

First Congregational Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
An Open and Affirming Church



We welcome you to the First Congregational Church of Wiscasset.

VISION: We are on a journey to reflect God's love, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of all.

MISSION: Together we strive to praise God, grow in faith, cultivate love, spread joy, care for all people and God's creation, promote peace, and do justice.

September 27, 2026

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRY SUNDAY

We welcome all to our worship service, whether present in the sanctuary, joining us on streaming video, or watching our service in the future.

Spiritual Contemplation Quote for the week: "We recognize and respect water as sacred and sustains all life. Our traditional knowledge, laws and ways of life teach us to

be responsible in caring for this sacred gift that connects all life.” Indigenous People Declaration

PRELUDE *‘Be Thou My Vision’* Arr. Roger Whitney

RINGING OF THE BELL
WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT *‘Peace be Like a River’* Arr. Roger Whitney

* CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come, people of God, into the presence of the One who meets us in the wilderness.

P: We come with our thirst, our questions, and our hopes.

L: When the road is difficult and the way ahead is uncertain, God is with us.

P: We will not walk alone.

L: When we are thirsty for hope, thirsty for peace, thirsty for justice, and thirsty for grace, God provides what we need.

P: The Lord is our source of living water.

L: Come, let us worship the God who brings water from the rock and hope from unexpected places.

All: We come to worship the faithful God who is with us.

* OPENING HYMN *‘Rock of Ages’* Red Hymnal No. 431

OPENING INVOCATION TO PRAYER

Gracious and faithful God, we come before you this morning carrying the experiences of our own wilderness journeys. There are times when we wonder where the water will come from, where the answers will come from, and where the strength to continue will come from. Remind us today that you are present even when we cannot see you clearly. Open our hearts to your Word. Quiet our anxious thoughts. Refresh our thirsty spirits. Give us courage to trust you when the road ahead is uncertain. May our worship today become a place of renewal—a place where weary hearts find hope and thirsty souls discover your grace. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS: After each Joy or Concern, Please respond:

Pastor: “God,” Congregation: **“Hear our prayer.”**

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE *‘Let Peace Prevail on Earth’*

Global Mission Partner Prayer this week: Japan (Bulletin page 8)

MORNING PRAYER, FOLLOWED BY SILENT PRAYER

LORD'S 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANTHEM *'Shine, Jesus, Shine'* (Bulletin page 9) Sung By Veronica Hogue

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SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 78:1-4,12-16; Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 78

God's Goodness and Israel's Ingratitude

A Maskil of Asaph. Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. In the sight of their ancestors he worked marvels in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan. He divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap. In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all night long with a fiery light. He split rocks open in the wilderness, and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep. He made streams come out of the rock, and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

Exodus 17: 1-7

Water from the Rock

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the LORD, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The LORD said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and

water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.’ Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, ‘Is the LORD among us or not?’

L: The Word of God.

P: **THANKS BE to GOD.**

* HYMN *‘Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing’* Red Hymnal No.407

SERMON *‘What Comes Out When Squeezed?’*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY *‘My Jesus, I love Thee’* Arr. Roger Whitney

* DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.**

DEDICATION PRAYER

* CLOSING HYMN *‘Great is Your Faithfulness’* (BNC) No. 423

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTORY RESPONSE

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach
out to others so all the world can see. God will be there watching from above. Go
now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

POSTLUDE *‘Here I Am Lord’* Arr. Roger Whitney

You are invited to sit for the postlude.

* * * * *

“Our worship ends, let our service begin”

Those serving you today:

Ushers: Jan Shaw & Judith Sutter

Reader: Cindy Clement

Flowers: Jan Shaw

Online Streaming: Tom Clement
Organist: Roger Whitney

Please join us for fellowship, coffee or tea, and refreshments in Fellowship Hall following worship.

Happy September Birthdays to Abbie Beckford, Gail Burke, Dianne Davis, Sherri Dunbar, Pam Frenier, Laurie LaBar & Ron Sanchez

Help Yourself Shelf Wish List

* jarred spaghetti sauce * 1lb. white rice * drink mixes * canned chicken * tuna * * cereal
* SPAM * mayo * baked beans * toothpaste * dish soap * cat litter *

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Food Pantry at St. Philip's is open on Thursdays, with new hours-

Check- in is 4:00pm, Pantry Open from 5:00pm-6:00pm

October 3- Rev. John will attend the Maine UCC Conference meeting

Rev. John Will officiate in the memorial service at 4:30 pm at Montsweag Restaurant, for Elaine Moore, former resident of Wiscasset and visitation is from 1-4:30pm

October 4 - is Worldwide Communion Sunday as we will participate with Christians around the world in sharing the Eucharist.

October 4- Blessing of the Animals, with St. Philip's 1:00pm on the town Common.

October 5- Outreach meeting

October 11- Youth Group will usher

October 24- Helping Hands Heating Hands fundraiser at St. Patrick's Church, Newcastle. Benefits Lincoln County, through Ecumenical Council for Homeless Prevention and Chip inc. The event will include a meal, silent auction and choral concert. Doors open at 5:30pm, dinner at 5:45pm. Tickets are \$25 each or \$60 for a family.

November/December- We will be collecting for Toys for Tots

Coming Up This Week

TODAY September 27 – Congregational meeting following worship

Monday, September 28

Rev. John's Office Hours 9:00am-12:00pm

Office Hours 9:30am – 1:30pm

Mah Jongg 6:30pm

Tuesday, September 29

Rev. John's Office Hours 9:00am-12:00pm

Office Hours 9:30am – 1:30pm

SVC Rehearsal 6:30pm

Wednesday, September 30

Rev. John's Office Hours 9:00am-12:00pm

Office Hours 10:00am – 2:00pm

Organ Society 9:30am

Feed Our Scholars 11:00am

Thursday , October 1

Garden Club 5:30-8:00pm

Saturday, October 3

Rev. John will attend the Maine UCC Conference meeting (morning)

And will officiate in the memorial service at 4:30 pm at Montsweag Restaurant, for Elaine Moore, former resident of Wiscasset, visitation, 1-4:30pm

Sunday, October 4

Sunday Worship 10:00am (Worldwide Communion Sunday)

Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following worship

Blessing of the Animals, with St. Philip's 1:00pm on the town common

Global Mission Partner this week: Japan

Fifteen years after the 2011 earthquake, tsunami, and Fukushima nuclear disaster devastated northeastern Japan, communities near the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant continue to live with its consequences. In Odaka, only about 30 percent of the former population has returned. Fear of radiation and other complex feelings keep many away. Some who return find the memory of the disaster and its lessons challenging to address.

At Odaka Church, a congregation of the United Church of Christ in Japan, only a handful of people now gather for Sunday worship. Yet under the leadership of Rev. Makoto Iijima, this tiny congregation is finding ways to serve the whole community.

When Rev. Iijima arrived in 2022, the church's former kindergarten was scheduled for demolition. An elderly graduate pleaded with him to save it, saying that tearing it down would feel as though part of herself were being demolished. Instead, the building has become a place to preserve community history and gather people to imagine Odaka's future. Through "Freedom University," residents have shared memories of the disaster, heard scholars help give words to their suffering, and listened to younger people envision new possibilities for their community. Through Global Ministries, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ responded alongside our Japanese partners in the immediate aftermath of the disaster and have continued accompanying communities and ministries in the affected region. In 2025, that continuing partnership included a grant supporting Rev. Iijima's ministry, because accompaniment means walking alongside people long after the world's attention has moved elsewhere. Rev. Iijima also cares for Namie Church, less than five miles from the Fukushima reactors, where only about seven percent of the former population has returned. Though the church has no members and its damaged building must eventually be demolished, people still worship twice a month. Rev. Iijima dreams of creating a new "House of Prayer" there, a place for prayer and meditation.

Last Christmas, a college student from Tokyo chose to be baptized at Namie Church. When Rev. Iijima asked why, she answered, "I think Namie is the loneliest place. And that's where I can be closest to Jesus. In Jesus' parable, faithfulness is measured not by what we promise, but by whether we go into the vineyard. In Odaka and Namie, Rev. Iijima and these small churches continue to minister. They remain present, listening to their neighbors, preserving their stories, and trusting that even in the loneliest places, Christ is already there.

GRACE

2173

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Refrain



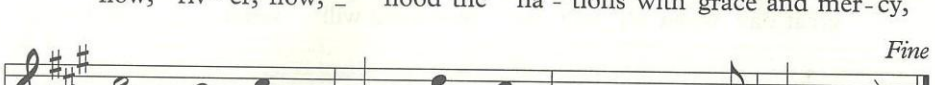
Shine, Je-sus, shine, — fill this land with the Fa-ther's glo-ry,



blaze, Spir-it, blaze, — set our hearts on fire;



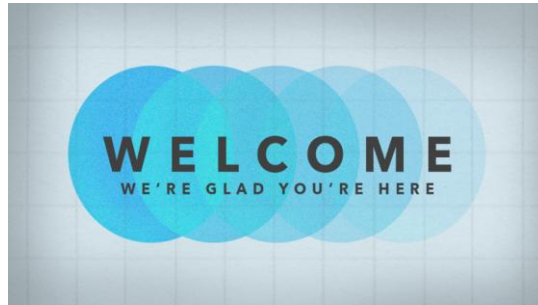
flow, riv-er, flow, — flood the na-tions with grace and mer-cy,



Fine

send forth your word, — Lord, and let there be light.

Shining the Light of Christ
FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH
in the Heart of Wiscasset



‘No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey you are welcome here.’

Today’s Date: _____

Name(s)_____

Email address_____

Phone #_____

Prayer

Request(s)_____

Guest Request-more information about the church, a visit,



First Congregational Church UCC

PO Box 350, 28 High Street, Wiscasset, ME 04578

Minister and Teacher: Rev. John Hogue

revjohnwiscassetucc@gmail.com

Pastoral Care – 207 955-0055

Music Director: Bradley T. Krueger

Sexton: Mary McKinney

Office Administrator: Hilary Atwood

Church Office Email – fccw@myfairpoint.net

Church Office Phone – 207 882-7544

Church Website – www.uccwiscasset.org

Rock of Ages

431

1. Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
 2. Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
 3. Noth - ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling;
 4. While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eyes shall close in death,

let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
 could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
 na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
 when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,

be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.
 all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
 sin - ful, to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die!
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee!

WORDS: Augustus M. Toplady, 1776, alt.
 MUSIC: Thomas Hastings, 1830

TOPLADY
 77.77.77

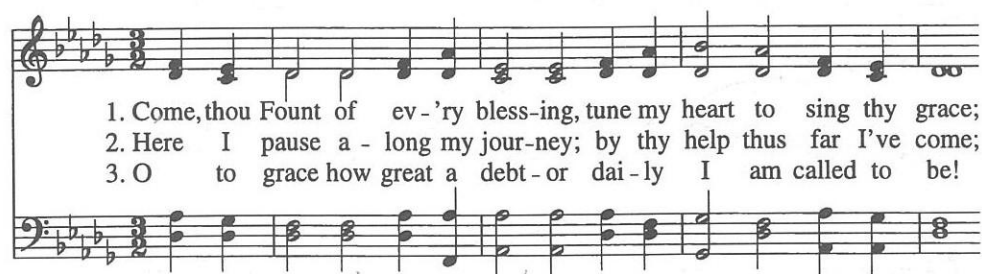
Devonshire Anglican vicar Toplady's hymn languished for over 50 years after its first publishing. Its marriage to the tune TOPLADY occurred in the 1832 Congregational *Spiritual Songs for Social Worship* (Hastings-Mason).

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

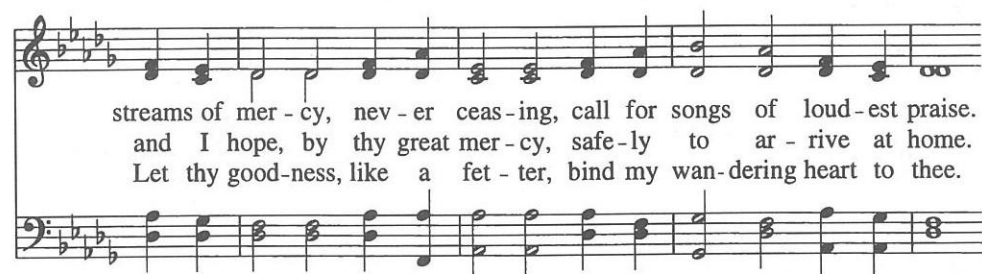
— Psalm 23, KJV

TRUST AND ASSURANCE

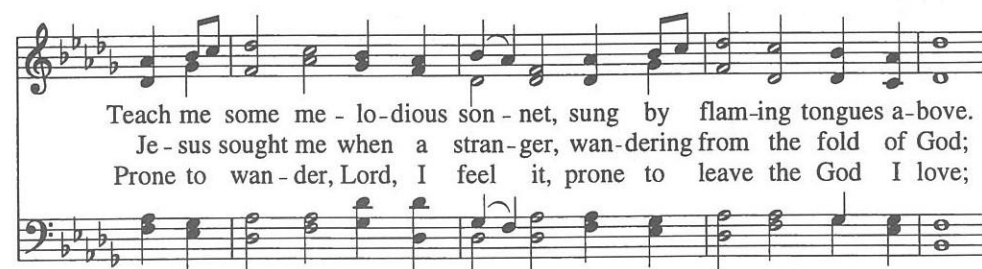
407 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



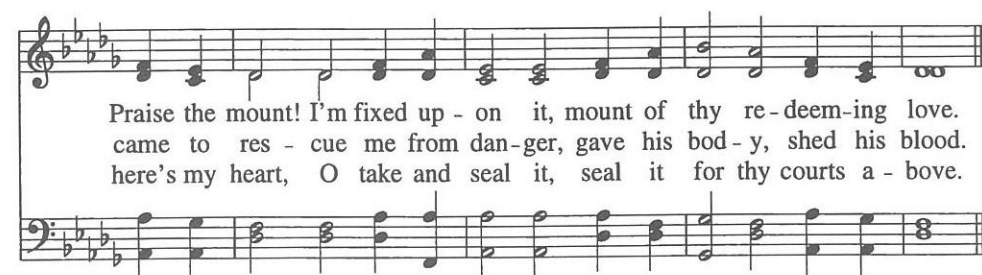
1. Come, thou Fount of ev-'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2. Here I pause a - long my jour-ney; by thy help thus far I've come;
 3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am called to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 and I hope, by thy great mer - cy, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove.
 Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, wan - dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



Praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of thy re - deem - ing love.
 came to res - cue me from dan - ger, gave his bod - y, shed his blood.
 here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

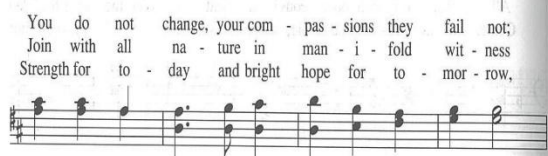
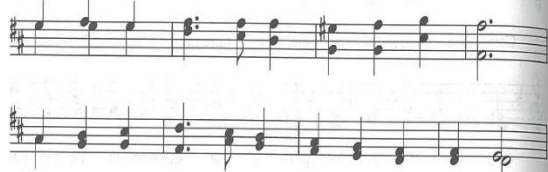
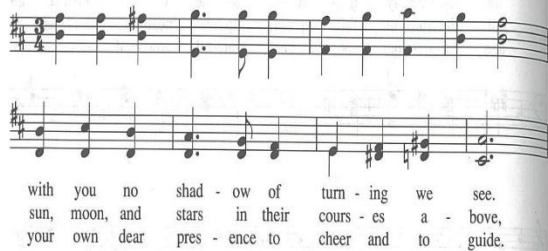
WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.
 MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

NETTLETON
 87.87D

Great Is Your Faithfulness

3:22-23

Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923; alt



ally "my Father"

ymn was one of a number sent by poet Thomas O.
lsm to composer William M. Runyan for musical settings:
me a favorite of Will Houghton, president of Moody Bible

Tune: FAITHFULNESS 11.10.11.10. with refrain
William M. Runyan, 1923

