



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC

July 29, 2012

THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

VOLUNTARY

*HYMN 252

How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely

*GREETING

Julie Rogers

L: Sisters and brothers, come now into God's presence!

C: With gladness and song we gather!

L: Dearly beloved, enter God's gates with thanks!

C: With thanksgiving and praise we come!

L: God's love is our security!

C: God's providence is our hope!

L: God's mercy is our rest!

C: God's peace is our dwelling place and our abiding place!

L: Then let us praise our God!

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan Smith

ANTHEM

O Lord, Increase My Faith

Gibbons

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**C: When, breathless, we have forgotten that your breath is our life,
forgive us, God, and bring us back to life.**

**When, too busy caring for others, we neglect to care for ourselves,
forgive us, God, and teach us to love ourselves as we love others.**

**When too proud or too scared to ask for rest and peace,
forgive us, God, and give us courage to find rest in you.**

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

**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.*

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 86

The Lone, Wild Bird

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Dave McCann

READING

1 Kings 8 (excerpted)

RESPONSIVE PSALM 42

- L: As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When shall I behold the face of God?
- C: My tears have been my bread, day and night,
while people say to me continually, “Where is your God?”**
- L: Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise God, my helper.
- C: My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.**
- L: Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts;
all your waves and your billows have gone over me.
- C: By day the Lord commands God’s steadfast love,
and at night God’s song is with me,
a prayer to the Lord of my life.**
- L: I say to God, my rock, “Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I walk about mournfully
because the enemy oppresses me?”
- C: As with a deadly wound in my body,
my adversaries taunt me,
while they say to me continually, “Where is your God?”**
- L: Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
- C: Hope in God; for I shall again praise the Lord,
my help and my God.**

READING

Matthew 26: 36-39

SERMON

Dan Smith

*HYMN 76

As Longs the Deer

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Julie Rogers

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.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING .

OFFERTORY

Let Thy Merciful Ears, O Lord

Weelkes

*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 249

Open Now Your Gates of Beauty

*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

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 Dan Smith, Senior Minister. Assisting with worship is First Church member Dave McCann. Our liturgist is Julie Rogers, Affiliate Minister off Youth & Young Adults. 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.

SUMMER COOKOUT AT THE PARSONAGE—TODAY Dan and Nancy will be hosting a summer cookout today at the Parsonage. After Morning Worship and refreshments in Margaret Jewett Hall, plan to head down to 44 Garden Street for a fun and casual afternoon of food and fellowship. Kids and families are more than welcome. Please note: the cookout will be cancelled in case of rain!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW AFFILIATE MINISTER OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS, JULIE ROGERS Given the widely and deeply felt need to bolster our offerings for Youth and Young Adults, we are thrilled to welcome recent Harvard Divinity School graduate Julie Rogers. Julie is on the ordination track in the UCC with her home church in Montclair, NJ, and has experience in working with kids, young adults, and students of all ages. She recently served as Ministerial Intern at Harvard's Memorial Church and will be continuing there as part-time Director of Religious Education. Julie will be with us only once a month in Morning Worship, but she will be leading regular youth and young adult events, including a monthly brunch and a bi-weekly "Faith on Tap" group at a local watering hole. She will also be leading our Confirmation Class with Sarah Higginbotham. To read her bio, see our website and click on About Us, and Our Staff.

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).

"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.

THE MISSIONS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE will be receiving nonperishable items for the Food Pantry on Sunday, August 5, 2012. 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.

SHELTER INTERN The Shelter Committee is asking for an interested high school junior or senior to participate in an intern program. The objective of the program will be to create a pamphlet or other appropriate materials to explain the details of how the Shelter fulfills its mission of providing shelter to homeless men and assisting in their transition back into permanent housing.

There are a lot of details to this process as well as a wider context of social discussion on the issue of homelessness and how to best address the challenge. For example, there are other models of providing this kind of service to the community. How does how we do it at the First Church Shelter compare to other accepted models? This is intended as an opportunity for the Shelter to engage in the life of the Congregation through the contribution of a caring and interested young adult. At this point no stipend is envisioned, although this could be the subject of discussion. As a motivational point, this sure would look good on a college resume! Structure for the program will be provided by Michael Swartz, Chair of the Shelter Committee with support from Jim Stewart, Shelter Director, and other members of the both the Committee and the Shelter Staff. Interested individuals should contact Michael Swartz at michael.swartz@perkinelmer.com.

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.

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 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, Wilson Braun, Rohan Ball, or Jeffers Lo families for great stories of Craigville summer memories.

REGISTER YOUR CHILDREN & YOUTH FOR THE 2012-2013 PROGRAM YEAR All children from infants to teenagers can be registered for programs at First Church. We have moved to an online registration form, found on our website. We invite parents to please take a moment before Re-Gathering Sunday, September 9, to register your children, so that we can be prepared to welcome them into the Nursery, Church School, Confirmation Class, or Youth Group. Speak with Sarah Higginbotham if you have questions or concerns.

FALL FAMILY RETREAT, OCTOBER 13-14 - REGISTER NOW ONLINE Families with children from infants to teenagers are invited to join us on the third annual Fall Family Retreat at Craigville Retreat 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. Registration is now taking place on our website - click on "Latest News" or visit the Children or Youth pages on the site.

NEW "MEMBERS" ONLY SECTION OF CHURCH WEBSITE -- Starting in September, members and friends of First Church will be given a username and password to access a new "members-only" section of our website. 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 will be welcome to sign on for access to our church directory, prayer requests, a First Church blog, small group announcements, board minutes, budgets, and more. Users will be able to update contact information, post photos and also email each other through our site (note: actual email addresses will remain hidden). In order to set up an initial version of our online member directory, we will be uploading our current Parish List of contact information directly to the site. Your information will not be accessible to anyone but members and friends of our community. If you would prefer not to have your information available to other First Church users, please send an email to Kirsten Manville at parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org by September 5th and please include "opt out" in the subject line.

NIGHT SONG HELPERS NEEDED Night Song is offering 1/2 hour Compline services at 8:30 on Sunday nights in our sanctuary from now through early November when they will return to their long services starting at 7. Do you attend these services regularly or are you looking for an extra reason to do so? Night Song is looking for volunteers to help set out candles, hand out service bulletins and count attendees. If you are willing to help now or beginning in November, please contact Night Song Artistic Director Daryl Bichel at darylbianchi@aol.com. If you'd like to know more about Night Song, please visit our website and look under Worship, Music and Spiritual Life.

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 Claudia Dyer.

Mission Moment

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP

Saturday evening worship? Christian churches--Protestant and Catholic--answer: Why not? The idea isn't necessarily intended to open up any deep biblical or theological issues. No, there are probably almost as many reasons why as there are churches that have introduced Saturday evening worship.

Take Plymouth United Church of Christ in Des Moines, Iowa. For them, the 5:30 p.m. Saturday service is designed to reflect how early Christians worshiped: in their homes, with family and friends. "That's why we worship around tables, in a comfortable setting, with food and drink and room to move around," they say. Just take a moment to return your coffee mugs to the cart after worship. And, above all, please make yourself at home.

For First Church Congregational in Painesville, Ohio, Saturday evening worship provides an opportunity to do something different from Sunday morning. Like Plymouth, it is informal come-as-you-are, conversational-style worship. No sermon as such, but scriptural reflections, followed by a "ministry moment" when worshipers discuss practical ways to live out the biblical message they have read and discussed. And, as at Plymouth, Communion is a regular part of the service.

Both churches agree that Saturday evening worship is not intended simply as a convenience for people who want their Sundays free. Nor is it meant to compete with the next day's worship. In fact, nothing prevents people from attending on both days, since the services are very different. Going to church two days in a row! That would very much reflect how early Christians worshiped, because they met together every day!

July 2012

God is still speaking,

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



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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

Today, Sunday, July 29

- 9:00 a.m. Pick up Choir
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Dan Smith, preaching
- 11:45 p.m. Summer Cookout, Parsonage (44 Garden Street)
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

Monday, July 30

- 6:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee, home of Marian Smith

Sunday, August 5

- 9:00 a.m. Pick up Choir
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Dan Smith, preaching
- 1:00 p.m. Outdoor Church, Cambridge Common
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

Looking Ahead

Sunday, April 12

- 9:00 a.m. Pick up Choir
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Summer Healing Service, Dan Smith, leading
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

Sunday, August 19

- 9:00 a.m. Pick up Choir
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Julie Rogers, preaching
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 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

Senior Minister	Rev. Dan Smith, 617-547-2724, ext. 23 dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org
Minister of Mental Health & Healing	Rev. Terry McKinney, 781-643-7324 temckinney@msn.com
Affiliate Minister of Stewardship and Finance	Rev. Karen McArthur, 617-547-2724, ext. 22 treasurer@firstchurchcambridge.org
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