



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC
September 28, 2014
THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY *Prelude in C Major* J. S. Bach

*HYMN 57 *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

*GREETING Sarah Higginbotham, Carolyn White, Caroline Williams

L: In the beginning, when it was very dark, God said, "Let there be light."

C: **And there was light. And it was good.**

L: In the beginning, when it was very quiet, the Word was with God.

C: **And the Word was God. And it was good.**

L: And when the time was right, God sent God's Son.

C: **And his name was Jesus. And he was good.**

(developed in Children's Worship & Arts, and now used by Godly Play)

*WELCOME

ANTHEM *Jesus Loves Me* Bradley Phillips

CONFESSING

INVITATION

SILENCE

SUNG CONFESSION



ASSURANCE OF 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 in Cambridge.*

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 257

This is the Day

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

"The Creation" by James Weldon Johnson

Taj Smith
Sarah Higginbotham

CELEBRATION OF CREATION AND CREATIVITY

Karin Case

RESPONSIVE READING

Genesis 2:1-3

L: Thus were finished the heavens and the earth,

C: with all of their array.

L: God had finished, on the seventh day,

C: the work that God had made,

L: and then God ceased, on the seventh day,

C: from all the work that God had made.

L: God gave the seventh day a blessing and hallowed it,

**C: for on it God ceased from all God's work,
that by creating God had made.**

(Adapted from *The Five Books of Moses*, trans. Everett Fox)

CELEBRATION OF SARAH AND SABBATH

Dan Smith

*HYMN 407

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Katie Omberg

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Karen McArthur

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.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston,
arr. P. Sykes

*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 C-3

Psalm 23

*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

Fugue in C Major

J. S. Bach

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 Karin Case, Minister. Assisting with worship are Dan Smith, Senior Minister, Karen McArthur, Minister of Stewardship & Finance, Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts, Katie Omberg, Ministerial Intern, and Taj Smith, Ministerial Intern. Our liturgists are Shelter Committee Chair Carolyn White and First Church youth Caroline Williams. 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

CELEBRATION OF 10 YEARS OF CREATIVE WORSHIP AND ARTS (AND A SABBATICAL SEND-OFF FOR SARAH HIGGINBOTHAM!) Today during Morning Worship Join us for a very special worship service, 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 TIME TO LEARN ABOUT PASTORAL CARE TEAMS Today at 10 a.m., Hastings Room 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!

LIFE TOGETHER LUNCH Today at 12:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall Sundays at First Church tend to be full of many different activities and general busyness. To provide some balance, we celebrate Life Together lunches on the last Sunday of each month. We'll have a chance to connect as a whole community in food, fellowship and fun.

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. 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.

A FIRST CHURCH WEDDING Karen Anne Zee and Eric Riedel joyfully invite you to their wedding today 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. The dress will be business casual, and hats are welcome. No gifts, please.

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: Duets for two sopranos by Richard Dering, Compline setting in the Lydian mode by Daryl Bichel, English organ music. Beth Spaulding and Julie Button, sopranos. Daryl Bichel, organ. 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.

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. 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.

FAMILY NIGHT Tuesday, September 30, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., Sage Hall (Brent Coffin joining) Families with young children are invited to gather in Sage Hall (the basement play space) for a simple supper, fun free play, and good conversation. We meet every other Tuesday evening, strengthening our community connection through informal fellowship and structured programs offered at various times throughout the year. Scholar-in-Residence Brent Coffin will join us on September 30 and October 14 as a follow-up to our wildly successful Lenten Series.

THE MISSIONS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Food Pantry on Sunday, October 5. If you have items to share please leave them in the large basket in the narthex. Thank you for thinking of our sisters and brothers who are experiencing economic difficulties at this time.

COOPERATIVE METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES DIALOGUE DINNER Monday, October 6, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Interfaith Dialogue is so important in today's world. Here is a rare opportunity to sit down over a relaxed meal and share your faith and perspective with those who want to hear it, and share theirs. Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries invites you to attend a Dialogue Dinner on Monday, October 6th, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the home of Maxine and Len Lyons, 94 Woodward Street, Newton Highlands. Please RSVP to Maxine at maxineiris@comcast.net. For ride information, please call David or Alice Kidder at (617) 276-6227.

GENESIS: THE BIBLE'S STORY OF BEGINNINGS Sundays, October 12 - November 23, at 10:00 a.m., 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.

ADULT FORMATION PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY THE PALESTINE ISRAEL TASK TEAM Sunday, October 12

- ◆ **At the 10 o'clock hour** - Dr Alice Rothchild will discuss the trip she took to Israel Palestine in June, just prior to the outbreak of the war in Gaza. She traveled with the Health and Human Rights group under the aegis of Jewish voice for Peace. She spoke with both Israelis and Palestinians, visited health clinics and hospitals. Alice will provide us with a current view of life on the ground just prior to the outbreak of the war in Gaza.
- ◆ **At 12:30 p.m.** - Alice Rothchild will be showing her recent film "Voices Across the Divide". The film focuses on the interviews by Alice with Palestinians who lived in Palestine at the time of the Nakba in 1947, and who now live in the United States. Historical footage is included but come to see and listen to those who fled their homes. Please 'brown bag' your lunch but the team will provide dessert and beverages.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED October 12 This year's campaign for Neighbors in Need, a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministers of justice and compassion throughout the United States, invites us to "Imagine Another World Where Literacy is No Longer a Concern." Imagine another world where the "school to prison pipeline" does not exist, where the poor, the marginalized, and both boys and girls have full access to the liberative power of education. By giving to First Church's collection for NIN on October 12, 19, and 26 you will be doing your part to turn this imagined world into our reality.

JOIN THE RIM WALK Saturday, October 18 at 10:00 a.m. 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 op-

portunity 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

YOUTH GROUP WALDEN WALK Sunday, October 19 at 2:00 p.m. We'll leave First Church at 3:00 p.m. for a return trip to Walden Pond and for a guided walk around what Thoreau called the "earth's eye." Farm stand stop on the way for some apple pie, cider, and pumpkins!

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 7 p.m., in the Well, the new room beneath the sanctuary, otherwise known as Room 22. Phone Pauline Fennel to inquire: 617-868-2035.

MUSIC FOR THE PSALMS, A WORK-IN-PROGRESS, PATRICIA VAN NESS Sunday, October 26, during Morning Worship First Church's Staff Composer Patricia Van Ness will give an update on her 150-movement work-in-progress, *Music for the Psalms*, in a contemplative mix of musical information and spiritual philosophy. The service will feature recorded performances of the new *Psalms* by First Church's Night Song musicians and live performances of several of the new pieces by the Choir and Peter Sykes.

“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.

NEW FRIDAY CAFÉ VOLUNTEERS First Church community minister Kate Layzer is working on a proposal for a new Friday Café in Margaret Jewett Hall—a place where homeless and low-income members of our community can come relax over a cup of coffee for a few hours a week during the winter season. To make it work, Kate needs one or two more committed team members who could be involved on a weekly basis, and a group of volunteers who could help out once a month starting in November. Speak to her at coffee hour or send her an e-mail (klayzer@gmail.com).

MA COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS seeks support from FCC for a legislative campaign to convince the MA Legislature to increase the Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children's Program (EAEDC) monthly grant from \$303.70 to \$428/month and annual limit from \$250 - \$2500. The campaign also seeks to remove the shelter deduction, so that an EAEDC participant who becomes homeless, can begin to save towards first and last month's rent. It also proposes an annual cost of living adjustment. This monthly benefit program has been LEVEL funded since 1988. Poor and homeless people participating receive the same as 26 years ago. If you are interested in helping by attending hearings, contacting legislators, or the governor’s office, please contact jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org or flintkiddr@aol.com.

The Week Ahead

Sunday, September 28

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 10:00 a.m. A Time to Learn About Pastoral Care Teams, Hastings Room
- 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, MJH
- 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

Tuesday, September 30

- 5:30 p.m. Family Night, Sage Hall

Wednesday, October 1

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Room 22
- 4:00 p.m. Finance Team Meeting, Room 22
- 6:00 p.m. Christian Meditation, Lindsay Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Capital Campaign Meeting, Dan Smith's office

Thursday, October 2

- 7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Hastings Room

Friday, October 3

- 4:00 p.m. All Church Retreat, Craigville Conference Center, Cape Cod

Sunday, October 5

Note: All Church Retreat will be held October 3-5 at Craigville, Cape Cod

- 10:00 a.m. No Christian Formation
- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Multigenerational Communion, Dan Smith, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. No Church School Offerings
- 12:30 p.m. Outdoor Church Sandwich Making at Coffee Hour
- 1:00 p.m. Outdoor Church, Cambridge Common
- 2:00 p.m. Spirituality and Mental Health Group, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary (*Note time change to 7:00 p.m.*)

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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