



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC
June 29, 2014
THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

VOLUNTARY

Prelude in G Major

Felix Mendelssohn

*HYMN 57

I Sing The Mighty Power of God

*GREETING

Brian James

L: Grace and peace to you from God!

C: Peace to the earth and to every creature!

L: Come at the beckoning of love:

C: The hand of Jesus held out to all.

L: Come at the Spirit's call:

**C: Young and old, journeying together
into more and deeper life.**

L: This is the day our God has made:

C: May the joy of God be in this place!

L: Let us lift our hearts in praise:

*PRAYER OF PRAISE

**All: We give our hearts to you, O God,
and with all that we are
we praise you and we bless you:
for the gift of this day, for life and breath,
for hope greater than our fears;
for hands to work and bodies to serve,
for sky and earth and daily bread,
for your love which outlasts the shadow of death:
O God, we praise you, now and forever!**

WORDS OF WELCOME

Karin Case

ANTHEM

The Call

Alexander Brent Smith

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 in Cambridge.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your steadfast love,
according to your abundant mercy.
Create in us clean hearts,
and put new and right spirits within us.
Restore us to the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in us willing, humble, hopeful spirits.
We pray this in the name of Jesus,
who offered forgiveness and grace to all. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 425 *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go*

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING Genesis 2:1-3

RESPONSIVE READING Exodus 20:8-10

L: Remember the Sabbath day, to hallow it.
C: **For six days, you are to serve, and are to make all your work,
but the seventh day is Sabbath for Yahweh your God.**
L: You are not to make any kind of work, (not) you, nor your son,
nor your daughter, (not) your servant, nor your maid, nor your beast,
nor your sojourner that is within your gates.
C: **For in six days Yahweh made the heavens and the earth,
the sea and all that is in it, and he rested on the seventh day;**
L: Therefore Yahweh gave the Sabbath day his blessing, and he hallowed it.

READING Matthew 11:28-30

SERMON

*HYMN 303 *Softly and Tenderly*

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

Thine, O Lord is the Power

Max Reger

*PENTECOST 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 366

We Are Walking

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Ultimate Jude

Paul Sawyer

VOLUNTARY

Tocatta

Sweelinck

Today's bulletin cover was created by Alex and Amy Matias.

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 ARE IS Karin Case, Minister. Our liturgist is First Church Deacon Brian James. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir. Dan Smith, Senior Minister, is away this week. The passages from Genesis and Exodus are adapted from "The Five Books of Moses," a New Translation with Introduction, Commentary and Notes by Everett Fox.

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.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

SPIRITUALITY & MENTAL HEALTH GROUP Today at 2:00 p.m., Tower Room We meet as persons with questions about our inner lives, pursuing wellness. Yet we don't seek a fix for our problems. Instead, we bring our difficulties alongside our experience of that healing Spirit to consider how our faith and our soundness inform each other. We continue to meet every Sunday afternoon from 2:00 to 3:30 in the Tower Room. Participation in the group is open to any and all who identify with our purpose. For a warm welcome and to learn more, see Carter West or e-mail him at cartergw24@gmail.com.

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. Tonight, hear Compline setting in the Lydian mode by Daryl Bichel, Psalm 25, set by Patricia Van Ness; Hymn: Te lucis ante terminum Beati omnes qui timent Dominum by Orlando di Lasso. Beth Spaulding, cantus, Alison LaRosa Montez, altus, Michael Terranova, altus, Erik Bertrand, tenor, and Daryl Bichel, bassus. We will not be using incense this Sunday.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE Through the months of July and August, **worship begins 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 during usual business hours and a sexton will be in attendance.

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.

FIRST CHURCH READS First Church's Building the Beloved Community group and our Witness Against Gun Violence and Inequality would like to suggest a piece of summer reading. These groups recommend a very powerful and already highly acclaimed Atlantic Monthly cover article by Ta-Nehisi Coates called "The Case for Reparations." The article's byline reads: "Two hundred fifty years of slavery. Ninety years of Jim Crow. Sixty years of separate but equal. Thirty-five years of racist housing policy. Until we reckon with our compounding moral debts, America will never be whole." The article is in the June issue of the Atlantic Monthly. You can pick up a copy on news stands. It is also available online (just search "Atlantic, monthly, reparations"). These groups plan to co-host a conversation about the article after church on Sunday, August 24th at 11:30 am in the Hastings Room. Please save the date and plan to join us!

SEND A PASTORAL CARE CARD BEFORE OR AFTER CHURCH While our Pastoral Care Teams will continue their weekly ministry of sending cards and offering occasional meals and rides to church members and families, your help is invited in writing 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 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.

OPPORTUNITIES WHILE CHURCH SCHOOL IS OFF FOR THE SUMMER While our Nursery continues to be staffed for infants and toddlers by our regular caregivers during the worship hour, children of the Church School have a choice for their participation on Sundays. We invite all Church School-aged children to remain in the sanctuary for the entire worship service. We hope that kids will join in the singing, praising, praying, and peace-passing. For quieter moments, such as the readings and sermon, books and activity packets are available in the Children's Worship Corner by the side entrance. If younger children are especially fidgety, families are welcome to move to the Hasting Room, where speakers connected to the sanctuary sound system allow you to hear the service. This year, parents are organizing to have two adults on the outdoor playground (or in the case of rain, in Sage Hall) during the latter half of the service. If you'd like to volunteer to supervise the playground on one summer Sunday, please contact Will Erickson (will.erickson@theshareunion.org).

SUMMER CHOIR AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE For the summer, the First Church Choir continues to sing for Sunday services, but does not rehearse on Thursday night. For the remaining Sundays in June, the pick-up choir will rehearse at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary. For the months of July and August, the pick-up choir will rehearse at 9 a.m. 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 wonderful group of people! Ask Peter Sykes or any member of the choir for more details.

A CAMBRIDGE NEIGHBOR is looking for a math tutor to help him complete his GED. He's almost there—he just need a little coaching to get him through! Contact Kate Layzer (klayzer@gmail.com.)

PARENT AND CHILD EXPERIENCE (PACE) AT CRAIGVILLE RETREAT CENTER, August 3-9, 2014 Enjoy a week of family camp at Craigville Beach on Cape Cod with your family this summer! Morning programming for children & teens and free afternoons to enjoy Craigville Beach and the rest of the Cape. Six nights and 17 meals are included in the reasonable price. All families are welcome. Contact Joanne Hartunian to learn more and to register (joannehartunian@gmail.com or 617-484-0776).

FIRST CHURCH FALL RETREAT 2014 - REGISTER NOW! Mark your calendars and register now for our annual First Church Retreat at Craigville Retreat Center on Cape Cod, October 3-5. Join us for a community gathering that will include time for beach-walking, game-playing, small group sessions, large group worship, music and art-making, and more. Registration is online - go to www.firstchurchcambridge.org/fall-retreat-2014-registration to sign up. We need to have a good sense of the number of participants by the end of June, so please register today

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

HELP REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE...CONTACT YOUR REP Please take a few minutes to reduce gun violence by calling your state representative in the coming week in SUPPORT of H4121, an Act relative to the reduction of gun violence. H4121 is a strong bill that will close loopholes in Massachusetts gun laws, but legislators are under intense pressure from gun rights activists and the NRA to defeat it. We need to tell our Reps that we support H4121 and will support their vote in favor of it. Want details? Google Mass Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence or speak to Ann McCann, Alice Kidder or Dan Smith at First Church. *You can find who your representative is on the website www.wheredoivotema.com.* Your call can be quite brief, but it will save lives.

WELCOME, KARIN!

On Wednesday, June 18th, the Rev. Dr. Karin Case joined our staff as a new Minister. We are thrilled to have her as a partner in the sacred work of pastoring this congregation. Here's some info you may find helpful as she gets settled in.

Contact Information

Karin's office at First Church is on the second floor. She can be reached by telephone at 617-547-2724, ext. 26, and by e-mail at karincase@firstchurchcambridge.org. Karin's day off is likely to be Friday though this may shift as she gets to know the rhythms of our life together. Karin and Dan will be sharing "on-call" duties for pastoral emergencies and pastoral coverage in general. Karin has been called to work 3/4 time which for the time being will mean she will be "out of the office" two weeks out every two months. (When she is here, she will be working full-time.) Let's be respectful of this time, not as "time off" but as the way Karin has chosen to apportion her 3/4 time schedule with us.

What is Her Role with Us?

Karin will share in the full life and leadership of First Church, preaching regularly, leading worship, teaching, attending committee meetings, praying for us and caring for us all. She is here to share her many gifts with us "so near as God shall give her grace." She'll be helping us all to grow spiritually, through leading 10 a.m. hours, small groups, helping us to discern our gifts and more fully respond to God's vision for each of our lives and community.

How You Can Help

Karin will need time to get to know us (again), our 375 year old history, our customs, virtues and quirks. A lot has changed for her and for us since she was with us as an Interim Minister five years ago. You can help her to get to know us and to get to know you! Don't hesitate to point things out to her, things she may or may not already know. Remind her of names (yours and those of others), and help her find her way around. Tell her what you love about First Church, and feel free to tell her about the hard parts too. She's a quick study, no doubt, but a little help can go a long way, especially when it comes to getting to know a place as complex as First Church. Finally please be sure to pray for Karin, and for the rest of the staff, and for our entire community as we build this new relationship and move forward together into God's future.

Whenever we welcome a new minister, we all become new. Perhaps the best welcome we can give to Karin is to re-commit ourselves to our covenant, to our ongoing process of "going deeper", and to open ourselves to the sacred and joyful transformation that God has in store for us through our new ministry together.

Holy Welcome

I look back on my Catholic school education grateful for the influence of the nuns who inspired me to spend my childhood intent on entering the convent one day. The way I saw it, those nuns didn't just have a "day job." They had given their whole lives, everything they owned, including their family, to follow God's call. And they told us colorful stories about martyrs and missionaries who gave up even more in response to God's call, people like Perpetua, Edmund Campion, and Father Damien. It was a wonderful way to grow up, hearing those stories. Jesus' words to his disciples--those he both calls and sends--demand that sort of radical trust and generosity.

(Kathryn Matthews Huey, Dean of Amistad Chapel, United Church of Christ)

WITNESS IN WASHINGTON

Congressional lobbying has a bad name—at least in some quarters. Many people do not know that there are advocates in our nation's capital who are not motivated by special interests, but rather by a vision of the well-being of all. One of them is our own United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Program Team in Washington, D.C. They bring the issues of concern to our congregations, Conferences, and General Synod--including immigration reform, climate change, and global debt--to the attention of our representatives in Congress.

Business may have more money to spend on lobbying, but the United Church of Christ has a biblical and theological vision of human community and the wholeness of creation that guides its advocacy efforts. Our team in Washington D.C. engages people of faith in telling the stories of those who have been shut out and left behind by public policy decisions. Given the increasing divisiveness in our public dialogue, Sandy Sorenson, director of the team, says that we are a critical presence in Washington, giving voice to those on the margins of society.

Elected officials and their staffs in Washington listen to the United Church of Christ because they know that our stands on public issues are grounded in faith and informed by long experience in addressing the pressing needs of local communities, the nation, and the world. Members of the UCC empower our advocacy in Washington and throughout the world through gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission.

Looking Ahead

Sunday, June 29

- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary (No Christian Formation)
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Karin Case, preaching
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

Friday, July 4

Church building and office closed in observance of Independence Day

Sunday, July 6

- 9:00 a.m. Pick-up Choir
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Robert Kelley, preaching, Multigenerational Communion-in-the-Round
- 1:00 p.m. Outdoor Church, Cambridge Common
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

Sunday, July 13

- 9:00 a.m. Pick-up Choir
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Dan Smith, preaching
- 11:15 a.m. Fall Retreat Planning Meeting, Hastings Room
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

Sunday, July 20

- 9:00 a.m. Pick-up Choir
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Karin Case, preaching
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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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

The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

Senior Minister

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Minister

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Minister of Stewardship &
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Patricia Van Ness

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