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## **FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE**

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

**FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC**  
**September 2, 2012**  
**THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

VOLUNTARY

\*HYMN C-6

*Psalm 100*

GREETING

Martha Dyer

- L: Sisters and brothers, God's grace, mercy and peace to you all!  
**C: And to the whole world and every living thing, peace!**  
L: Come in! Gather again or for the very first time, and be at home in this place!  
**C: For God has flung wide the doors and spread out a table before us.**  
L: Come in! Gather together, and be as you are!  
**C: In hope or hesitation; in joy or in yearning, friends and strangers alike,  
God meets us here, just as we are!**  
L: Come in then, enter God's gates with thanks and praise!

WORDS OF WELCOME

Reebee Girash

ANTHEM

*Lead Me, Lord*

S.S. Wesley

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- L: Let us ask God for healing, pardon and peace.  
**C: God of all mercy and healing, we confess  
we have not loved our neighbor as we love ourselves,  
and we have not loved ourselves as you love us.  
Too often we live with heads down and guards up.  
By your disarming grace, God, teach us how to be tender,  
how to stay open, and how to be honest  
with ourselves, with others and with you!  
These things we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

\*GREETING OF PEACE

*\*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.*

\*HYMN C-28

*God's Forgiveness Waits*

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

RESPONSIVE PSALM 15

L: O LORD, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

C: **Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,  
and speak the truth from their heart;**

L: who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends,  
nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;

C: **in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear God;  
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;**

L: who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent

C: **Those who do these things shall never be moved.**

READING

Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-9

SERMON

Rev. Dan Smith

\*HYMN 372

*Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*PENTECOST COMMUNION-IN-THE-ROUND

GATHERING

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

L: Now, O God, with grateful joy, we remember Jesus,  
his daring love, his open table.

*Silence.*

L: We remember that he called us friends.

C: **He told us everything you placed in his heart.**

L: We remember that he gave us peace.

C: **A peace no one else can give.**

L: We remember that he did not leave us bereft.

C: **He sent us a Helper — the Spirit who dwells in our hearts!**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

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.**

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: Let us give thanks for what we have received and shared.  
**All: Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus,  
for gladness in this bread and cup,  
for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give,  
for joy in the company of friends, for the splendor of creation,  
and for the mission of justice you have made our own.  
Give us the gifts of this holy communion:  
oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies,  
the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

\*HYMN (insert)

*Break Not the Circle*

\*BENEDICTION

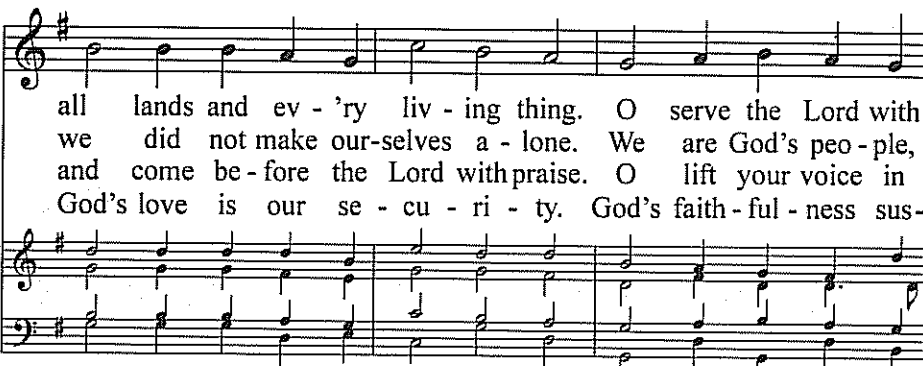
*The 2011-2012 bulletin cover art series was designed by Perry Neubauer and constructed by many hands, large and small. Today's bulletin cover was created by Campbell Pelton-Cairns, Liam Simons, and Sarah Higginbotham.*

C-6

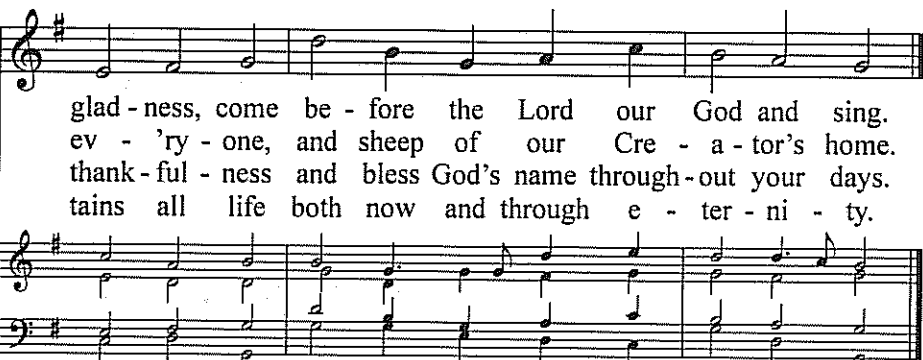
# Psalm 100



1. O make a joy - ful noise to God,  
2. Know that the Lord God made us all,  
3. O en - ter, then, God's gates with thanks,  
4. Be - cause the Lord our God is good,



all lands and ev - 'ry liv - ing thing. O serve the Lord with  
we did not make our-selves a - lone. We are God's peo - ple,  
and come be - fore the Lord with praise. O lift your voice in  
God's love is our se - cu - ri - ty. God's faith - ful - ness sus -



glad - ness, come be - fore the Lord our God and sing.  
ev - 'ry - one, and sheep of our Cre - a - tor's home.  
thank - ful - ness and bless God's name through - out your days.  
tains all life both now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: New translation by Denise Karuth

MUSIC: Setting by John Dowland

OLD HUNDREDTH

## **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](http://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 the Rev. Reebee Girash, Sabbatical Interim Minister. Our liturgist is Martha Dyer, deacon. 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](mailto:parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org) or 617-547-2724 and we'll get the information to you.

**REGATHERING SUNDAY, September 9** It is always a joy to witness the great re-gathering of our community in September. First Church members, friends, newcomers, and visitors all contribute to a glorious mix of welcome and reconnection. Plan to join us on September 9 for a full day of fellowship and worship.

- ◆ **Regathering Breakfast, Margaret Jewett Hall, 10:00 a.m.** Get a jumpstart on greeting old friends and making new ones over a continental breakfast buffet. Come hear about formation and fellowship opportunities for all ages.
- ◆ **Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m., Dan Smith, preaching** Children in Godly Play 1, Godly Play 2, and Seasons of the Spirit (PreK-7<sup>th</sup> graders) leave the sanctuary at approximately 11:20 a.m. for Opening Day activities in their church school classrooms.
- ◆ **Regathering Sunday Reception, Margaret Jewett Hall, 12:30 p.m.** Stick around after church for good food and drink and time to reconnect with friends, mingle with newcomers, meet new staff and celebrate the beginning of the fall season!

**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.

**GBIO MEETING AT FIRST CHURCH Sunday, September 9 at 12:45 in the Hastings Room** The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization is not just a healthcare organization! We are multi-issue and are also working on public education, youth employment, and issues impacting small and minority business in Boston. Come to this after church session and learn about the breadth of GBIO's current work. Hear more about our early October forum that GBIO will be hosting with Senate candidates Scott Brown and Elizabeth Warren. And learn about and share your thoughts about a possible new state revenue campaign that GBIO is beginning to consider. A representative of the non-partisan Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center will be with us to offer some ideas about why this may be a big issue in the Statehouse and across the Commonwealth in the coming year. After you've grabbed a bite and said a few hello's at our Regathering Reception, join us at 12:45 in the Hastings Room.

**STAFFING UPDATE** As you've heard at church and in the Summer, 2012, issue of EVENT, First Church has recently welcomed three new staff members. Reebee Girash, Sabbatical Interim Minister, began her 10-month sojourn with us in early August. Julie Rogers, our Affiliate Minister of Youth and Young Adults, began in July. Our Facilities Manager, Dan Dos Santos, began working with us in May. Welcome once again to Reebee, Julie, and Dan. We also want to congratulate Terry McKinney once again on his ordination and his new position as Minister for Mental Health and Healing. See the Summer, 2012, EVENT for all the details!

**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.

**NO ORDINARY TIME: *Fall Adult Formation Opportunities*** With Dan on Sabbatical through January, Reebee Girash serving as Sabbatical Interim Minister, Terry now serving as half-time Minister of Mental Health and Healing, Julie Rogers among us as our Affiliate Minister of Youth and Young Adults, and Brent Coffin as Scholar-in-Residence, this fall and winter will be no ordinary time. While there are seasons for proclamation, there are also seasons for deep listening. With so much new and changing, we have the chance to shift our awareness to listening deeply for how God is moving in our midst: sometimes stirring us, sometimes asking us to be still, meditating on where God is moving in our lives, the lives of others, and our congregation's future. To reflect that, the theme of our adult formation activities during this season will be *No Ordinary Time: An Invitation to Listen and Learn*. Our 10 O'clock Hours will offer several opportunities to participate in this theme of listening and learning during a time of change. Starting on September 16th, our offerings will include:

*Praying the Psalms*, in the Hastings Room, led by Terry McKinney and others: a six-week gathering to enter the Psalms more deeply, meditating on them, partnering in dialogue about their meaning to us, and praying about how they can and have shaped our lives.

*Living the Questions Café*, in Margaret Jewett Hall, led by Reebee Girash and others: an opportunity to get to know one another better and explore our faith more deeply, where each week a theme is introduced for meaningful discussion, as people gather in pairs or small groups to reflect and share.

#### **NEW HAVRUTA GROUP FORMING Wednesdays from 7-8:45 a.m. in the Hastings Room**

A new fall Havruta group will be starting up on Wednesday, October 3rd at 7 a.m. in the Hastings Room. A light breakfast is provided. There will be eight meetings on Wednesdays from 7 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. through to the last Wednesday in November skipping Thanksgiving week. Come and experience deep listening and dialogue in friendship with others and with the gospel of Matthew. Please contact Gaylen Morgan at photgm@comcast.net or Brent Coffin at brentbcoffin@gmail.com if you are interested in joining the group.

#### **COFFEE & CONVERSATION WITH OUR SABBATICAL INTERIM MINISTER**

Each month I'll 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 me buy you a cup of tea or a scone! Thursday, September 13, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m., 1369 Coffee House, Mass. Ave./Central Square Thursday, October 11, 8:30 - 10:00 a.m., Hi Rise Bakery, Mass. Ave. near the Cambridge Common (What's your favorite coffee place? I'm open to suggestions!) — Reebee Girash, rgirash@firstchurchcambridge.org

**BOOK GROUP: Hospitality, Food, and Communion** Sometime in October we'll have a three-session book group on Sara Miles' book *Take This Bread: The Spiritual Memoir of a Twenty-First-Century Christian*. Sara Miles writes: "One early, cloudy morning when I was forty-six, I walked into a church, ate a piece of bread, took a sip of wine.... This was my first communion. It changed everything.... I discovered a religion rooted in the most ordinary yet subversive practice: a dinner table where everyone is welcome." In this memoir we'll encounter communion theology, reflections on hospitality and radical inclusion, explorations of food justice issues, and a personal conversion story — all in an eminently readable narrative. Please let me know if you'd like to participate, and we'll find a time that works for all. — Reebee Girash, rgirash@firstchurchcambridge.org



**SOCIAL JUSTICE FORUM ON DISABILITY: *Lives Worth Living* Sunday, September 16, 12:30 p.m., Hastings Room** *Lives Worth Living*, a powerful documentary that chronicles the decades-long struggle for civil rights by people with disabilities, will provide background for discussion at the Disability Forum, sponsored by the Mission and Social Justice Committee and planned by the Disability/Access Team, on September 16. The film is an oral history of one of the great social justice movements in American history. It portrays a drive that brought together a once fragmented population into a powerful coalition that changed public perceptions and created some of the most far reaching civil rights legislation in our nation's history. The documentary was produced and directed by Eric Neudel for PBS Independent Lens in 2011. It traces the development of the disability rights movement from its beginning following World War II, when thousands of disabled veterans returned home, through the 1960s and 1970s when it began using the tactics of other civil rights movements, through to the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990. A light cold lunch will be available at the coffee hour on September 16, so pick up your plate and beverage in Margaret Jewett Hall and bring them with you to the Hastings Room. Following the film there will be discussion of the issues it raises.

**FAMILY NIGHT RESUMES, Tuesday, September 18, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.** Family Night returns! Starting Tuesday, September 18, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., we'll 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 fall schedule includes Family Nights on September 18; October 2, 16, and 30; November 13 and 27; and December 11.

**DAN'S SABBATICAL SEND-OFF, Sunday, September 30** Senior Minister Dan Smith will be on sabbatical October 1 - February 1. We plan to send him off with as many blessings and warm wishes as we can pack into Sunday, September 30. During Morning Worship we will have a liturgy of blessing for his time of rest and renewal. Dan and the congregation will also offer promises about his sabbatical time. After the worship service a luncheon is in the works. A number of folks will be working on this celebration. Contact Reebee Girash, [rgirash@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:rgirash@firstchurchcambridge.org), to get connected.

**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 [darylbichel@aol.com](mailto:darylbichel@aol.com). If you'd like to know more about Night Song, please visit our website and look under Worship, Music and Spiritual Life.

**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.

## 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.*

*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, September 2

*(Note: Morning Worship returns to 11:00 a.m.)*

- 10:00 a.m. Pick-up Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Multigenerational Communion, 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, September 9

#### REGATHERING SUNDAY

- 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. Regathering Breakfast, Fall Program Orientation, Margaret Jewett Hall
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Dan Smith, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School begins for grades PreK-7
- 12:15 p.m. Welcome Back Coffee Hour, Margaret Jewett Hall
- 12:30 p.m. GBIO Lunch, Hastings Room
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

### Sunday, September 16

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, Margaret Jewett Hall
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Sacrament of Baptism, Reebee Girash, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School Classes for Grades PreK-7
- 12:30 p.m. Social Justice Forum on Disability, Hastings Room
- 12:30 p.m. Newcomers Lunch, Library
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class Orientation, Hastings Room
- 5:00 pm. Jazz Worship with Carolyn Wilkins, Margaret Jewett Hall
- 8:30 p.m. 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.



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## The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

Senior Minister	Rev. Dan Smith, 617-547-2724, ext. 23 dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org
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 temckinney@msn.com
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 jrogers@firstchurchcambridge.org
Affiliate Minister to the Outdoor Church	Rev. Jed Mannis, 978-456-0047 jedmannis@charter.net
Director of Music	Peter Sykes, 617-661-0570 psykes@aol.com
Director of Creative Worship & Arts	Sarah Higginbotham, 617-547-2724, ext. 42 shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org
Shelter Director	Jim Stewart, 617-661-1873 jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org
Parish Administrator	Kirsten Manville, 617-547-2724, ext. 21 parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org
Administrative Assistant	Amy Click, 617-547-2724, ext. 41 aclick@firstchurchcambridge.org
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**FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL**

*United Church of Christ*

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