

# UNITARIAN CHURCH CAMBRIDGE



*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*

## Dove that ventured outside

5 August 2007



Welcome, 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 pianist and organist is Clive King. Any one wishing for more information can contact Andrew on:

[mail@revajbrown.demon.co.uk](mailto: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** by J. S. Bach

**Prayer & the Prayer of Jesus** (printed opposite)

**Hymn 75** (Green book): *God of ages and of nations!*

**Welcome, Notices, Celebrations & Collection**



### **Story**

**Hymn 67** (Green book): *Wisdom has riches which exceed*

*(During which the children leave for their own activities)*



**Address & readings:** *Matthew 5<sup>48</sup> & 13<sup>16-17-16</sup>*

*Dove that ventured outside*—Rainer Maria Rilke

Extracts from

*Spinoza*—*Practical Philosophy* by Gilles Deleuze

trans. by Robert Hurley

Today's address can be read from Tuesday at [www.cambridgeunitarian.org](http://www.cambridgeunitarian.org)



**Musical Offering:** *Prelude in F<sup>#</sup> op.28 no. 13*—Chopin

### **Prayer**

**Hymn 340** (Blue book): *I learned it in the meadow path* (184)

**Concluding music:** *Fanfare*—Purcell

*(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:



ur 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



*e, 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.*

**[Dove that ventured outside]** (Ragaz, August 24, 1926)

*To Erika, for the festival of praise*

Dove that ventured outside, flying far from the dovecote:  
housed and protected again, one with the day, the night,  
knows what serenity is, for she has felt her wings  
pass through all distance and fear in the course of her wanderings.

The doves that remained at home, never exposed to loss,  
innocent and secure, cannot know tenderness;  
only the won-back heart can ever be satisfied: free,  
through all it has given up, to rejoice in its mastery.

Being arches itself over the vast abyss.  
Ah the ball that we dared, that we hurled into infinite space,  
Doesn't it fill our hands differently with its return:  
heavier by the weight of where it has been.

Trans. By Stephen Mitchell *Ahead of All Parting: The Selected Poetry and Prose of Rainer Maria Rilke* (Modern Library 1995)



*This poem was written for Erika Mitterer after she had undergone a serious operation.*

In a letter to Arthur Fischer-Colbrie (December 18, 1925) Rilke wrote:

That a person who through the horrible obstructions of those years had felt himself split to the very depths of his soul, into a Once and an irreconcilable, dying Now: that such a person should experience the grace of perceiving how in yet more mysterious depths, beneath this torn-open split, the continuity of his work and of his spirit was being re-established—this seems to me more than just a private event. For with it, a measure is given for the inexhaustible stratification of our nature; and many people who, for one reason or another, believe that they have been torn apart, might draw special comfort from this example of continuability. (The thought occurs to me that this comfort too may somehow have entered into the achievement of the great Elegies, so that they express themselves more completely than they could have done without endangerment and rescue.)