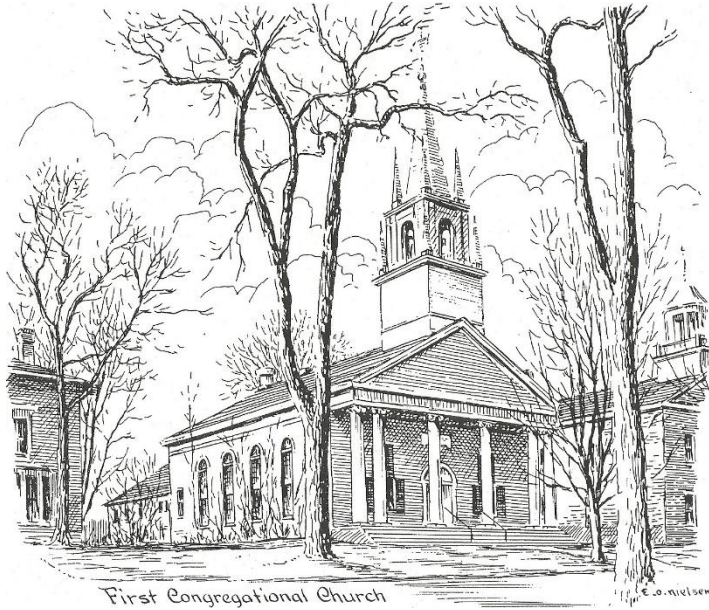


First Congregational Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
An Open and Affirming Church



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.

August 30, 2026

FOURTEENTH 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: “Ultimately evil is done not so much by evil people, but by good people who do not know themselves and who do not probe deeply.” — **Reinhold Niebuhr**

PRELUDE *‘Prelude & Fugue in G Minor- Christ Be Our Light’* J.S. Bach

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, people of God, and let us worship the One whose love is genuine.

People: We come with open hearts, ready to love without pretending.

Leader: Let us rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep.

People: We will carry one another’s joys and burdens.

Leader: Let us bless those who are difficult to love.

People: We will seek God’s grace to bless rather than curse.

Leader: Let us refuse to be overcome by evil.

People: We will overcome evil with good.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God whose love transforms enemies into neighbors and strangers into friends.

All: We worship the God of steadfast love. Amen.

* OPENING HYMN *‘Holy God, We Praise Your Name’* Red Hymnal No.28

OPENING INVOCATION TO PRAYER

Gracious and loving God, we gather today seeking more than words. We seek a faith that becomes visible in the way we live. Teach us to love sincerely.

Remove from us the temptation to say the right things while holding resentment in our hearts. Give us courage to rejoice with those who rejoice and compassion to weep with those who weep. Make us patient with one another

and generous toward those in need. When we encounter anger, hostility, disappointment, or injustice, remind us that evil does not have to determine our response. Fill us with the Spirit of Christ, so that our worship today does not end when we leave this sanctuary, but continues in every conversation, every act of kindness, every difficult relationship, and every opportunity to serve. In the name of Jesus Christ, who teaches us to love even our enemies, we pray.

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: Angola (See page 7)

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.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Romans 12:9-21

Marks of the True Christian

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never

avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

L: The Word of God.

P: **THANKS BE to GOD.**

* HYMN *'Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant'* Black Hymnal No. 539

SERMON *'Across the Divide'*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

* 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 *'Go Forth for God'* Red Hymnal No. 352

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 *'Tell Out, My Soul'* Walter Greatedorex

You are invited to sit for the postlude.

* * * * *

“Our worship ends, let our service begin”

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Those serving you today:

Ushers: Jan Shaw & Judith Sutter

Reader: Becky Lenz

Flowers: Jan Shaw

Online Streaming: Tom Clement

Organist: Tom Junkert

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

Happy August Birthdays to Janet Cappers, Cindy Clement, Scott Murry (husband to Laurie LaBar) Scott tunes the pianos for church, Jim Spurlin, Bill Sutter, Judith Sutter, and Beth Whitney

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 will be on vacation from September 1st through September 7th

Tom Junkert will lead worship Sunday September 6th

The **Council** meeting scheduled for **September 14th**, is now on **September 8th** at 6:30pm

Property & Finance meeting Tuesday September 8th at 11:00am

September 9th Organ Society meeting at 9:30am

Theology on Tap- 6:30pm at AEkeir Brewing Tasting Room- 111 Main Street,
Wiscasset, ME. 04578

September 13th Communion Sunday

Worship & Music meeting after church

September 20th Ben Franklin Speaks

September 26 Lumos, Two Candlelit Concerts – Coldplay 6:00pm & 9:00pm

Coming Up This Week

Monday, August 31

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

Office Hours 9:30am – 1:30pm

Garden Club Board meeting 10:00am

Mah Jongg 6:00pm – 8:30pm

Tuesday, September 1

Rev. John On Vacation

Office Hours 9:30am – 1:30pm

SVC Board meeting 9:30am

Wednesday, September 2

Rev. John On Vacation

Office Hours 10:00am – 2:00pm

Thursday, September 3

Garden Club 12:00pm -2:00pm

Sunday, September 6 (Tom Junkert Leads Worship)

Sunday Worship 10:00am

Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following worship

Global Mission Partner this week: Angola

Greetings, once again, from Angola's capital, Luanda! I now have lived and worked here for over a year, as a representative of Global Ministries' partnership with the Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola (IECA). I want to share with you some of the changes occurring in Angola, especially those that IECA is helping to bring about through its Department of Social Assistance, Studies and Projects (DASEP), in which I work. As IECA's community outreach arm, every day DASEP addresses issues that impact the quality of people's lives, including health care, education and training, gender equity, sustainable development projects, as well as peace and reconciliation.

Donna Dudley serves with the Evangelical Congregational Church of Angola. She assists with development projects and staff leadership training programs.

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: Joel Pierce

Sexton: Mary McKinney

Office Administrator: Hilary Atwood

Church Office Email – fccw@myfairpoint.net

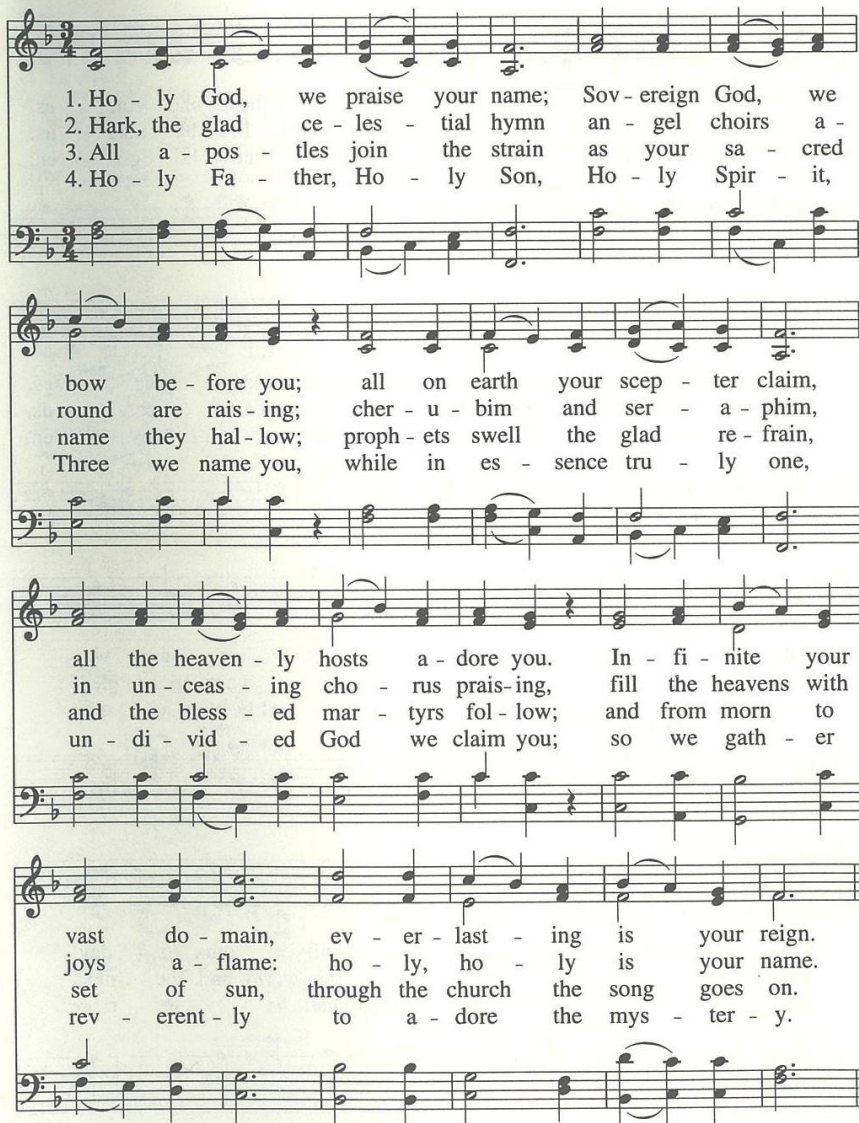
Church Office Phone – 207 882-7544

Church Website – www.uccwiscasset.org

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



Holy God, We Praise Your Name



1. Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Sov - ereign God, we
 2. Hark, the glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
 3. All a - pos - tles join the strain as your sa - cred
 4. Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,

bow be - fore you; all on earth your scep - ter claim,
 round are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
 name they hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
 Three we name you, while in es - sence tru - ly one,

all the heav - en - ly hosts a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
 in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heavens with
 and the bless - ed mar - tyrs fol - low; and from morn to
 un - di - vid - ed God we claim you; so we gath - er

vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
 joys a - flame: ho - ly, ho - ly is your name.
 set of sun, through the church the song goes on.
 rev - erent - ly to a - dore the mys - ter - y.

WORDS: Anon., German, c. 1774; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1853, alt.

GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH

MUSIC: *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Vienna, c. 1774; alt. Johann G. Schicht, 1819

78.78.77

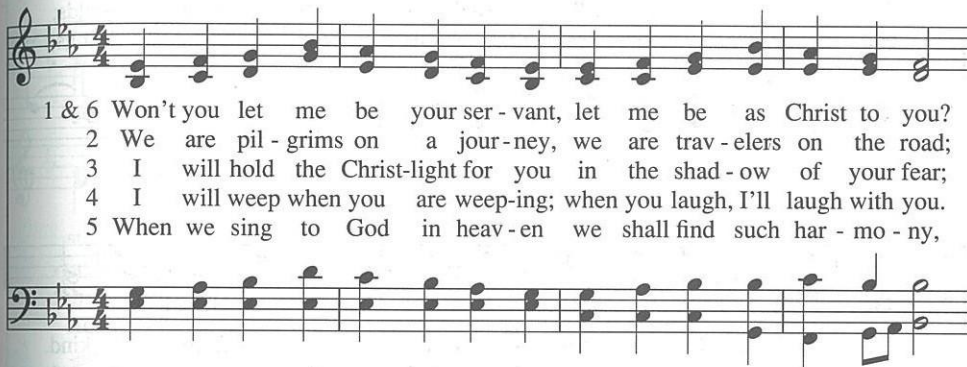
This German version of the Catholic 'Te Deum' came into Protestant usage in 1819. This hymn was played at the close of the requiem mass for President Kennedy, as the casket was carried from the church.

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

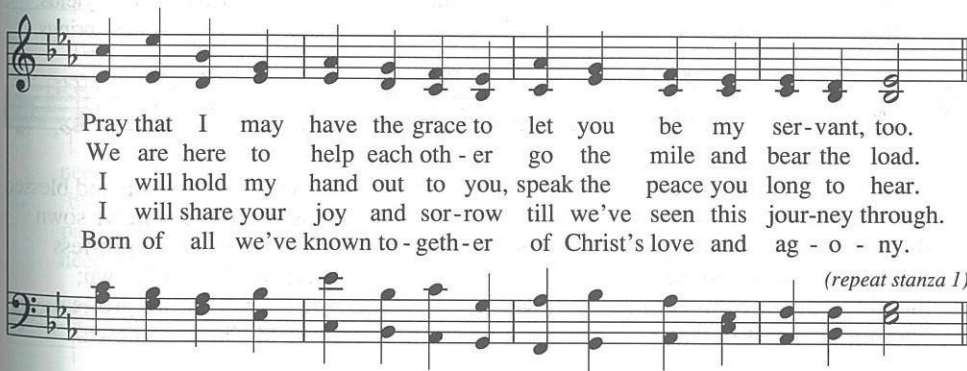
539

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29



1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - elers on the road;
 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;
 4 I will weep when you are weep-ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
 5 When we sing to God in heav - en we shall find such har - mo - ny,



Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.
 We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.
 I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
 I will share your joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 Born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

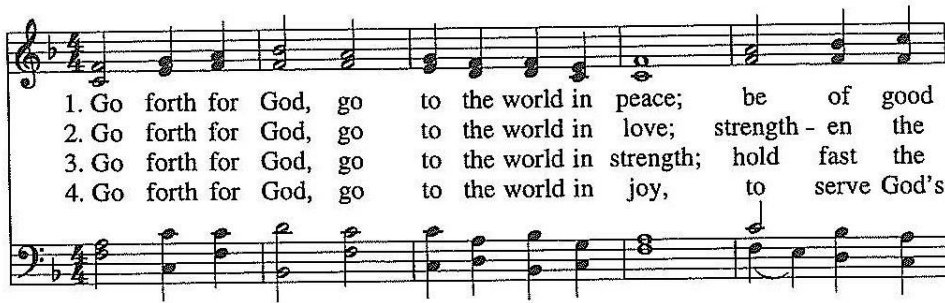
(repeat stanza 1)

Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs in the United States.

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.
 Richard Gillard, 1977
 Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.

Go Forth for God

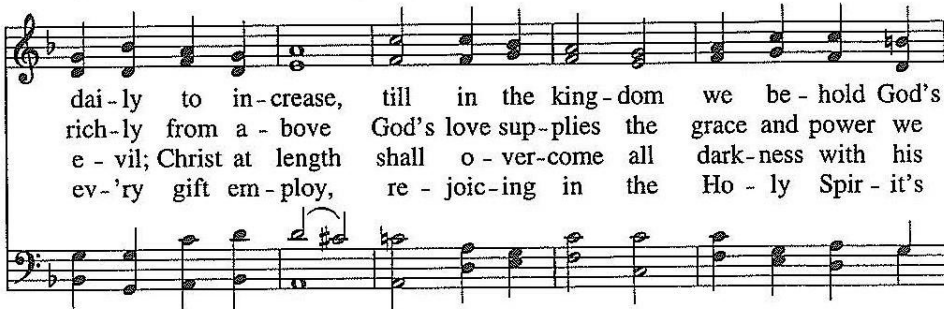
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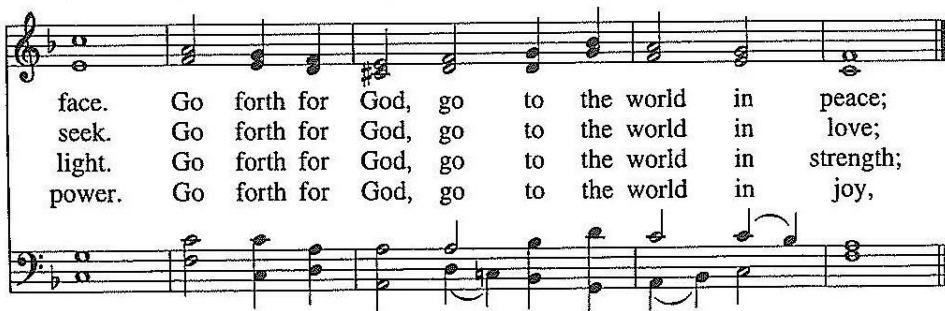
1. Go forth for God, go to the world in peace; be of good
 2. Go forth for God, go to the world in love; strength - en the
 3. Go forth for God, go to the world in strength; hold fast the
 4. Go forth for God, go to the world in joy, to serve God's



cour - age, armed with heaven - ly grace, in God's good Spir - it
 faint, give cour - age to the weak; help the af - flict - ed;
 good, be ur - gent for the right; ren - der to no one
 peo - ple ev - ery day and hour, and serv - ing Christ, our



dai - ly to in - crease, till in the king - dom we be - hold God's
 rich - ly from a - bove God's love sup - plies the grace and power we
 e - vil; Christ at length shall o - ver - come all dark - ness with his
 ev - 'ry gift em - ploy, re - joic - ing in the Ho - ly Spir - it's



face. Go forth for God, go to the world in peace;
 seek. Go forth for God, go to the world in love;
 light. Go forth for God, go to the world in strength;
 power. Go forth for God, go to the world in joy,

WORDS: John Raphael Peacey, 1975
 MUSIC: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

OLD 124th
 10 10.10 10.10

English Anglican Canon Peacey began writing hymn texts after retirement in 1966. He based this text on Paul's letter to the Romans (12:9-21).

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