

First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Wiscasset, Maine 04578

(207) 882-7544

www.uccwiscasset.org



We welcome you to the First Congregational Church of Wiscasset.
We are an open and affirming congregation and are open theologically,
growing spiritually, and concerned socially.



Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

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April 21, 2024
10:00am

* Indicates to please stand with your heart or your posture.

PRELUDE

Arabesque

Louis Vierne

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Celtic Alleluia

* INVITATION TO WORSHIP

The God of all shepherds has called us here.

We come today, celebrating God's love for us.

The Good Shepherd has given his life for us.

We come today, thanking Jesus for his witness and his teaching.

The Shepherding Spirit moves through us, bringing us new hope.

We come today ready to celebrate and to praise God. Amen.

* OPENING HYMN

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

No. 429

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We grumble and complain about our daily lot in life. We read the newspapers, watch the broadcast news and moan about the evil which flourishes in the world. And we wonder, "Where are you, O God?". We turn our backs on the needs of the poor or give only a cursory acknowledgment of their plight. We throw our hands up in the air and act as though we are defeated. And we cry, "Why isn't God taking care of all this?". Forgive us, patient Lord. Forgive our arrogance, our ignorance, our pettiness. Forgive us when we could have done something to help someone else, but chose instead to turn away. Forgive us when we, by our attitudes and language, our thoughts and actions, have gone against your will. You are with us, Lord. You lead us daily in right paths and offer to us the bread of life. You stand with us in times of trial and in the presence of those whom we fear, giving us your abundant

love. And then you offer to us a place in your eternal home. How can we doubt your presence? Help us to trust you. Help us to praise you and remember that you have called us to be your witnesses and workers in this world. Give us strength and courage, joy and peace for all the work that you have for us to do. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life for us, his sheep, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

CHORAL ANTHEM *Shepherd Me, O God* Haugen/arr. Pierce

JOYS AND CONCERNS: After each Joy or Concern please respond:
 Leader: "Lord," **Congregation: "Hear our Prayer"**

MORNING PRAYER

MOMENTS FOR SILENT PRAYER

THE 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.

CHORAL RESPONSE *Amen*

SCRIPTURE LESSON JOHN 10:11-18

Liturgist: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

* HYMN OF PREPARATION *O Love, that Will Not Let Me Go* No. 425

SERMON: *'The Good Shepherd'* Sarah Whitfield

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY *Pastorale* Louis Vierne

* DOXOLOGY

No. 46

**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

* CLOSING HYMN

I Love to Tell the Story

No. 360

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

Lead On, O King Eternal

arr. Smith

You are invited to sit for the postlude.

* * * * *

“Our worship ends, let our service begin”

**Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from
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April 21, 2024

Those serving you today:

Leader: Sarah Whitfield

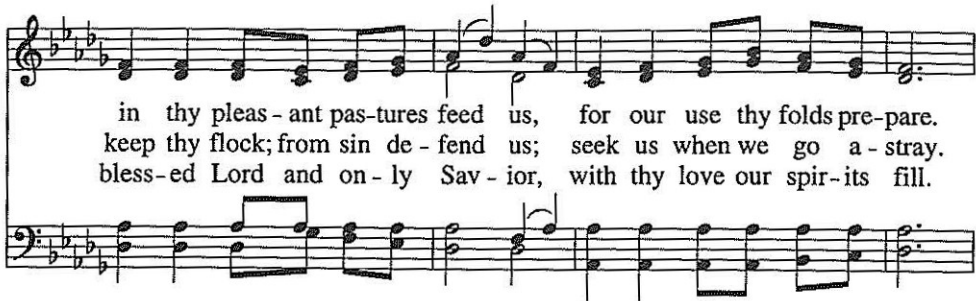
Ushers: David & Becky Lenz

Reader: Deb Olson

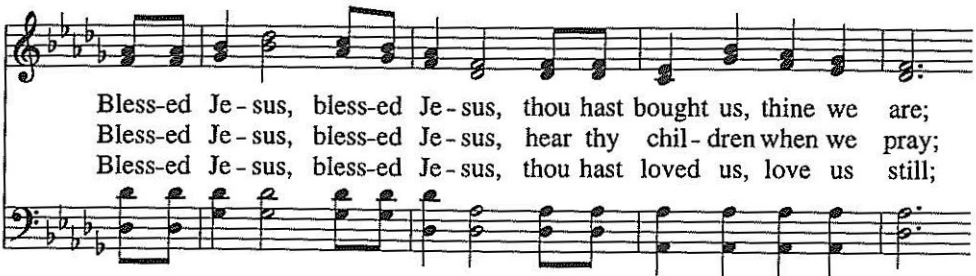
Organist: Joel Pierce



1. Sav-ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we need thy ten-der care;
 2. We are thine; in love be-friend us; be the guard-ian of our way;
 3. Ear-ly let us seek thy fa - vor; ear - ly let us do thy will;



in thy pleas - ant pas-tures feed us, for our use thy folds pre-pare.
 keep thy flock; from sin de - fend us; seek us when we go a - stray.
 bless-ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with thy love our spir-its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are;
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear thy chil - dren when we pray;
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, thou hast loved us, love us still;



bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.
 bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear thy chil - dren when we pray.
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JOHN 10:11-18

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

Liturgist: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

425

1. O Love that will not let me go, I rest my
 2. O Light that fol - lows all my way, I yield my
 3. O Joy that seeks me through my pain, I can - not
 4. O Cross that rais - es up my head, I dare not

wea - ry soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that
 flick - ering torch to thee; my heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray, that
 close my heart to thee; I trace the rain - bow through the rain, and
 ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead, and

in thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er, full - er be.
 in thy sun - shine's blaze its day may bright - er, fair - er be.
 feel the prom - ise is not vain that morn shall tear - less be.
 from the ground there blos - soms red life that shall end - less be.

WORDS: George Matheson, 1882
 MUSIC: Albert L. Peace, 1884

ST. MARGARET
 88.886

I Love to Tell the Story

1. I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
 2. I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat
 3. I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet.
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know 'tis true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
 'twill be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain
 I love to tell the sto - ry, 'twill be my theme in glo - ry,

to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rev. Myers had his left knee fully replaced Monday April 8, and is now resting comfortably in his home. He is anticipating returning to preach on Sunday April 28. Sarah Whitfield will fill in and lead services on April 21.

The Pastoral Search Committee will meet for the final focus group on Sunday, April 28 after worship.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE of the colored paper prayer slips in the pew rack. These are for you to write a word or phrase of prayer or concerns and place it on the offering plate. It will only be shared with the pastor.

Coming Up:

Sunday, April 21:	Choir Practice, 8:10am Sunday Worship – 10:00am Youth Group, 11:30am ‘The Chosen’ Season 3 , in Fellowship Hall at 5:30pm and a Potluck Dinner.
Monday, April 22:	Funeral Reception in Fellowship Hall Mah Jongg, 6:00pm – 8:30pm
Tuesday, April 23:	Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00pm
Wednesday, April 24:	Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00pm Organ Society, 9:30am – 11:00am Feed Our Scholars (FOS), 11:00am
Thursday, April 25:	Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00pm
Sunday, April 28:	Pancake Breakfast, open to the public 8:30 – 9:30am NO Choir Practice Sunday Worship – 10:00am The Pastoral Search Committee’s final Focus Group will meet after church. All are welcome. NO Youth Group ‘The Chosen’ Season 3 , in Fellowship Hall at 5:30pm and a Potluck Dinner.