

UNITARIAN CHURCH C A M B R I D G E



*In the love of truth and in the spirit of Jesus
the members of this church unite for the worship of
God and the service of humankind*

Like Zacchaeus, come down from your tree

25 February 2007



elcome, especially if you are joining us for the first time. All are invited to join us for tea, coffee and conversation after the service. If you would like a copy of any part of the service or wish to inquire about formal membership please ask the minister. Please also feel free to discuss any aspect of today's service with him or any other person present — ours is a liberal, open tradition which welcomes the loving, critical and inquiring spirit. The sermon draws on the faith and experience of the preacher and it is offered to the congregation as encouragement to further reflection and thought. It is most certainly not a definitive statement with which you must agree. As our sixteenth century Polish Socinian forbears said: *Whilst we declare our own opinions, we oppress no one. Let every person enjoy the freedom of their own judgement in religion; only let it be permitted to us also to exhibit our view of divine things, without injuring and calumniating others.* More information about this liberal Christian congregation can be found on our website:

<http://www.cambridgeunitarian.org>

The minister is the Revd Andrew James Brown MA and the minister emeritus is the Revd Frank Walker BA. The organist and pianist is Clive King. Any one wishing for more information can contact Andrew on:

mail@revajbrown.demon.co.uk or 0845 4569466



his church welcomes children to the first part of our morning service. We hear in their voices the strength of our community's future. After the story, and during the second hymn, the children go to the common room for their own activities which are on the first and third Sundays of the month. This is also the opportunity for restless babies to join them. Parents provide their own child care on other Sundays.



Opening music with an Irish connection

Prayer & the prayer of Jesus (printed opposite)

Hymn 8 (Green book): *O Life that makest all things new*

Welcome, notices, celebration & collection

Story

Hymn 168 (Green book): *Once to every man and nation* (212)

(During which the children leave for their own activities)



Address & Readings

Luke 19²⁻¹⁰ & Luke 12⁵⁴⁻⁵⁷

Today's address can be read from Monday at www.cambridgeunitarian.org

Musical offering: *Nocturne in Dm*—John Field



Prayer and silent prayer

Hymn 196 (Blue book): *Amid the din of earthly strife* (99)

Prayer for peace (printed opposite)

Benediction

Concluding music: *Postlude on an old Irish memory*—Charles Stanford

(Please remain seated for the concluding music)



Tea, Coffee & Conversation in the Church Hall

'Conversation as the natural organ communicating, mind with mind,... is the method of human culture. By it I come nearer to those whom I shall address than by any other means.'

Bronson Alcott



The prayer of Jesus

One day, after Jesus had been talking with God, one of his friends said to him, "Teach us how to talk with God." Jesus replied by teaching us a simple pattern of prayer:



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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.



The prayer for peace



Loving God, spirit of hope and peace,
Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth.
Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.
Peace, Peace, Peace.



Object of the G.A. of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches



We, the constituent congregations, societies and individual members, uniting in a spirit of mutual sympathy, tolerance and respect; and recognizing the worth and dignity of all people and their freedom to believe as their consciences dictate; and believing that truth is best served where the mind and conscience are free, acknowledge that the object of the assembly is: To promote a free and enquiring religion through the worship of God and the celebration of life; the service of humanity and respect for all creation; and the upholding of the liberal Christian tradition; Encourage and unite in fellowship with bodies which uphold the religious liberty of their members, unconstrained by the imposition of creeds; affirm the liberal religious heritage and learn from the spiritual, cultural and intellectual insights of all humanity.



Luke 12:54-57 (NRSV)

When Jesus also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time? And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right?"



From 'Hinduism & Buddhism'

Ananda Coomaraswamy, in 'Hinduism and Buddhism' (p. 29)

A church or society – the Hindu would make no distinction – that does not provide a way of escape from its own regimen, and will not let its people go, is defeating its own ultimate purpose.