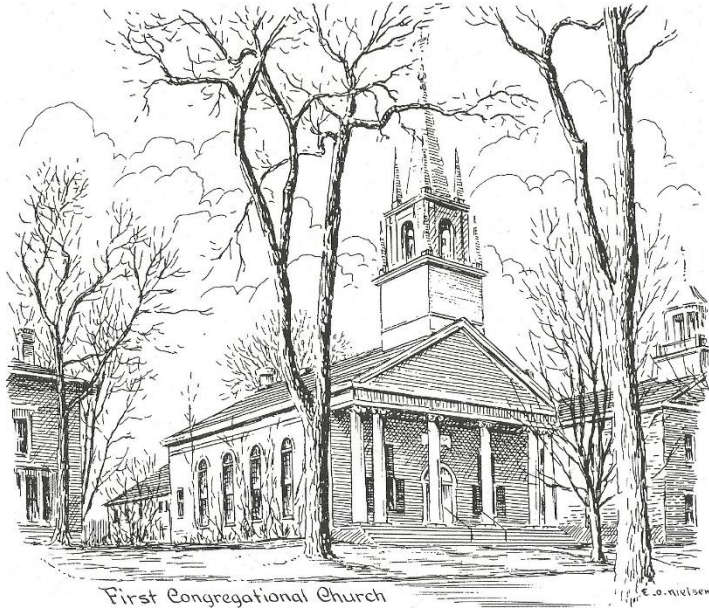


First Congregational Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
An Open and Affirming Church



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 6, 2026

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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: “The gospel is not just about forgiveness. It’s about restoration—God’s work to make all things new through Christ.” Tim Keller

PRELUDE *‘It Is Well with My Soul’* Philip P. Bliss, arr. Herbert Colvin

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God called the people to prepare for a new beginning, to mark their homes and remember the night of deliverance.

P: We come remembering that God is our Deliverer and our hope.

L: Jesus reminds us that when relationships are broken, we are called not to abandon one another, but to seek reconciliation.

P: We come seeking peace, healing, and restored relationships.

L: God gathered a people around a table, a shared story, and a promise of freedom.

P: We come as one community, carrying different stories but sharing one faith.

L: Jesus said, “Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

P: Then let us gather in Christ’s name, trusting that Christ is here with us.

L: Let us worship the God who delivers, the Christ who reconciles, and the Spirit who makes us one.

All: We are here. We are listening. We are ready to worship!

* OPENING HYMN

‘We Are One in the Spirit’

Red Hymnal No. 386

OPENING INVOCATION TO PRAYER

Gracious and liberating God,
you called your people out of bondage and into freedom. In the Passover, you gave them a story they would carry from generation to generation—a story of deliverance, courage, and new beginnings.

Today, we remember that you are still calling your people toward freedom: freedom from fear, freedom from resentment, freedom from division, and freedom from all that keeps us from loving one another.

O Christ, you have also taught us how to live together when relationships become difficult. Give us the courage to speak truth with love, the humility to listen, and the grace to seek reconciliation rather than victory.

Where there are wounds among us, bring healing.
Where there are disagreements, bring understanding.
Where there is distance, create a path toward one another.
Where there is loneliness, remind us that we are not alone.

And as we gather in your name, fulfill your promise: **be present among us.**

Make this worship a place of deliverance, reconciliation, and renewed hope. Open our hearts to your Word and prepare us to become the kind of community where your love can be seen and experienced.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who gathers us together and calls us into peace.

Amen.

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

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

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE

Global Mission Partner Prayer this week: India (See 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 *'My Shepherd Will Supply My Need'* John Isaac Watts, arr. Paul Cappers
Sung by Paul and Janet Cappers

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Matthew 18:15-20

Reproving Another Who Sins

“If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

L: The Word of God.

P: **THANKS BE to GOD.**

SERMON

“Engage in Some Hard Work”

Tom Junkert

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

‘Sweet Hour of Prayer’

William Bradbury, arr. Martineau

* 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

‘In Christ There is No East or West’

Red Hymnal No.381

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

‘Prelude in C Major’

J.S. Bach

Janet Cappers, Organist

You are invited to sit for the postlude.

* * * * *

“Our worship ends, let our service begin”

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Those serving you today:

Ushers :Cindy Clement & Angie Eddy

Reader: TBD

Flowers: Ron Sanchez

Online Streaming: Tom Clement

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

Happy September Birthdays to Abbie Beckford, Gail Burke, Diane 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

Rev. John returns from vacation Tuesday September 8.

September 8- Property & Finance 11:00am

Council Meeting 6:30pm

Anyone in the congregation is welcome to attend the in-person council meeting in Fellowship Hall.

September 9- Theology on Tap 6:30pm (AEkiers at 111 Main Street, Wiscasset)

September 20- ‘Ben Franklin Speak’s at church

September 26- Lumos Coldplay concerts in the sanctuary, 6:00pm & 8:00pm

Coming Up This Week

TODAY September 6 –

Tom Junkert is leading worship

Monday, September 7

Rev. John on vacation

Office Hours 9:30am – 1:30pm

Mah Jongg 6:00pm – 8:30pm

Tuesday, September 8

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

Office Hours 9:30am – 1:30pm

Property & Finance Meeting 11:00am

Council Meeting 6:30pm

SVC Practice 6:30pm

Wednesday, September 9

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

Office Hours 10:00am – 2:00pm

Theology on Tap (AEkiers 111 Main Street, Wiscasset) 6:30pm

Sunday, September 13 (Communion)

Sunday Worship 10:00am

Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following worship

Worship & Music Meeting after church

Global Mission Partner this week: India

For over 55 years, the partnership between Global Ministries and Family Village Farm has transformed the lives of hundreds of children, guiding them toward a brighter future. This change has instilled hope in a once impoverished community, transforming feelings of worthlessness into a sense of value and belonging. Children and elders are placed in small family units, fostering a sense of community and nurturing their self-worth. Financial support from Global Ministries enables Family Village Farm to provide a healthy, child- and elder-friendly, and safe environment for everyone.

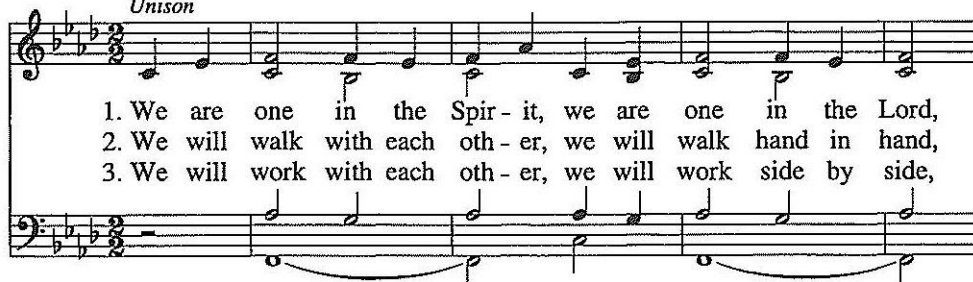


First Congregational Church UCC
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revjohnwiscassetucc@gmail.com
Pastoral Care – 207 955-0055
Music Director: Joel Pierce
Sexton: Mary McKinney
Office Administrator: Hilary Atwood
Church Office Email – fccw@myfairpoint.net
Church Office Phone – 207 882-7544
Church Website – www.uccwiscasset.org

We Are One in the Spirit

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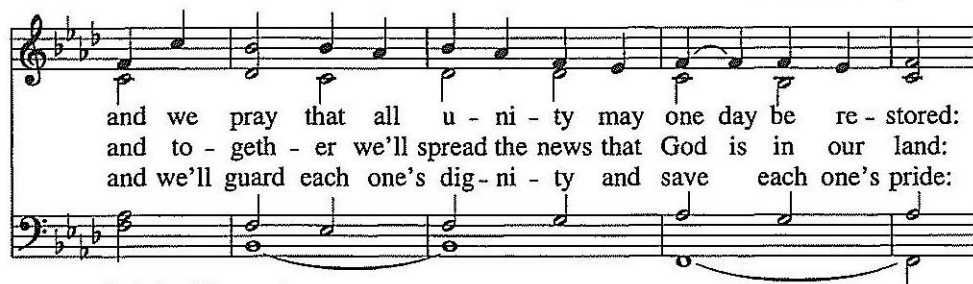
Unison



1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,
 2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
 3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,

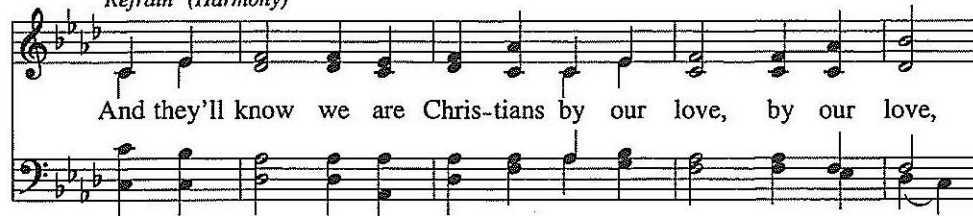


we are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,
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 we will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,

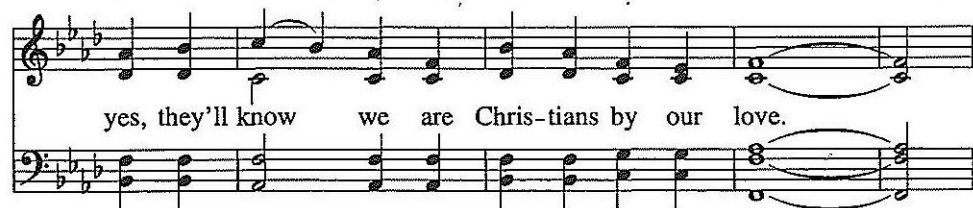


and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
 and we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride:

Refrain (Harmony)



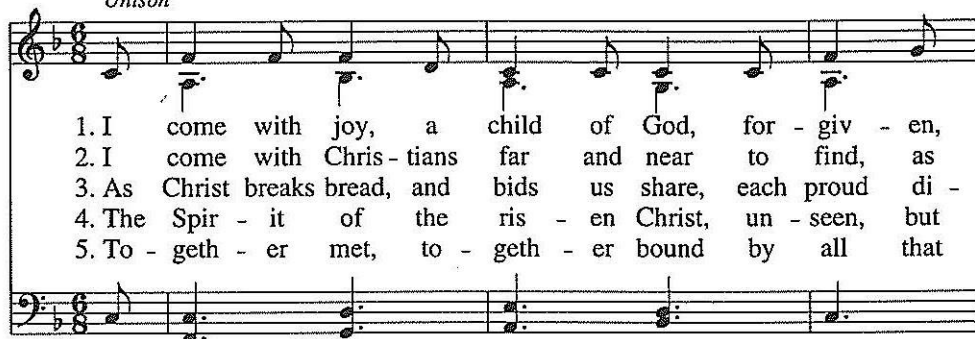
And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our love,



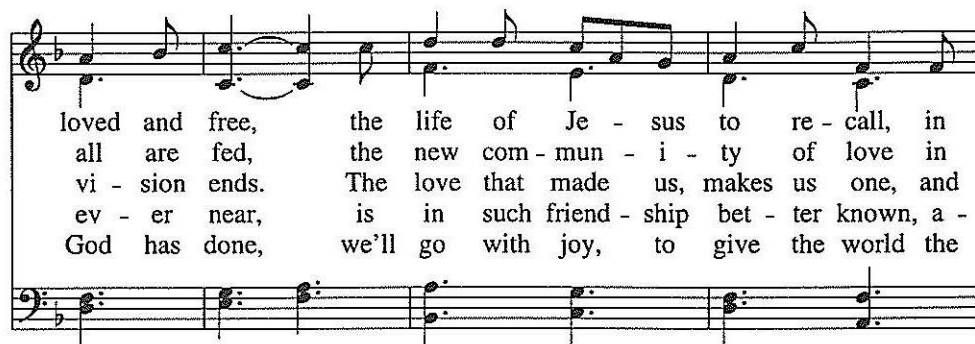
yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

I Come with Joy

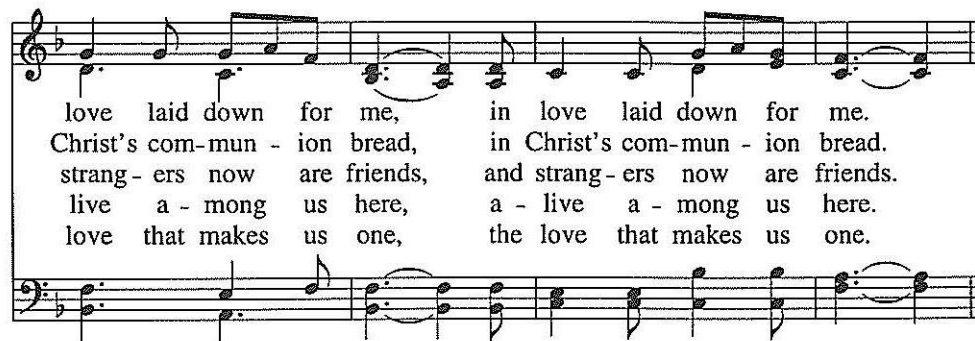
Unison



1. I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en,
 2. I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as
 3. As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di -
 4. The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but
 5. To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that



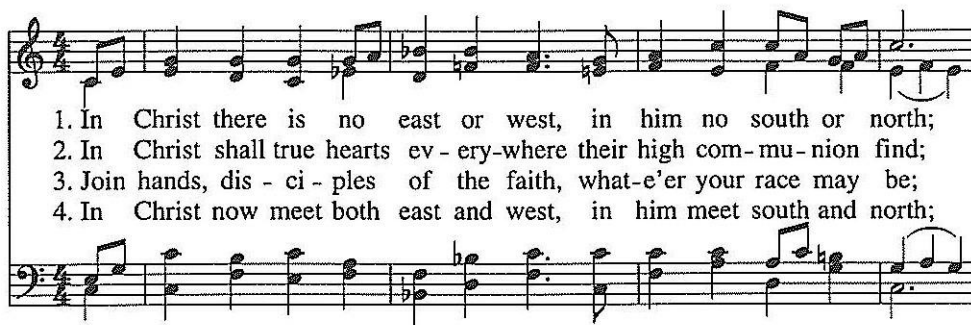
loved and free, the life of Je - sus to re - call, in
 all are fed, the new com - mun - i - ty of love in
 vi - sion ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 ev - er near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mun - ion bread, in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1977, 1993

MUSIC: Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1987DOVE OF PEACE
CM



1. In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north;
 2. In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery-where their high com-mu-nion find;
 3. Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be;
 4. In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com-mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
 his ser - vice is the gold-en cord close - bind - ing hu - man-kind.
 all chil - dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
 all Christ - ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

WORDS: John Oxenham, 1908, alt.

MUSIC: African-American melody, arr. Harry T. Burleigh, 1939

McKEE

CM

Alameda Street, Denver