

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*

Liberal Christian commitment
Reinterpreting the traditional language
— *keeping the emotion*
14 January 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 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 by Alexandre Guilmant

Silence

Prayer & the prayer of Jesus (printed opposite)

Hymn 322 (Blue book): *Lord, speak to me that I may speak* (184)

Welcome, notices, celebration & collection

Story

Hymn 169 (Green book): *The voice of God is calling*
(*During which the children leave for their own activities*)



Address & Readings

1 Corinthians 1¹⁻⁹

Musical offering: *Andante from Italian Concerto*—J. S. Bach



Prayer and silent prayer

Hymn 297 (Blue book): *Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart* (151)

Prayer for peace (printed opposite)

Benediction

Concluding music: *Chorale from Suite for Organ*—Malcolm Archer
(*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.



Statement of the Congregational Church of Middlebury, Vermont.
Marthinus J. Rieker, Minister



We invite you to inquire further and to share your gifts with us. Explore our website or better; join us for any of the activities in which the life of the church is expressed.

We are proud of our sanctuary, a building of serene elegance and exceptional architectural integrity. This place of beauty is the spiritual home of a community that:

- Subscribes to a theology of life and of love, not of fear.
- Is open to each other, the world and the future.
- Creates a safe place of radical hospitality and acceptance for all people no matter where you are in life's journey or in your faith journey.
- Believes that the term "church" refers not only to a structure or institution, but above all to a way of being in the world.
- Believes our Christian identity is not acquired as a gift but earned on a daily basis, starting with a clean slate every morning.
- Respects each other's perspectives, knowing that doctrines and creeds are human thoughts, not absolute truths.
- Does not demand conformity but celebrates diversity.
- Is uncompromising in finding its unity in living what Jesus taught us as a continuation of the Old Testament motives of justice and peace.

Come, walk and work with us...