



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC
September 21, 2014
THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Préambule

Louis Vierne

*HYMN 100

By Gracious Powers

*GREETING

Stephen Weller

L: Beloved of God, whether you are here for an hour or a lifetime
welcome to this household of grace --

C: and to this place of belonging,

L: Wherever you are on the journey of life,

C: wherever we are on the journey of faith,

L: welcome to this community, which is both ancient and new,

C: a community of hope, faith and love!

*WELCOME

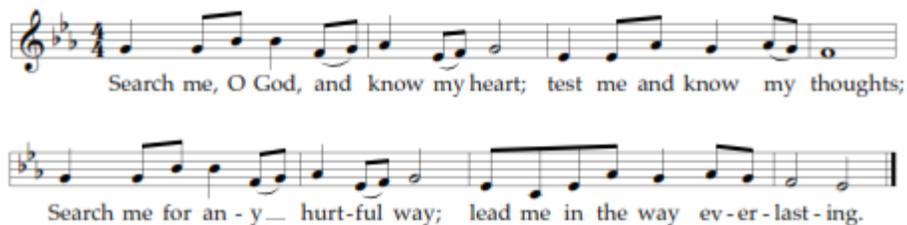
Stephen Weller, Nellie Baxandall, Katie Omberg

CONFESSING

INVITATION

SILENCE

SUNG CONFESSION



Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts;
Search me for an - y - hurt - ful way; lead me in the way ev - er - last - ing.

ASSURANCE OF 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 in Cambridge.*

All children from Preschool to 7th grade are now invited to leave for church school. Teachers will meet children at the side door or in the narthex to accompany them to their classrooms. Parents can meet their children in Lindsay Chapel (through Margaret Jewett Hall and to the left) after worship.

*HYMN 403

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Taj Smith

RESPONSIVE PSALM 25: 1, 4-6, 16-17

L: To you, O God, I lift up my soul.

**C: Make me to know your ways, Holy One;
teach me your paths.**

L: Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

**C: Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.**

L: Relieve the troubles of my heart,
and bring me out of my distress.

C: O guard my life, and deliver me;

L: do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.

**C: May integrity and uprightness preserve me,
for I wait for you.**

ANTHEM

Laudate Nomen Domini

Christopher Tye

READING

1 Thessalonians 3: 6-13

SERMON

Dan Smith

*HYMN 378

God, We Thank You for Our People

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Karin Case

PASTORAL CARE TEAM BLESSING

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

L: God be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray....(*silence, intercessions and the Lord's Prayer*)

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT AND 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.
Amen.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*For I am Persuaded
Text - Romans 8*

Mark Schweizer

*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

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 427

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

*BENEDICTION

*SUNG RESPONSE

Send me, Jesus (Thuma Mina)

Hymn 344

The congregation is invited to join in the singing of this response.

*Send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus
Send me, Jesus, send me, Lord*

Lead me, Jesus...

Fill Me, Jesus...

Thuma mina...

Thuma mina somandla

VOLUNTARY

Lied

Louis Vierne

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 IS Dan Smith, Senior Minister. Assisting with worship are Karin Case, Minister, Katie Omberg, Ministerial Intern, and Taj Smith, Ministerial Intern. Our liturgists are First Church member Stephen Weller and First Church youth Nellie Baxandall. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir.

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.

IN THIS SPACE we share personal, congregational, national, and global prayer requests. If you would like us to include a prayer request, please contact Dan Smith, Karin Case, or Kirsten Manville by Wednesday morning or fill out one of the prayer request cards found in your pew.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

GOING DEEPER: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OF DISCERNMENT Today at **10:00 a.m., Hastings Room** Join us for the second of two 10 O'Clock hour sessions, as we learn together about the Christian spiritual practice of discernment. From ancient monastic communities to our Puritans forebears to Quaker meetings, come find how we can make more spiritually grounded decisions in our individual lives and our life together. How can we "sort out" where God is leading us, and which among life's (and this church's!) many demands on our time has the marks of genuine calling? We hope this will be good groundwork for our fall retreat and will help us all to continue to "go deeper" in our relationships to God, self, and one another.

A TIME TO CELEBRATE OUR PASTORAL CARE TEAMS Today during **Morning Worship** Our congregation will celebrate all the people who have served for the past year on Pastoral Care Teams. We will bless them and let them know of our gratitude for the important work they do. The liturgy and hymns on that day will focus on the ways we bring God's care to our community, trying our best to be — with God's help — God's hands, feet, loving voices, and listening ears for one another.

NEWCOMER GATHERING Today at **12:30 p.m., Hastings Room** Interested in learning more about First Church? About our history? Or our community? Or our denomination? Or our ministries? Interested in meeting other folks who are new to First Church? Dan Smith and other church leaders will be hosting a newcomer exploration gathering following Morning Worship today.

YOUTH GROUP SKYZONE TRIP Today at **2:00 p.m.** We will gather at 2:00 for a round of our usual "high-point/low-point" check-in and then head off to Skyzone in Everett for some trampoline and 3D dodgeball fun! Youth Group is a fun, creative place for First Church youth and friends in 9th through 12th grades. We normally meet two Sunday afternoons each month from mid-September to May. Contact Dan Smith or Stefanie Haug with any questions.

SPIRITUALITY & MENTAL HEALTH GROUP Today at **2:00 p.m., Tower Room** Our Spirituality and Mental Health support group provides a safe, confidential environment where questions of mental well-being can be addressed in a context of faith, drawing upon each other's gifts. S&MH meets every Sunday afternoon from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. in the Tower Room. Today's meeting is the first after a short summer hiatus. The group is co-facilitated by Mary Setterholm and Carter West, both theological school graduates. Contact Carter (cartergw24@gmail.com) or Mary (mis541@mail.harvard.edu) with your questions.

OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL) This year our 7th and 8th graders will collaborate with other Harvard Square congregations in this comprehensive sexuality education program with a strong faith component. The group will meet most **Sunday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.** There is a required **Parent Orientation tonight.**

FIRST CHURCH ON BOARD FOR LARGEST CLIMATE MARCH IN HISTORY

New York City, Today, September 21 The Earth Stewardship Team invites First Church members to consider joining the People's Climate March in New York City on Sunday, September 21. Several from our church are already planning to attend what promises to be "an unprecedented opportunity to show the strength of the climate movement on a world stage." The march will coincide with a climate summit of the world's presidents and prime ministers at United Nations Headquarters in New York in preparation for the Paris conference in 2015 that aims to enact a legally binding and universal agreement on climate change. The People's Climate March will be a demonstration to the world by the people who are standing up in our communities to shift power to a just, safe, peaceful world. If you are interested in going by train with a group from First Church, contact John Schultz, Earth Stewardship Team chair, at johnschultz831@gmail.com. Please also let him know if you are planning to travel by bus, or your automobile.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE Today, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., on the Boston Common (near the Park St. Station) Celebrate the International Day of Peace with music, dance, story and art. The program will close with the recitation of names of those who have been murdered in Boston in the the past year, followed by a procession to the nearby Garden of Peace on Somerset St. More information at: www.ipdboston.com, or InternationalDayofPeaceBoston@gmail.com.

NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Tonight at 8:30 p.m., Sanctuary 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. Music for this Sunday: Gregorian chant, Motets by Tye and Cornysh, Plainchant hymn "Te lucis ante terminum." Beth Spaulding, soprano; Michael Terranova, alto; Daryl Bichel, baritone; and John Nesby, bass. We will not be using incense this Sunday. *Night Song will resume its start time of 7 p.m. on the first Sunday in October.*

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

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 to 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.

PASTORAL CARE AT FIRST CHURCH Many folks have served on the Pastoral Care Team during the past year. They are the ones who have volunteered to serve for one week each month to make calls or visits, provide meals or rides, and send cards to those among us who have experienced difficulties in their lives — or to those with blessings to celebrate. Over the next few weeks we will take time to celebrate these folks, learn more about what they do, and give you a chance to provide some pastoral care of your own:

- ◆ **A Time to Learn Sunday, September 28, 10 a.m.** Would you like to know more about the ministry of the Pastoral Care Teams? Come and bring your questions, hear testimonies from those who have done this service and from those who have received care. We'll describe the nuts and bolts of how it all works. You may feel called to become part of a team!
- ◆ **Send a Pastoral Care Card Before or After Church** You are invited to write 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 most 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.

FIRST CHURCH NOTE CARDS will be available for sale or to be ordered at coffee hour today and next Sunday, September 28th. These were created from photos taken by Gaylen Morgan with one by Dan Smith! There will also be other cards for sale with images of animals, birds and plants. All profits from sales will go to the First Church Child Care Fund. Please stop by the table and take a look. The FCC Child Care Fund supports parents of First Church children who require childcare in order to participate in Church activities that take place on days other than Sundays. Our childcare teams include not only volunteers, but also paid professionals and many of our own high school students.

FIRST CHURCH YOUNG ADULTS OPEN HOUSE Thursday, September 25, 6:00 p.m., at the Parsonage, 44 Garden Street Whether you are just getting settled into a new apartment, a new program, a new city, or you've been coming to First Church for a while, whether you are single or coupled, LGBTQ or otherwise, "wherever you are on the journey of life or faith," come to 44 Garden Street, Cambridge (First Church's parsonage), for a relaxed evening of good food, good drink, and good conversation. No strings attached, we promise! Just a chance to get to know one another and maybe to do some wondering aloud about how faith and spirituality connect with our daily lives and especially in our hyper-connected world! Please e-mail Dan Smith, dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org, or Julie Pridham, julie.pridham@gmail.com, if you think you can make it or if you have any questions. You can also feel free just to show up!

THE BOSTON NEW SANCTUARY MOVEMENT INTERFAITH SUMMIT Saturday, September 27, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., at the Arlington St. Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston This theme of this summit is Immigration Justice and it will feature a panel of immigrant rights leaders. We will hear stories from immigrant families and learn about the conditions causing the crisis of immigrant children. There is no charge and lunch will be provided. Please RSVP via Eventbrite at bit.ly/interfaithsummit, email steering@bostonnewsanctuary.org or call 617-651-2676. On Sunday, September 28th at 2 p.m. there will be a Prayer Vigil for immigrant detainees at the Suffolk County House of Correction, 20 Bradston St., Boston.

CELEBRATION OF 10 YEARS OF CREATIVE WORSHIP AND ARTS (AND A SABBATICAL SEND-OFF FOR SARAH HIGGINBOTHAM!) Sunday, September 28, during Morning Worship Join us for a very special worship service on Sunday, September 28, in which we celebrate 10 years of our Creative Worship and Arts program! We plan to offer a retrospective of some of the amazing visual arts, songs, and dance that have come out of this one-of-a-kind multigenerational program. We will also lift up and celebrate our fabulous CW&A Director, Sarah Higginbotham, before she heads off for her well deserved two months of sabbatical from early October (just after the retreat) to early December (back in time for Christmas). Sarah's deeply caring energy, her ever creative spirit, and her expertise in working with kids, families, and people of all ages have all been key elements in our church's recent growth and vitality. Come share in our heartfelt thanks and celebration of her gifts and of the 10th anniversary of this remarkable program!

A FIRST CHURCH WEDDING Karen Anne Zee and Eric Riedel joyfully invite you to their wedding on September 28, 2014 at 4 p.m., in the First Church sanctuary. There will be a reception immediately following in Margaret Jewett Hall; family and friends are welcome. Please RSVP to RiedelER@hiram.edu. The dress will be business casual, and hats are welcome. No gifts, please.

GENESIS: THE BIBLE'S STORY OF BEGINNINGS Sundays, October 12 - November 23, at 10:00 a.m., in the Tower Room Join a group of us this fall, as we begin the Bible at the beginning with the book of Genesis — the dynamic, unfolding story of creation from Adam and Eve to Cain and Abel to Noah to Abraham, Jacob, and Joseph. Written in exile after the Babylonian conquest, Genesis takes on the big questions: *Who is God? Who are we, and what is our purpose in life? How did things get like this?* It's a story of beginnings that never gets old. Bring your favorite Bible translation, or just bring yourself. Led by Kate Layzer.

JOIN THE RIM WALK Saturday, October 18 The Second Annual Refugee Immigration Ministry (RIM) Walk will be held at **Lake Quannapowitt in Wakefield** on Saturday, October 18. The RIM Walk is a public event to raise awareness about issues related to asylum-seekers and asylees on both a global and local scale. The walk will give participants an opportunity to be engaged as global citizens. 100% of the funds raised for the RIM Walk are used to support programs aimed at easing the transition of displaced people into the United States and equipping them with the necessary skills to be successful and independent in their new home country. RIM programs provide community-based aid for asylees and asylum-seekers to access housing, gain employment, seek necessary medical attention, and receive education and English-language tutoring services. Please mark your calendars for October 18, and join RIM as a walker, sponsor, or donor. Together we can form a human chain of hope for displaced people. For more information and to register online, see www.r-i-m.net

DORIS BEAUVAIS LECTURE AND LUNCHEON Sunday, October 19, in Margaret Jewett Hall, following Morning Worship. This year's lecturer is Rev. Dr. Mary Moschella, Roger J. Squire Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at Yale Divinity School. Prof. Moschella's presentation will be based on her ongoing work developing a pastoral theological study of joy. Prior to coming to Yale, Prof. Moschella had taught for ten years at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. Before that she had been a UCC pastor in congregations in Massachusetts for thirteen years. Her publications include *Ethnography as a Pastoral Practice: An Introduction* and *Living Devotions: Reflections on Immigration, Identity, and Religious Imagination*. She has edited, with Jane F. Maynard and Leonard Hummel, *Pastoral Bearings: Lived Religion and Pastoral Theology*. The lecture invites us all to remember and celebrate the example of the late Doris Beauvais, a longtime member of First Church, who played a critical role in helping to establish First Church Shelter in 1986. Doris was profoundly concerned to encourage and enable each member of our community to fulfill effectively his or her obligation to engage in a life of loving service. As is customary, there is no charge for lunch or for Prof. Moschella's presentation, but donations to support the work of First Church Shelter will be gratefully received. Plan to attend.

LOOKING FOR CONNECTION? You may have heard about KOINONIA, that Greek word that means fellowship/friendship. We have room for additional participants in the Koinonia group that has gathered at FC for several years, starting the fall season on the fourth Wednesday of October, the 22nd, at seven pm, reserving The Well, the new room beneath the sanctuary, otherwise known as Room 22. Phone Pauline Fennel to inquire: 617-868-2035.

“ONE LIGHT, MANY CANDLES,” Sunday, October 26, 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary Join us for a multifaith program in word and song presented by the Reverend Betty Stookey and Noel Paul Stookey. This is a fundraising event for First Church. All seats are reserved — Adults \$20, Students/Seniors \$10. There are some limited view seats in the balcony and behind the pillars for \$10. We expect the event to sell out, so tell your friends and neighbors, but reserve your seats! Tickets available at: <http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/worship-music-spiritual-life>. Tickets will also be sold at coffee hour following today's Morning Worship.

SAVE THE DATE: KARIN'S INSTALLATION Sunday, November 2, 4:00 p.m. Please come and joyfully celebrate the installation of our new minister Rev. Dr. Karin A. Case on Sunday, November 2, 2014, at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. A reception will follow in Margaret Jewett Hall.

The Week Ahead

Sunday, September 21

- 9:00 a.m. Retreat Planning Meeting, Hastings Room
- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation for Adults, Hastings Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Pastoral Care Team Appreciation, Dan Smith, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Classes for preschoolers-7th grade
- 12:30 p.m. Third Sunday Newcomers Gathering, Hastings Room
- 12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Room 22
- 2:00 p.m. Youth Group Meeting (depart for Skyzone Trampolines!)
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 6:00 p.m. Our Whole Lives Parent Orientation, First Parish
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

Monday, September 22

- 7:30 p.m. Executive Council Meeting, Hastings Room

Wednesday, September 24

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Retreat, Parsonage
- 6:00 p.m. Christian Meditation, Lindsay Chapel

Thursday, September 25

- 6:00 p.m. Young Adults Open House, Parsonage (44 Garden Street)
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Hastings Room

Sunday, September 28

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation for Adults, Hastings Room
- 10:00 a.m. Creative Worship and Arts Prep, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Celebration of Creative Worship and Arts and Sarah Higginbotham Sabbatical Send-off, Karin Case, preaching
- 12:15 p.m. Life Together Last Sunday Lunch, All welcome
- 1:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee, Tower Room
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 4:00 p.m. Karen Anne Zee and Eric Riedel's Wedding, Sanctuary (Reception to follow)
- 6:00 p.m. Our Whole Lives Class, First Parish
- 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.

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE
CONGREGATIONAL
378 YEARS
ON-THE-WAY

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FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL

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