30 p.m. Executive Council, Hastings Room

Tuesday, November 27

- 5:30 p.m. Family Night, Sage Hall

Wednesday, November 28

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Senior Minister's office

Thursday, November 29

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

Sunday, December 2

The First Sunday of Advent

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation for Adults, Hastings Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Karen McArthur, preaching
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour with Light Lunch, Multi-generational Advent Workshop (arts, crafts, wreath-making), MJH
- 1:00 p.m. Outdoor Church, Cambridge Common
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Group
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

The bulletin cover art series was designed by Perry Neubauer and constructed by many hands, large and small. Today's bulletin cover was created by Jack Dyer, Martha Dyer, and Craig Williams.

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.



The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

Senior Minister	Rev. Dan Smith, on sabbatical from October 1, 2012 - January 31, 2013
Sabbatical Interim Minister	Rev. Reebee Girash, 617-547-2724, ext. 26 rgirash@firstchurchcambridge.org
Minister of Mental Health & Healing	Rev. Terry McKinney, 781-643-7324 tmckinney@firstchurchcambridge.org
Affiliate Minister of Stewardship and Finance	Rev. Karen McArthur, 617-547-2724, ext. 22 treasurer@firstchurchcambridge.org
Affiliate Minister of Youth & Young Adults	Julie Rogers, 617-547-2724 jrogers@firstchurchcambridge.org
<i>Havruta</i> Scholar-in-Residence	Rev. Brent Coffin
Director of Music	Peter Sykes, 617-661-0570 psykes@aol.com
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Staff Composer	Patricia Van Ness
Shelter Director	Jim Stewart, 617-661-1873 jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org
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