



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC

June 24, 2012

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

VOLUNTARY

*HYMN 100

By Gracious Powers

*GREETING

Mary Penniston Salinas

L: Sisters and brothers, the Lord be with you,

C: and give us peace.

L: Come in and be at home!

Here there is rest here for the weary,

C: comfort for the troubled,

L: well-being for the sick,

C: and for the lost way, light.

L: Come! Gather in hope in the household of God,

C: where there is room for us all!

L: Gather in hope, and praise the Lord!

PRAYER OF PRAISE

All: Day by day, generous God,

you renew our trust!

You open a way through sorrow,

and give us secret gifts

in aching places where life is hard.

Day by day, O healing Spirit,

you soothe our bodies with fragrant oil,

you mend our hearts with the medicine of hope.

Your hands, serene upon us, give us peace.

Thanks and praise to you, and glory evermore!

WORDS OF WELCOME

Sarah Higginbotham

ANTHEM

Call to Remembrance

Farrant

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

**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.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray for healing, pardon, and peace.

**All: God of grace and compassion,
when we have forgotten your tender mercies,
when we have been blind to our neighbor's pain,
when we have withheld your love from each other and from ourselves,
heal and restore us, we pray,
and grant that we may rest in your forgiveness,
trust in your grace,
and live into the wholeness to which you call us.
In Jesus' name. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*HYMN 302 *Come to Me, O Weary Traveler*

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING 1 Samuel 17: 1a, 4-11, 19-23, 32-49

REFLECTION

Dan Smith

INVITATION TO TIME OF HEALING PRAYER

BLESSING OF OIL AND HANDS

HYMNS

*441 Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ
400 There is a Balm in Gilead
399 From the Crush of Wealth and Power
416 All My Hope On God is Founded*

CONCLUDING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Terry McKinney

(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

Suscepimus, Deus

Janacek

*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

*HYMN 401

Amazing Grace

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Ultimate Jude

Paul Sawyer

*Praise ye the Lord above, praise ye the Lord!
Now unto the One who is able to keep you from falling,
And present you faultless before the presence of Glory with exceeding joy,
to the only wise God, our savior be glory and majesty,
both now and forever. Amen.*

VOLUNTARY

The 2011-2012 bulletin cover art series was designed by Perry Neubauer and constructed by many hands, large and small. Today's 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 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.

LEADING THE SERVICE TODAY ARE Dan Smith, Senior Minister, Terry McKinney, Minister of Mental Health & Healing, and Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts. Our liturgist is First Church member Mary Penniston Salinas. Daryl Bichel, Night Song Artistic Director, is playing the organ and directing the choir. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is teaching this week at the San Francisco Early Music Society's Baroque Music and Dance Week.

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.

IN MEMORIAM Longtime First Church member Ruth Gates died on June 13th at Carlton Willard Village in Belmont. Services will be held at Carlton Willard on July 10th at 10 a.m. Please keep the Gates family, especially Ruth's Daughter Judy, son Richard and Elizabeth in your prayers.

HEALING SERVICE TODAY At today's worship service, we will have an opportunity to reflect together on God's healing peace, and to participate in a simple healing ritual involving a brief prayer, laying on of hands, and for those who wish, anointing with oil — an ancient Christian practice now being revived across the ecumenical spectrum of churches. The morning service will follow the normal order, but at the time of the sermon, we will offer instead a brief introduction to the ritual, and then invite forward all who would like to participate. For those who prefer to remain seated, there will be music and a time of silence for individual prayers.

4TH SESSION OF INTRODUCTION TO "CENTERING PRAYER: A TRAINING COURSE FOR OPENING TO THE PRESENCE OF GOD" & SUMMER PLANS FOR VIEWING FULL COURSE Today, **June 24, 12:30 p.m., Hastings Room** Given continued interest in more viewing and discussion of some highlights of the course, a **4th session** will be held today after services. *For those interested in viewing the full course:* For 4-6 Sundays beginning Sunday July 1st, we will begin showing the full course in segments, with time for comments & discussion. The showings will begin around 11:15-11:30, after 10 a.m. services, in the Hastings Room. It must be emphasized that anyone who participates need not feel obligated to attend all or even most of the scheduled viewings. Each segment stands alone & is readily accessible to anyone who has attended one of the 4 introductory sessions we're providing. Appreciation to Dan, Terry and all participants for your assistance and encouragement!

THE MISSIONS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE will be collecting non-perishable items for the Food Pantry on Sunday, July 1. If you have items to share, please place them in the large basket in the narthex. Thank you for thinking of our sisters and brothers who are experiencing economic hardship at this time.

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 (temkinney@msn.com) or Carter West (stbosal@arczip.com).

"PICKUP CHOIR" For the summer, the First Church Choir continues to sing for Sunday services, but does not rehearse on Thursday night. The music we sing during the summer is less complicated and perhaps more familiar to the average choral singer, and participation is open to anyone who would like to give it a try. The ability to read music and hold a part is desirable, and music for the following Sunday's service will be made available for those who would perhaps like to take it home and prepare over the week. This is a great opportunity to worship God in song, to

sing some great music, and to meet a really fun and nice group of people! Ask Peter Sykes for more details.

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).

LANDSCAPING PROJECTS AT FIRST CHURCH This summer, the church is undergoing several improvements to our grounds. We are replacing the fence and gate, putting in a new walkway with a more accessible grade, improving drainage, and bringing in fresh loam to level off the front yard closest to Garden Street. In addition, we had to remove several diseased trees near the sanctuary entryway. Many have remarked on how open and inviting the entrance now looks, and we plan on refinishing the doors as well to further emphasize our Open Door. We have an opportunity to select what is planted by the front doors. If you would like to designate a particular planting in memory of someone special, please contact Rich Goode (rgoode99@comcast.net) to discuss this. Otherwise, Buildings & Grounds will select the most appropriate plantings to complement our refreshed exterior look. Thanks for your patience as we complete these projects over the summer.

COOKIES FOR COFFEE HOUR ALERT Janet Lyman will shortly be resuming her former role soliciting cookies for Coffee Hour, phoning from her nursing home setting in Brookline. Please continue to respond to calls for cookies as you are able. Your caller ID will indicate a call from Brookline. When you receive a message from Janet, be sure to use the number she left in her message.

SOUTH AFRICAN FIRST CHURCH FRIEND DON SHAY needs a place to stay during his upcoming visit, June 23-30– for nights of 23-24 and the 29th. Don and his wife Suellen were an active part of this community last year when in town for a year-long program. Please contact Don directly via email at donshay@mweb.co.za if you can offer a space, or even if you could use a house sitter for that week.

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!

FAMILY SUMMER PROGRAM AT CRAIGVILLE RETREAT CENTER, AUGUST 5-11 For many years, a handful of First Church families have enjoyed a week on the Cape at Craigville Retreat Center. This year, PACE (Parent and Child Experience) includes a morning children's program, adult bible study, discussion groups, and art classes, and afternoon free time with beach privileges. Accommodations are in an historic inn with private bedrooms and three meals a day. \$545.00/adult; \$265.00/child; \$75.00/children before 1st grade; children under 2 are free. All are welcome - come to be refreshed and renewed to rejoice. Call Joanne Hartunian for more information, 617-484-0776, and speak with the Wendelin, Rohan Ball, or Jeffers Lo families for great stories of Craigville summer memories.

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. Check the summer issue of EVENT (coming soon) for more information about how to sign up and for payment information.

Mission Moment

Faith and Economics

Economics has been called the “dismal science.” Why? Well, what could be drearier than the idea that human beings, as understood by classical economics, are creatures motivated by nothing more than material self-interest? What a contrast with the Christian idea of human beings: people who aspire to love God by serving others with hope and charity.

Classical economic theory assumes a world of scarce resources in which individuals have no choice but to compete with each other in order to survive. The Christian faith, on the other hand, teaches that in God’s world there is more than enough to go around.

But are religion and economics really as irreconcilable as all that? Sure, Jesus threw the money-changers out of the temple. But he also praised the servants who profitably invested their master’s money, and punished the one who only tried to conserve it. And some of today’s economists have a more generous perspective on economic behavior than that found in classic theory. Take Ben Stein and Phil DeMuth. In their book, *Yes, You Can Still Retire Comfortably!* they offer some surprising advice to retirees in their seventies and beyond:

“Do your children know that you love them? If not, when were you planning on telling them?”

“Whom do you need to set things right with? Now might be a good time.”

Christian faith and economics are not so irreconcilable after all. What does your faith say to you about your financial life?

God is still speaking,



SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

Starting now and continuing throughout the summer children are invited to remain in the sanctuary for the entire worship service. We hope that kids will join in our congregation's singing, praising, praying, and peace-passing. For quieter moments, such as the readings and sermon, books and activity packets are available in the corner by the side entrance. We encourage children to pick a quiet activity to help them settle in during this time. If younger children are especially fidgety, families are welcome to move to the Hastings Room (with books and activity packets in hand), where speakers connected to the sanctuary sound system allow you to hear the service.

*Through the months of July and August, **worship will be held at 10:00 a.m.**, with pick-up choir meeting at 9 a.m.*

The First Church office will be closed on Fridays throughout the summer. The building will remain open as usual, and a sexton will be in the building at all times.

SMALL GROUP AND WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

First Church maintains a busy schedule of small group activities and worship opportunities throughout the year, but we slow down a bit in the summer months. Here's a quick guide to what's happening when:

Worship Services

***Night Song** continues to offer a 30-minute Compline service at 8:30 p.m. on Sundays through the summer and fall will resume its schedule of full services on Sundays at 7:00 p.m. in November.*

***Third Sunday Jazz at 5:00 pm** will return in September with a Regathering celebration on September 16th.*

Small Groups

***Third Sunday Newcomer Sessions** after morning worship will be offered again beginning in September.*

***Tuesday Family Night** will re-start its bi-weekly schedule in late September.*

The Week Ahead

Sunday, June 24

- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Healing Service, Dan Smith, leading
- 12:30 p.m. Introduction to Centering Prayer, Hastings Room
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

Monday, June 25

- 6:30 p.m. Staff Relations Committee, Dan Smith's office
- 7:30 p.m. Executive Council, Hastings Room

Sunday, July 1

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Multigenerational Communion (A time for healing prayer offered immediately following the service), Karen McArthur, preaching
- 11:15 a.m. Introduction to Centering Prayer, Hastings Room
- 1:00 p.m. Outdoor Church, Cambridge Common
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room

Looking Ahead

Sunday, July 8

- 9:00 am Pick up Choir
- 10:00 am Morning Worship, Dan Smith preaching
- 11:15 am Centering Prayer Series, Hastings Room
- 2:00 pm Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 pm Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

Sunday, July 15

- 9:00 am Pick up Choir
- 10:00 am Morning Worship, Terry McKinney preaching
- 11:15 am Centering Prayer Series, Hastings Room
- 11:15 am Disability/Access Team Meeting, Library
- 2:00 pm Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 pm 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.



The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

Senior Minister	Rev. Dan Smith, 617-547-2724, ext. 23 dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org
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Affiliate Minister of Stewardship and Finance	Rev. Karen McArthur, 617-547-2724, ext. 22 treasurer@firstchurchcambridge.org
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FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL

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