

# First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Wiscasset, Maine 04578

(207) 882-7544

[www.uccwiscasset.org](http://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.



**March 12, 2023**

# *Third Sunday of Lent*

## *March 12, 2023*

10:00 A.M.

\* Please stand with your heart or your posture.

We joyfully welcome all visitors to our worship service this morning! If you are visiting, please introduce yourselves to the ushers.

For Your Contemplation:

“Thank God I am not a woman.” . . . part of a daily prayer ritual of men in Jesus’ time

PRELUDE

*Meditation in C-minor*

(Ludivico Einaudi)

RINGING OF THE CHIME

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

*Jesus, Remember Me*

\* INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: Praise the Lord with all your heart.

**Many: Praise the Lord with all your soul.**

One: Worship the Lord with joy and thanksgiving!

**Many: For we know that the Lord is good, and that God loves us.**

One: We all have been blessed with gifts from God.

**Many: Let us use them to worship the Lord with joy!**

\* HYMN

*Here in This Place (Gather Us In)*

No. 250

LITANY OF CONFESSION

O God, source of all that makes life possible, giver of all that makes life good: We gather to give you thanks, yet we confess that we have often failed to live our thankfulness.

**O God, we confess that there is much that we have taken for granted, and we grumble about what we lack. We have squandered your bounty, with little thought of those who come after us. We are more troubled by the few who have more than by the many who have less. Forgive us, O God. In this hour of**

**worship, accept our thanksgiving; and teach us to make gratitude and sharing our way of life; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Silent moments for personal confession

It is not to earn God's grace that we act justly and with compassion; it is because God's great mercy shown in the self-giving of Jesus Christ frees us to be grateful. Filled with radiant gratitude it becomes impossible for us knowingly to cause God pain. The experience of forgiveness makes our heart more like God's and more loving toward others. Thanks be to God!

JOYS AND CONCERNS:                      After each Joy or Concern please respond:  
Pastor: "Lord,"   **Congregation: "Hear our prayer."**

PASTORAL 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.**

PRAYER RESPONSE

*O Lord, Hear My Prayer*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 4:5 - 42

Liturgist: This is the Word of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

\* HYMN OF PREPARATION

*Lord of All Hopefulness*

No. 444

SERMON:

"The Importance of Listening"

Rev. David C. Myers

Text: "She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to see him."  
John 4:19b, 20

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*Light a Candle for Peace*

(Ruth Elaine Schram)

\* PRESENTATION WITH THE 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.**

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**O God, through the offering of these gifts may we become a more open  
people . . .  
open-minded in hearing your word and wisdom,  
open-hearted in healing a broken world,  
open-handed in heeding your call for charity and enacted love.  
With thanks for all good gifts, we present a portion of our substance and the  
whole of ourselves. Amen**

\* CLOSING HYMN

*Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

*No. 81*

\* BENEDICTION

**As we leave this sanctuary may we go forth to serve our God with patience and  
passion. May we be deliberate in enacting our faith. May we be steadfast in  
celebrating the Spirit's power. And may peace be our way in the world.  
Amen.**

SUNG BENEDICTION

*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

*Coda*

(Ludivico Einaudi)



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## John 4:5-42

<sup>5</sup> So he came to a city of Samar'ia, called Sy'char, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as he was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

<sup>7</sup> There came a woman of Samar'ia to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup> For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samar'ia?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water?" <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." <sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; <sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband; this you said truly." <sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our fathers worshiped on this mountain; and you say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship Him.

<sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” <sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ); when he comes, he will show us all things.” <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”

<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but none said, “What do you wish?” or, “Why are you talking with her?” <sup>28</sup> So the woman left her water jar, and went away into the city, and said to the people, <sup>29</sup> “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” <sup>30</sup> They went out of the city and were coming to him.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples besought him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” <sup>32</sup> But he said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.” <sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, “Has any one brought him food?” <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work. <sup>35</sup> Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest. <sup>36</sup> He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.” <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”

One: This is the word of God.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

## Why the changes in the Order of Worship?

I believe that there should be a rhythm to our worship that begins with a time of preparing ourselves to hear God's word, and then to respond to God's word by both our actions and intentions.

As we begin our worship we praise God by acknowledging the indescribable goodness and majesty of God with our Call to Worship and opening hymn. And then we humbly bow before God acknowledging that we are God's creatures and as such we often fall short of our intentions with a litany of confession, followed by receiving the gracious forgiveness and acceptance only God can give. As we continue our preparations for hearing God's Word for us, we enter a time of corporate and personal prayer, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

We then move to listening to and learning from God's word through Scripture, music and exposition (sermon).

Then it is time to respond to God with our symbolic acts of giving through our offering and acts of going forth into the world God has given us to act out our faith.

. . . Rev. Myers

## *Announcements*

**The Diaconate** will meet in the Parlor after the Coffee Hour. Discussion will include Holy Week Services and arrangements.

**"The Chosen,"** a video series will be the basis of a discussion group for all each Sunday night for 8 weeks (except Easter) ending on April 30. Each session will last about 90 minutes. Watch it at church in Fellowship Hall and enjoy a Potluck dinner or watch it on Zoom. Each session begins at 5:30pm.

**The Church World Service Kit Program** is starting today. These Kits, small packages of essential items, bring hope to those in need! The program runs for the next 6 weeks ending Sunday, April 23rd. Please check the Church World Service table for more information, and at their website [cwskits.org](http://cwskits.org).

**March 12, 2023**

**Those serving you today:**

*Reader:* Jane Junkert

*Ushers:* Susan & Dean Atwood

**Coming Up This Week:**

Sunday, March 12:	<b>Worship 10am</b> The diaconate will meet following worship in the Parlor Youth Group, 11:30am The Chosen, 5:30pm
Monday, March 13:	Mah Jongg, 6:00pm – 8:30pm
Tuesday, March 14:	Sheepscot Valley Chorus, 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Wednesday, March 15:	Organ Society, 9:30am Feed Our Scholars Backpacks, 11:00am
Thursday, March 16:	Garden Club of Wiscasset, 10:00am Chimes practice, 3:00pm Choir practice, 4:00pm
Sunday, March 19:	<b>Worship 10am</b> Youth Group, 11:30am The Chosen, 5:30pm

*Minister:* Rev. David C. Myers

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*Sexton:* Mary McKinney

*Office Administrator:* Ted Gilbert

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