

# *Last Sunday after the Epiphany*

## *February 19, 2023*

10:00 A.M.



For Your Contemplation:

“. . . they walked out into the sunlight, blinked nervously, and then silently walked back into the familiar darkness of the prisons, to which they had been accustomed for such a long time.” . . . Victor Frankl, from *Man’s Search for Meaning*.  
Commenting on what many prisoners of the Dachau Concentration Camp did upon release from prison.

Prelude *He Leadeth Me* (arr. Darrell Archer)

Ringling of the Chime

Welcome and Informal Moments

*This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!* Psalm 112:1-10

Musical Introit *Open My Eyes, That I May See* (arr. Roger Summers)

### **Invitation to Worship**

One: The glory of God transfigures the everyday!

**Many: The light of God transfigures familiar faces!**

One: At the heights of our worship, may God’s presence shine through the commonplace, may God’s presence give us courage and peace.

**Many: May God’s light, shining in the face of Christ, illumine all our days.**

\*Gathering Hymn *Praise to the living God* No. 43

*\*All who are able may stand.*

### \*Unison Prayer of Invocation

God of Abraham and Sarah, God of our mothers and fathers, we thank You that you make Yourself know to us. For Moses, the burning bush was a sign of Your presence. Peter, James, and John saw You in Jesus when He was transfigured and shone as bright as the sun. Your people at Pentecost knew Your Spirit had come near, descending in tongues of flames.

We yearn, mysterious God, for clear signs of Your presence, for fiery epiphanies and not faint glimmers. We would like to live by certain knowledge and not by faith. Yet we know that the faithful have gone out trusting in You, not knowing where You were leading, and that we too must live our faith.

Teach us, God, to trust the still, small voice as well as fire and thunder. Take our hands and stay beside us, that we may follow Your will as far as we understand it. Heal our sorrows; calm our fears; set us on sure paths. Help us to be Your people indeed, through the presence, the word and example of Jesus Christ. *Amen*

Instrumental Anthem

*Bellsong*

(Douglas Wagner)

Scripture

*Exodus 24:12-18* Deane and Susan Atwood, Readers  
*Mathew 17:1-9*

Sermon

“Accustomed to the Darkness” Rev. David C. Myers

Text: “The disciples fell face down to the ground, terrified.” . . . Matthew 17:6

\*Hymn

*Be Thou My Vision*

*No. 445*

### Joys and Concerns

One: Come near to the Lord.

**All: Lord, be with us this day.**

One: Lift your sorrows and joys to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear the cries of our hearts.**

One: Come, rest in the love and mercy of God.

**All: Bless us, O Lord, that we may be blessings for others in Your name.**

### Pastoral Prayer

Silence

## 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.**

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory Music *Joyful Ring* (Douglas Wagner)

\*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 and Thanksgiving

**We dedicate our lives and all that we have to the work of life, of love, of peace.  
Receive our gifts and lead us in wisdom and courage. Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* No. 364

\*Benediction

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 *Hymn to Joy* (arr. Jeanne Cotter)



*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from  
One License with license # A-7314.*

# 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.



**February 19, 2023**

**February 19, 2023**

**Those serving you today:**

*Reader: Deb Olson*

*Ushers: Deane and Susan Attwood*

**Coming Up This Week:**

Sunday, February 19:	<b>Worship 10am</b> No Youth Group
Monday, February 20:	Mah Jongg, 6:00pm – 8:30pm
Tuesday, February 21:	Sheepscot Valley Chorus, 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Wednesday, February 22:	Organ Society, 9:30am Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m. <b>Ash Wednesday Worship, 7:00 p.m.</b>
Thursday, February 13:	3:00pm Chimes practice 4:00pm Choir practice
Sunday, February 26:	<b>Worship 10am</b> Youth Group, 11:30 – 12:15

*Minister: Rev. David C. Myers*

*Music Director and Organist: Joel Pierce*

*Sexton: Mary McKinney*

*Office Administrator: Ted Gilbert*

## **Announcements**

### ***Ash Wednesday***

Ash Wednesday February 22<sup>nd</sup> 7:00 p.m. will be a combined Worship in Fellowship Hall at the First Congregational Church with St. Philip's Church. Service will be led by Rev. Oscar Wallace, Rev. Tom Junkert, Rev. David Myers and Rev. Marcia Richardson, Deacon.

### ***250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***

Anyone interested in being on the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, please contact Nancy Roby by February 19<sup>th</sup>. A great fun committee that requires less than 1 a year commitment!

### ***The Organ Society's February program***

will host Meghan Junkert Delk speaking about her work as a probation and parole officer. What does her job entail? What works? What doesn't work? What can we do to assist those paroled? What can we do to help the parole officers? Bring your questions and join us in person or on Zoom at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, February 22nd.

***First Congregational Church (UCC)***

*PO Box 350, 28 High Street*

*Wiscasset, ME 04578*

*Church Office Email – [fccw@myfairpoint.net](mailto:fccw@myfairpoint.net)*

*Church Office Phone – 207-882-7544*

*Church Website – [www.uccwiscasset.org](http://www.uccwiscasset.org)*

Exodus 24:12-18

<sup>12</sup> The Lord said to Moses, ‘Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.’ <sup>13</sup> So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup> To the elders he had said, ‘Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.’

<sup>15</sup> Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup> The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. <sup>17</sup> Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. <sup>18</sup> Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. <sup>2</sup> And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>3</sup> Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup> Then Peter said to Jesus, ‘Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I<sup>[a]</sup> will make three dwellings<sup>[b]</sup> here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’ <sup>5</sup> While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved;<sup>[c]</sup> with him I am well pleased; listen to him!’ <sup>6</sup> When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup> But Jesus came and touched them, saying, ‘Get up and do not be afraid.’ <sup>8</sup> And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, ‘Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.’