



**Regathering
Sunday**

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC
September 8, 2013
REGATHERING SUNDAY

VOLUNTARY *Prelude in E-Flat Major* J. S. Bach

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

*GREETING Rich Goode

L: Sisters and brothers, gather together in this household of grace!

C: Welcome, you who long for mercy and freedom.

L: Welcome, you who seek out truth and life.

C: Here we find hope and challenge.

L: Here we find comfort, solace, and joy.

C: Here, God finds us and knows us better than we know ourselves!

L: Come then, let us praise the God whom we adore!

WORDS OF WELCOME Dan Smith and Sarah Higginbotham

ANTHEM *Ubi Caritas* Maurice Duruflé

*Where charity and love are, God is there.
Christ's love has gathered us into one.
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
And may we love each other with a sincere heart.*

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**C: God of mercy wide as the sea,
your love goes before us
to the inward depths of our hearts,
to the outer reaches of the heavens.
You know when we drift and when we find our way.
You know when we have looked down
on others or down on ourselves.**

**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, Cambridge.*

**You search for us and you love us still.
Lift our eyes, now, O God.
Refresh our souls and give us new life, in Jesus' name. Amen**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN C-25 *Let There Be Life in This House*

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING Alexander Ball

READINGS Elizabeth Ball, Liam Simons

A TIME WITH CHILDREN Sarah Higginbotham

Children from Preschool to 8th grade are now invited to leave for church school. Teachers will meet children at the side door to accompany them to their classrooms. Parents can meet their children in Lindsay Chapel (through Margaret Jewett Hall and to the left) after worship.

RESPONSIVE PSALM 139: 1-6, 15-18 Sheehan Scarborough, Jennifer Wenz

One: O God, you have searched me and known me.

**All: You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.**

One: You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

**All: Even before a word is on my tongue,
O God, you know it completely.**

One: You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

**All: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

One: For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

**All: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.**

One: My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

**All: Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.**

One: How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
All: **If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,"
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.**

SERMON

Dan Smith

*HYMN 86

The Lone, Wild Bird

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Karen McArthur

L: God be with you.
C: **And with your spirit.**
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

Amazing Grace

*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

*HYMN 407

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL 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...

*VOLUNTARY

Fugue in E-Flat 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 Dan Smith, Senior Minister. Assisting with worship are Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts, Jennifer Wenz, Ministerial Intern, Sheehan Scarborough, Ministerial Intern, Karen McArthur, Affiliate Minister of Stewardship & Finance, and Alexander Ball, Elizabeth Ball, and Liam Simons, First Church youth. Our liturgist is First Church member Rich Goode. 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 of the liturgy to respect the privacy of those mentioned. For more information on who we are praying for this week, please contact the church office at parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org or 617- 547- 2724 and we'll get that information to you.

GBIO FORUM AT FIRST CHURCH Today, September 9 at 12:30 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 Senate Candidate Action with 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 12:30 in the Hastings Room.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS HIGHLIGHTS

In an effort to reduce paper consumption and be better stewards of the environment, we will no longer be printing weekly bulletin announcements along with the liturgy. Instead, we will print bi-weekly booklets with news, announcements, and calendars, which will be available at the sanctuary entrances. For more information about these and other announcements, please pick up a News and Announcements booklet or visit the Latest News section of the website at www.firstchurchcambridge.org.

DIVESTMENT RALLY September 10, 9:30 a.m., Massachusetts State House On September 10 there is a hearing at the Massachusetts State House on Senate bill S. 1225: An act relative to public investment in fossil fuels. The organization 350MA is sponsoring a rally at the State House that day Contact Susan Redlich if interested at 617-661-6462

WITNESS AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE Friday, September 13 at 10 a.m., State House Please join First Church members, the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization and others from the Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence at a critical public hearing of the legislature's Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security.

LIFE TOGETHER — PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE Sundays, September 15, 22, and 29, 10:00 a.m., in the Hastings Room Join Dan Smith and other leaders for three 10 O'Clock Hour conversations about the ever changing yet everlasting nature of Christian faith community, aka church.

REGISTER BY SEPTEMBER 15! FIRST CHURCH FALL RETREAT 2013: "Revealing Our Life Together" Friday, October 4 - Sunday, October 6, Craigville Retreat Center, Craigville, Cape Cod First Church will host an all-ages, all-church weekend retreat this fall. The gathering will be based on the theme of revealing ourselves — to ourselves and to each other — by finding balance and wholeness through individual and communal spiritual practices.

NEW "FAITH ON TAP" GROUP FOR YOUNG ADULTS Thursday, September 19, 8:00 p.m., Cambridge Common First Church 20s and 30s! Join us at our monthly Faith on Tap for casual drinks and conversation.

SOCIAL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL 2013 Four Friday Evenings, September 20 and 27, October 11 and 18, 7:00 p.m. , Margaret Jewett Hall Four films on current social issues will leave you inspired and ready to strike out against injustice.

GIFTS DISCERNMENT COFFEE HOUR, Sunday, September 22, 12:15 p.m. Got Gifts? And want to share them? Members of the Gifts Discernment Committee would like to speak with you about your interests and how you might want to get involved.

FAMILY NIGHT RETURNS Tuesday, September 24 Families with young children are invited to Tuesday Family Night, held every other Tuesday, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., in Sage Hall, our basement play space

CHURCH SCHOOL 2013-14 We are looking forward to a rich and full year of programming for children and youth. Our Church School activities for preschoolers to 8th graders include classroom learning, music-making, creative arts projects, mission opportunities, and plenty of fun. See the First Church website for a full description of these activities.

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
375 YEARS
ON·THE·WAY

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, on leave
Affiliate Minister of Stewardship and Finance	Rev. Karen McArthur, 617-547-2724, ext. 22 treasurer@firstchurchcambridge.org
Ministerial Interns	Jennifer Wenz, jwenz@firstchurchcambridge.org Sheehan Scarborough, sscarborough@firstchurchcambridge.org
<i>Havruta</i> Scholar-in-Residence	Rev. Brent Coffin
Director of Music	Peter Sykes, 617-645-0833 psykes@aol.com
Director of Creative Worship & Arts	Sarah Higginbotham, 617-547-2724, ext. 42 shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org
Staff Composer	Patricia Van Ness
Shelter Director	Jim Stewart, 617-661-1873 jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org
Parish Administrator	Kirsten Manville, 617-547-2724, ext. 21 parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org
Pastoral Associate	Julie Rogers, 617-547-2724, ext. 41 jrogers@firstchurchcambridge.org
Facilities Manager	Dan dos Santos ddossantos@firstchurchcambridge.org
Sextons	Ronaldo dos Santos, Tina Quimby, George Williams, Kimel Williams, 617-642-3980



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United Church of Christ

11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138

617-547-2724