



Pentecost

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC
May 27, 2012
PENTECOST

VOLUNTARY *Nun Bitten Wir den Heil'gen Geist* Dieterich Buxtehude

OPENING READING Acts 2:1-4

*HYMN 407 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

*GREETING Nathan Jones

L: Sisters and brothers,
the peace of Christ be with you!
C: And on the whole world, peace!
L: The Spirit is coming to us all,
C: to give us gifts for sharing,
L: to change our hearts for loving,
C: to fill the Church for serving,
L: to wake up the world for living,
C: to tell God's name for praising!
L: The Spirit is coming to us all—
C: the gift of God, poured out today!
L: Now lift your hearts in praise!

PRAYER OF PRAISE

**All: Holy Spirit, Deep Breath,
Well of Love, we praise you!
Strong Help, Sure Guide,
Shield of the Poor, we praise you!
Maker of new things, we praise you!
Mercy and Wind, Water and Flame, we praise you!
The whole earth and all your creatures praise you,
Spirit of the living God, now and forever! Amen.**

WORDS OF WELCOME Sarah Higginbotham

ANTHEM *Shall We Gather at the River* Trad. arr.
Aaron Copeland

**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.*

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION HYMN 281 *Spirit of the Living God*
Please remain seated for the hymn.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS (Acts 2:17, 21)

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN C-23 *Come, All You Thirsty*

Parents, godparents and children involved in the baptism should come forward on the last verse of the hymn. All children are invited to sit on the floor and steps in front of the font.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

INVITATION

Dan Smith and Karen McArthur

ADDRESS

THE BAPTISMAL VOWS

*THE CONGREGATION'S PROMISES

L: Jesus Christ welcomes everyone
 who desires new life
 into the faith and family of Christ.
 Do you who witness this sacrament
 promise these children and youth your love, support and care?

C: We do!

L: Will you help them grow in faith
 and witness with her to the love and mercy of Christ?

C: We will, with the help of God!

L: Do you renew your own promises
 to live in the freedom of Christ, and resist the power of evil?

C: We do, with the help of God!

BLESSING OF THE WATER

THE BAPTISMS

*Maeve Violet Green
Ian Arthur Kroft
Chloe Olivia Young
Samuel Abraham Reynolds
Alex Nathan Matias
Jake Ethan Matias
Melissa Hannah Dee
August Nell Kilburn Baxandall
Julian Lee Kilburn Baxandall*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*FINAL BLESSING

L: Sisters and brothers, let us ask God for a blessing!

All: **Holy God, Creator of us all,
give to this child strength for life's journey,
courage in the time of trial,
the joy of faith, the freedom of love,
and the comfort of everlasting life.
And may the grace of Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all forevermore. Amen.**

*HYMN 439

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Children from PreK to 8th grade are invited to leave at this time and gather on the front lawn for flower planting. Parents can meet their children on the lawn after worship.

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

RESPONSIVE PSALM 104:1-13

L: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord my God, you are very great.

C: **You are clothed with honor and majesty,
wrapped in light as with a garment.**

L: You stretch out the heavens like a tent,
you set the beams of your chambers on the waters,
you make the clouds your chariot,

C: **you ride on the wings of the wind,
you make the winds your messengers,**

- fire and flame your ministers.**
- L: You set the earth on its foundations,
so that it shall never be shaken.
- C: You cover it with the deep as with a garment;
the waters stood above the mountains.**
- L: At your rebuke they flee;
at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.
- C: They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys
to the place that you appointed for them.**
- L: You set a boundary that they may not pass,
so that they might not again cover the earth.
- C: You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow between the hills,
giving drink to every wild animal;
the wild asses quench their thirst.**
- L: By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation;
they sing among the branches.
- C: From your lofty abode you water the mountains;
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.**

READING

Acts 2: 37-43

HOMILY

Dan Smith

INVITATION TO OFFERING (Acts 2:43-46)

OFFERTORY

O Lord, Give Thy Holy Spirit

Thomas Tallis

*PENTECOST DOXOLOGY

**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.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

- L: God be with you.
- C: And with your spirit.**
- L: Let us pray...(silence, intercessions and the 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.**

*HYMN C-9

Psalm 148

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Ultimate Jude

Paul Sawyer

VOLUNTARY

Komm. Gott Schöpfer, Heiliger Geist

J. S. Bach

The 2011-2012 bulletin cover art series was designed by Perry Neubauer and constructed by many hands, large and small. The Pentecost bulletin cover was created by Erik Stauffer and Sarah Higginbotham.

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 hope that you will stay for a bit after worship for refreshments and conversation. (Follow the crowd.) 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 speak to one of the ministers after church, or visit us on the web at www.firstchurchcambridge.org

Large print bulletins and assistive listening devices are available.

Please ask a greeter for assistance.

Activity packets for children's use during worship are also available near the sanctuary doors. Nursery care for infants and toddlers (through age 4) is located down the hallway and up four stairs to the door on the right. The worship service is also broadcast in the Hastings Room, across from the sanctuary entrance.

PREACHING TODAY IS Dan Smith, Senior Minister. Assisting with worship are Karen McArthur, Affiliate Minister of Stewardship & Finance, and Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Arts & Worship. Our liturgist is First Church member Nathan Jones. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir.

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.

PENTECOST MULTI-GENERATIONAL BAPTISM SERVICE Today is Pentecost, a festival day of joyous worship, when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit to the early church. It's also a day on which we'll be baptizing people of all ages. It will be a joy-filled service where we will celebrate the Spirit through symbols of water, fire, breath, and doves! "The Holy Spirit descended like a dove at Jesus' baptism and said, 'You are my beloved child and with you I am well pleased.'"

PLANTING FIRST CHURCH'S FLOWER GARDEN This month's Creative Arts project in the church school is to plant impatiens in front of the church building, bringing a burst of summer color to our grounds for the enjoyment of all who pass by. The children will leave worship after the baptisms to get down and dirty, but if you wish to contribute to the project, adults are most welcome to join Joanne Paul at 10 a.m. to prepare the grounds and plant a few flowers in advance of the children.

DISABILITY ACCESS TEAM MEETING Today at 12:30 p.m. in the Hastings Room there will be a meeting of the new Disability/Access Team. Whether or not you were at the Disability Forum back in February, you are welcome to come to this initial meeting to form a group that can work specifically on accessibility issues here at First Church. We have a list of ideas but welcome additional suggestions. For more information and to let us know you will be attending, please contact Carolyn Thompson at carolynrt@verizon.net.

WEBSITE UPDATE Hopefully, by now you have all checked out our new website at www.firstchurchcambridge.org. Feedback has been very positive, and thanks to those of you who have made comments and suggestions. We are far from finished, however! New content is being added, including events, audio, and Take Action! items. We are working on designing a 'members only' section so members (and regulars who aren't members) can access a parish directory and manage their own contact info and photos. And, in the meantime, please contact our webmaster, Sarah Higginbotham (shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org), with any questions or concerns. If you have an event to add to the calendar, please contact Amy Click (aclick@firstchurchcambridge.org).

MEN'S BREAKFAST THIS SATURDAY Gentle men of First Church! Join us for a hearty Men's Breakfast and even heartier conversations about topics that connect our faith to our lives and our world, this Saturday June 2, in the Hastings Room. Mark your calendars now, and plan to join us regularly. Note the **new time** of the breakfasts: we now begin at **8:00 a.m.**, not 7:30. One-time visitors, friends, and newcomers are always welcome. Questions? Contact Peter Byerly, p.byerly@comcast.net, or Paul Efthim, pweftim@verizon.net. If you'd like to sign up for the Men's Breakfast e-mail list to receive monthly reminders, contact Kirsten Manville, parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF TERRY MCKINNEY At a congregational meeting on Sunday, April 22nd, First Church voted unanimously to call Terry to be our new 1/2 time Minister of Mental Health and Healing. A Service of Ordination and Installation will be held in our sanctuary on Sunday, June 3rd at 4 p.m. with a reception to follow in Margaret Jewett Hall. Please save the date and plan to join us for this long-awaited celebration of Terry's gifts and calling!

THE MISSIONS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE will be collecting non-perishable items for the Food Pantry on Sunday, June 3. If you have items to share, please leave them in the large basket in the narthex. If you would be interested in delivering the items to the Food Pantry, please contact Jean Miller (781-956-8461 or jeanmiller.miller37@gmail.com). Thank you for thinking of our sisters and brothers who are experiencing economic hardship at this time.

PASTORAL CARE TEAMS CELEBRATION Are you a current member of a pastoral care team? Have you been on a team before? Are you interested in joining one and want to find out more? It's time to celebrate! Join us in the Hastings Room at 10 a.m. on June 10 as we lift up and honor the work the teams do, evaluate what the year has been like, look to the future, and answer questions prospective members might have. Goodies (both sweet and savory) will be served. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email Terry McKinney at temckinney@msn.com.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY AND ALL-CHURCH PICNIC, JUNE 10 We will mark the end of the church school year in morning worship on June 10. Children from our Godly Play, Bible 101, and Seasons of the Spirit classes will lead parts of the liturgy, including a creative way of experiencing prayer as a community. There will be a moment of thanksgiving for the work of our church school teachers, as well. And following worship, come gather across the street on the Cambridge Common for a church picnic and the Second Annual All-Ages Kickball Game. Bring your lawn chairs, picnic blankets and a dessert or savory snack to share, and celebrate the beginning of summer with your church family!

CONGRATULATIONS TO GRADUATES This time of year is one of many graduations and transitions. We celebrate with all those of you in this community who are graduating—whether from pre-school into kindergarten, or from a post college graduate program to a brand new life adventure. We would especially like to recognize First Church staff who are graduating: Shelter staff Adam Ortman, Bucky Rogers, Seth Ligo, Emily Miller, and Hily Haber graduated from Harvard Divinity School this week, as did former Administrative Assistant Jaime Bonney. We appreciate their dedicated service to the First Church and First Church Shelter and wish them all the best in the future.

TEACH IN THE 2012-13 CHURCH SCHOOL Are you seeking a meaningful way to connect with First Church members of all ages? Could you imagine that your faith journey might be enriched by sharing your experience with the children or youth of the church? If so, please consider whether you feel called to join the Church School next year. Teachers work in teams of three or four to lead classes in Godly Play or Seasons of the Spirit. Others will act as adult mentors for our newly-forming Youth Group (grades 8-12) as they pursue fun and interesting activities. The commitment generally includes two Sunday mornings per month, plus four teacher training meetings over the year. Youth Group leaders will likely need to volunteer other weekend hours, but might be free most Sunday mornings. Please contact Sarah Higginbotham for more details or to sign up.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 3RD ANNUAL FALL FAMILY RETREAT Families of all ages and sizes are invited to join us on the third annual Fall Family Retreat at Craigville Conference Center on October 13-14, 2012. Spend 24 hours on the Cape with your church friends - we'll play, sing, eat, worship, laugh, and pray together. If you know you're in, please email Sarah Higginbotham, so she can coordinate housing needs with Craigville. More details to come in September.

COVENANT DINNERS – SIGN UP TODAY AND HOSTS NEEDED You are invited to a potluck “Covenant Dinner” to meet and get to know people from First Church. We hope you will join us for an enjoyable meal, spiced with good company and new friends. Choose the day and time that work best for you. Let us know if you have special needs (e.g.: accessibility, vegetarian, allergies), and if you need a ride. Children are welcome, and you are encouraged to come as a family. Your host will contact you a few days before your meal with details and to coordinate the menu. Is hospitality one of your gifts? If so, hosting a Potluck Covenant Dinner is a great way to meet people and develop new friendships. A covenant dinner host/hostess chooses the date and time, and then guests sign up either at the church or via email. All that’s required for a successful dinner are good food and conversation – both provided by the guests! To find out more about hosting or to sign up to attend a dinner, contact Marian Smith at msmith829@gmail.com, or (781) 648-1498.

ORGANIC VEGETABLES FROM ROCKVILLE MARKET FARM! Now's the time to sign-up for a farm share from Rockville Market Farm. Sign-up at <http://rockvillemarketfarm.com/> and select First Church Cambridge as your location. A bag of organic produce will be delivered to our Parsonage at 44 Garden Street each Thursday with your name on it. Easy pick-up from our garage fridge, whenever you can come by. Deliveries begin in mid to late June, can be paused for vacations, and are truly delicious!! Questions? Email Nancy at nkkilburn@comcast.net. Thank you for supporting organic farming!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP A CONGREGATION MEMBER? Ellen Frith is looking for someone to help with light housekeeping and computer work four hours per week. This is a paid position, subsidized by the state. If interested in the position, or for more information, please contact Ellen at ellenfrith@post.harvard.edu or by phone at 617-628-6866 or 617-335-7120.

THANK YOU FROM THE SHELTER Many thanks from the shelter for the highly efficient and esthetically appealing lights installed in the bunk room. They replace very inefficient and frequently malfunctioning halogen lights installed as part of the shelter renovation 11 years ago.

COOPERATIVE METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES' 46TH ANNUAL MEETING Please come! First Church is hosting the Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries' 46th Annual Meeting, which includes a rousing address by preacher, broadcaster and humanitarian Rev. Liz Walker, pastor of Roxbury Presbyterian Church. Our own Kate Layzer will be among the award recipients for her work as one of the chaplains for Occupy Boston. Please mark your calendar for **Thursday, May 31st from 6 to 9 p.m. in Margaret Jewett Hall**. Dinner is included in the \$25 ticket. \$10 for students/low income. Hear great Jazz by the Aamir Mahdi Trio, and celebrate our diverse faiths. Register online at <http://cmmanualmeeting.eventbrite.com> or buy tickets at the door. Kindly let Alice Kidder know if you are planning to attend at flintkiddr@aol.com. You will enjoy this evening of faith and celebration. Details are on the Mission and Social Justice Bulletin Board.

213TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE UCC MASSACHUSETTS CONFERENCE **Friday and Saturday, June 15 – 16, Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center, Sturbridge, MA** How will we individually and collectively be transformed as we move together into the future of the United Church of Christ? How will we discern and work towards transformational ministries at the local, association, and conference levels in the name of Jesus Christ? The Rev. J. Bennett Guess, Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries, one of the five members of the Collegium of UCC Officers, will be with us keynoting on Friday evening and preaching on Saturday morning. We are gifted to have such a transformational leader present with us around this theme — “Be Transformed.” **Registration Information:** First Church can send 3 delegates to the conference. Please contact Kirsten Manville at parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org if you are attending and would like to be one of our delegates. Register now online at www.macucc.org, or request a printed registration form by contacting Jane Logee, Registrar, logeej@macucc.org or 508-875-5233, ext. 221. Registration deadline is June 1.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE PURITAN TO GO ON A "PURITAN ROOTS" TOUR! The Congregational Library is offering a 12-day tour (June 18-30) that traces the path traveled by the Puritans who settled New England -- only in reverse. It begins in Salem, Mass., and winds up in East Anglia, the area northwest of London where many of the Puritans came from. In Old England, the tour includes London, Cambridge, Ipswich and other Puritan sites as well as some fun side trips to places such as the Viking ruins in Sutton Hoo. For more information, go to http://www.ipswichtours.com/east_anglia.html or contact Janet at Olde Ipswich Tours, (978 356-5163).

SCHEDULE THIS WEEK The First Church office and building will be closed on Monday, May 28, in observance of Memorial Day. Normal office and building hours will resume on Tuesday, May 29.

42ND ANNIVERSARY OF BOSTON PRIDE IS SATURDAY JUNE 9TH!

Join members of First Church in celebrating the 42nd anniversary of Boston Pride! We'll meet downtown on Tremont Street between 11 and 11:30 Saturday morning June 12th and march with other "Open and Affirming" UCC churches. Whether you are gay or straight, PRIDE is a joyous opportunity to express the extravagant, inclusive love of God toward all people. The day begins at 9:30 am with gathering music at Old South Church (645 Boylston St) and an interfaith service of worship at 10 am. The parade begins at noon, and marchers are asked to be in place by 11 am. Contact Jim Rissling, jrisslingcls@yahoo.com, for more information, or to let us know you're coming. When we learn more details from the parade organizers, we'll let you know the exact location on Tremont Street where our group will meet. Jim's cell phone, for the day of the parade, is: (617) 680-4595 If anyone would like to co-lead this effort with Jim, please contact him.

The theme of the 2012 Boston Pride celebration is: Celebrating 30 Years of Worldwide Pride Movement

This theme pays tribute to InterPride, the international association of Pride organizers, which was founded in Boston in 1982. Boston Pride is a founding member of InterPride, along with committees in New York, San Francisco, Chicago, San Diego, and Los Angeles.

"We are excited to pay tribute to the pioneers who founded InterPride in 1982 with our Parade and Festival," said Linda DeMarco, president of Boston Pride. "We are pleased to have a chance to honor that organization's work and mission. We are also happy that we have the opportunity to honor the revolutionary role that Boston has played in the Pride movement."

"The issues of our community go beyond the Greater Boston area to global human rights," said Sylvain Bruni, a member of Boston Pride's board of directors.

Pride Interfaith Service

June 9, 2012 - 10:00am - 11:30am Saturday, June 9th, 10 am in the Sanctuary

On the morning of Boston's Pride Parade and Festivities, Old South Church will host the 35th annual LGBTQ Pride Interfaith Service – a joining of brothers and sisters from many faiths as we worship our extravagantly welcoming, still-speaking, many-gendered Creator. The service features song, prayer, and celebration. This year we welcome special guest speaker Rev. Catharine A. Cummings of Union United Methodist Church, Boston. Likewise, we will honor the 2012 Pride Interfaith Award Recipient, Union United Methodist Church Youth Drop-In Center. Event Contact: Brent Damrow, brent@oldsouth.org

PLEASE JOIN US AND SPREAD THE WORD!

SMALL GROUP AND WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Sundays in May and June at 8:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Night Song will continue in May and June - but with several changes. The starting time will be 8:30 PM, as sunset is occurring later now. The setting will be simpler, with no icons, very few candles and no incense. And there will be no jazz instrumental component, making it 30 minutes in length and more traditional in nature. The music will be Gregorian chant and Renaissance polyphony. 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.

MONTHLY NEWCOMER SESSIONS ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH, 12:15 P.M. We are blessed to be graced by many visitors and newcomers to our church community. While we have always held newcomer sessions around a joining Sunday, we will now be offering monthly gatherings with a topical focus. Hopefully this will allow newcomers to get to know one another and to enter into engaging dialogue around topics ranging from our faith journeys to basic tenets of the Christian journey. We will also continue to share information about First Church and the UCC. Current members are also encouraged to attend to get to know people and share in the dialogue. Please fill a plate with lunch in Margaret Jewett Hall, and bring it with you to the Hastings Room. **The next Joining Sunday will be next Sunday, June 3.**

MENTAL HEALTH & SPIRITUALITY GROUP 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 (temckinney@msn.com) or Carter West (stbosal@arczip.com).

TUESDAY FAMILY NIGHT Family Night continues every other Tuesday evening, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., in Sage Hall. Parents and children gather for a simple potluck supper, some active play in the indoor play space, and a chance to share the joys and challenges of family life together. If you have young kids and are looking for an easy weeknight dinner plan with friends, join us! Family Night is a wonderful way for families with children to spend time together outside of the Sunday morning routine. While most families who attend have preschool-aged children, families with older children are welcome as well! The main dish (usually pasta and sauce) is provided; bring a side dish, dessert, or drink to share. The final Family Night of the year will be on May 29.

The Week Ahead

Today, Sunday, May 27

Pentecost Sunday

- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary (No Christian Formation)
- 10:00 a.m. Flower Planting Preparation, Front Yard
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Multigenerational Celebration of Baptism, Dan Smith, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Creative Arts/Flower Planting for PreK-8th Grade
- 12:30 p.m. Disability/Access Team Meeting, Hastings Room
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline

Monday, May 28

First Church office and building closed in observance of Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 29

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

Wednesday, May 30

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's office

Thursday, May 31

- 6:00 p.m. CMM Annual Meeting, Margaret Jewett Hall

Saturday, June 3

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Hastings Room

Sunday, June 3

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Joining Sunday, Multigenerational Communion (A time for healing prayer offered immediately following the service) Ellen Rohan Ball, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School for PreK-8th Grade (Outdoor Church sandwich-making)
- 12:30 p.m. Church School Teacher Training, Hastings Room
- 12:30 p.m. Ministry & Formation Team, Dan Smith's office.
- 1:00 p.m. Outdoor Church, Cambridge Common
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 4:00 p.m. Ordination and Installation of Terry McKinney, Sanctuary
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline

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

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FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL

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