

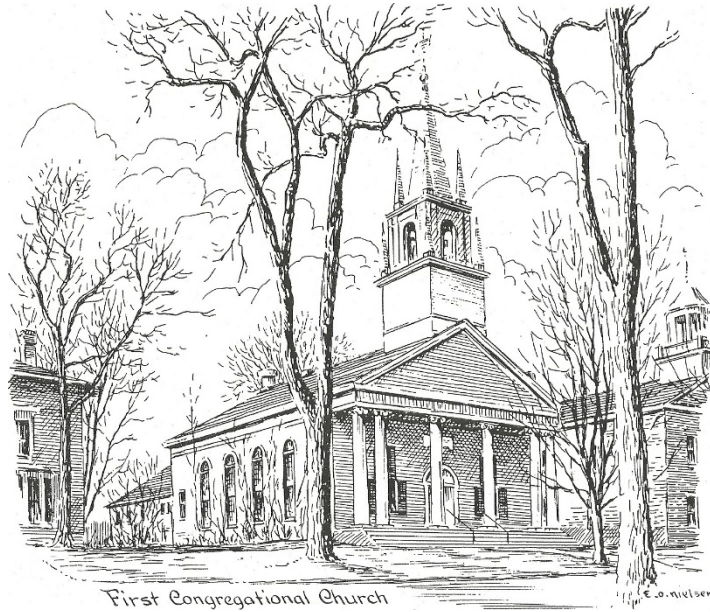
# First Congregational Church

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.



**April 7, 2024**

April 7, 2024  
Second Sunday of Easter  
The Sacrament of Communion  
10:00am

\* Indicates to please stand with your heart or your posture. The choir will guide you as when to stand.

We joyfully welcome all visitors to our worship service, including those who join us via Zoom. We invite you to join us for coffee and refreshments in Fellowship Hall immediately following the Worship Service.

For Your Contemplation:

“Without doubt there is no faith.” . . . Reinhold Niebuhr  
“Whether your faith is that there is a God or there is not a God, if you don’t have any doubts, you are either kidding yourself or asleep. . . . Doubts are the ants in the pants of faith.” . . . Frederick Buechner

PRELUDE *Offertoire ou Communion* César Franck

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT *Celtic Alleluia*

\* OPENING HYMN *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain* No. 204

\* INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Today is a new day!

**New life is rising among us!**

Today we are challenged to live fully in God’s love.

**Christ is risen within us!**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

We are here as the gathered church because we are people of faith. God does not disappoint or turn away from those who come in honesty and with openness to God. Let us make our confession to God in hope and with faith.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**O God we gather today, more like Thomas than we care to admit. Although we have called You the God of hope, we often feel lost, cynical and without hope. We confess that our weaknesses and sensitivities stand in the way of new life in our world. We know that the world is full of suffering. Our brothers and sisters are nailed to the crosses of poverty and injustice. People close enough to touch are sealed in tombs of loneliness and despair. But we have failed to halt the crucifixion and have not helped in rolling away the stone.**

SILENT PRAYERS

WORDS OF PARDON AND FORGIVENESS (UNISON)

**In the act of suffering, Christ absorbed our sins. In unfailing love, Christ forgives our heart felt failures. In Christ's resurrection, God promises acceptance, assures pardon, and affirms eternal life. "Your sins are forgiven" Christ says. "Go and sin no more."**

RESPONSE

READING FROM THE HEBREW BIBLE                      Psalm 150

CHORAL ANTHEM                                      *Because He Lives*                                      arr. Jack Schrader

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

MORNING PRAYER

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 LESSONS

John 20:19 – 31

Liturgist: This is the Word of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

\* HYMN OF PREPARATION      *Now the Green Blade Riseth*      No. 208

SERMON:      “Ants in the Pants of Faith”      Rev. David Myers

Text: Thomas said, “Unless I see . . ., I will not believe.”      John 20:25

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Since our cups run over with gifts of grace, let us respond with our love and ourselves and with our gifts.

OFFERTORY      *Were You There?*      arr, Phillip Keveren

\* PRESENTATION WITH THE 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.**

*The Sacrament of Communion*

THE INVITATION

THE WORDS OF CONSECRATION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP (in the pews)

Our Church practices open communion – **all** are invited to come and receive the sacrament that provides forgiveness and grace. Communion will be served in the pews.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us this Sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Send us out in the power of the Holy Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. In Jesus name we pray. Amen**

\* HYMN      *Lord of the Dance*      No. 206

BENEDICTION (UNISON)

**Because the tomb is empty our lives can be full, so let us go into every place and every day as people brimming with the love of God. Let us be graceful in spirit, hopeful in word, faithful in deed. Let us live for the risen Christ as Christ lives in us! Alleluia and Amen!**

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

*Paeon for an Easter Morning*

Herbert Howells

*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 One License with license # A-7314.*

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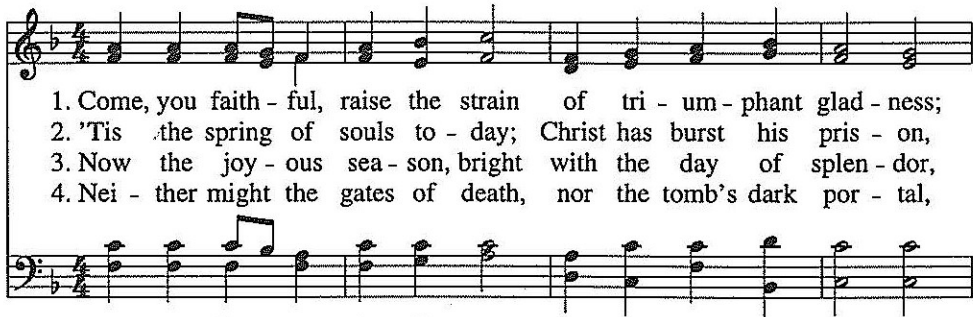
Psalm 150

Praise the LORD!  
Praise God in his sanctuary;  
    praise him in his mighty firmament!  
Praise him for his mighty deeds;  
    praise him according to his surpassing greatness!  
Praise him with trumpet sound;  
    praise him with lute and harp!  
Praise him with tambourine and dance;  
    praise him with strings and pipe!  
Praise him with clanging cymbals;  
    praise him with loud clashing cymbals!  
Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!  
Praise the LORD!

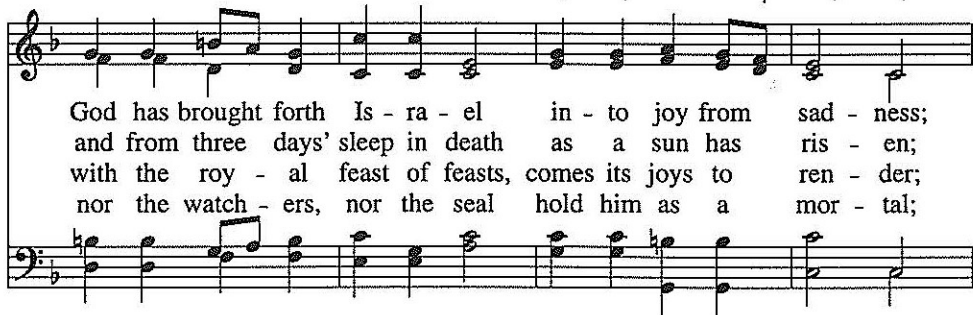
John 20:19 – 31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

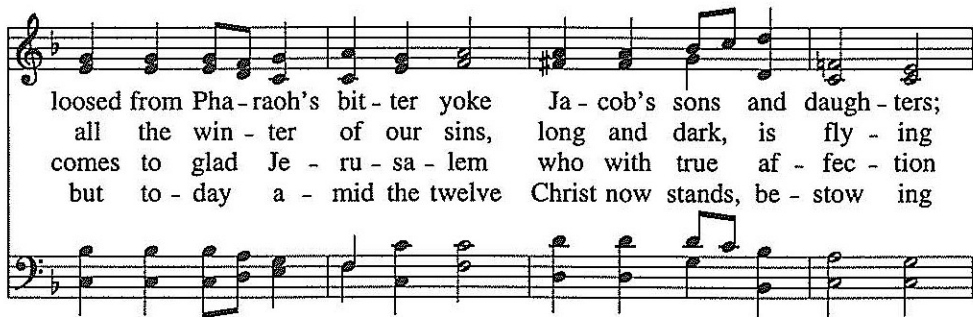
A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.



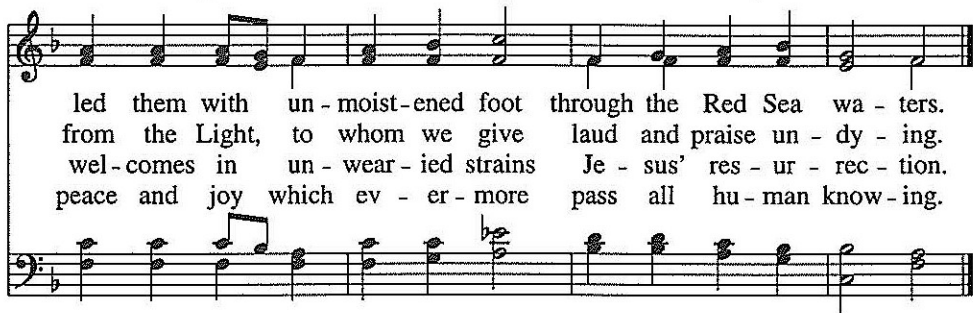
1. Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness;  
 2. 'Tis the spring of souls to - day; Christ has burst his pris - on,  
 3. Now the joy - ous sea - son, bright with the day of splen - dor,  
 4. Nei - ther might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,



God has brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness;  
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en;  
 with the roy - al feast of feasts, comes its joys to ren - der;  
 nor the watch - ers, nor the seal hold him as a mor - tal;



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;  
 all the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing  
 comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem who with true af - fec - tion  
 but to - day a - mid the twelve Christ now stands, be - stow ing



led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.  
 from the Light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.  
 wel - comes in un - wear - ied strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion.  
 peace and joy which ev - er - more pass all hu - man know - ing.

## Now the Green Blade Riseth

1. Now the green blade ris - eth from the bur - ied grain,  
 2. In the grave they laid him, Love whom hate had slain,  
 3. Forth he came at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,  
 4. When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
 think - ing that nev - er he would wake a - gain,  
 he that for three days in the grave had lain,  
 thy touch can call us back to life a - gain,

love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:  
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:  
 quick from the dead my ris - en Lord is seen:  
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

*Refrain*

Love is come a - gain like wheat that spring - eth green.



# I Danced in the Morning

(Lord of the Dance)

*Unison*

1. I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I  
 2. I danced for the scribe and the phar - i - see, but they  
 3. I danced on the Sab-bath and I cured the lame, the  
 \*4. I danced on a Fri-day when the sky turned black, it's  
 5. They cut me down and I leapt up high; —

\* Stanza 4, up to bracket ( ), may be sung in F minor

danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I  
 would not dance and they would-n't fol-low me; I  
 ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame; they  
 hard to dance with the dev - il on your back; they  
 I am the life that - 'll nev - er, nev - er die; I'll

came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth; at  
 danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John, they  
 whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high, and  
 bur - ied my bo - dy and they thought I'd gone, but  
 live in you if you'll live in me; —

Beth - le - hem I had my birth.  
 came with me and the Dance went on.  
 left me there on a cross to die.  
 I am the Dance and I still go on.  
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

WORDS: Sydney Carter, 1963  
 MUSIC: Shaker melody; adapt. and harm. Sydney Carter, 1963

LORD OF THE DANCE  
 Irr. w. refrain

**April 7, 2024**

**Those serving you today:**

***Interim Minister:*** Rev. David Myers

***Ushers:***

***Reader:*** Jane Junkert

***Flowers:*** Easter Flowers

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**COMMUNION SUNDAY:** We are now serving all gluten free (gf) elements during communion.

**Rev. Myers** is scheduled to have his left knee fully replaced Monday April 8, and will be recovering at his home. He is anticipating returning to preach on Sunday April 28.

Sarah Whitfield will fill in and lead services on April 14 and April 21.

**(SHOP ORGAN SOCIETY)**

**On the FIRST Sunday** of each month the Organ Society will have special items for sale after church.

Today we will have decoupage planter pots for your spring and summer decorating. There will be different sizes and different options available, empty, real plants or artificial greens and plants. Come down after church and see all the decoupage pots and enjoy some fellowship too!

**Church Council Meeting**, Wednesday, April 10, 6:45pm., on Zoom.

**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 7:	Choir Practice, 8:10am <b>Sunday Worship – 10:00am</b> No Youth Group <b>Shop Organ Society</b> , open following Worship <b>‘The Chosen’ Season 3</b> , in Fellowship Hall at 5:30pm and a Potluck Dinner.
Monday, April 8:	Mah Jongg, 6:00pm – 8:30pm
Tuesday, April 9:	Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00pm Sheepscot Chorus Rehearsal – 7:00pm
Wednesday, April 10:	Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00pm Feed Our Scholars(FOS) – 11:00am Organ Society, 9:30am – 11:00am Church Council Meet via ZOOM, 6:45pm
Thursday, April 11:	Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00pm
Sunday, April 14:	Choir Practice, 8:10am <b>Sunday Worship – 10:00am</b> Youth Group, 11:30am
Sunday, April 28:	Pancake Breakfast, open to the public

*First Congregational Church (UCC)*  
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*Church Office Email – [fccw@myfairpoint.net](mailto:fccw@myfairpoint.net)*  
*Church Office Phone – 207-882-7544*  
*Pastoral Care – 202-302-6903*  
*Church Website – [www.uccwiscasset.org](http://www.uccwiscasset.org)*  
*Interim Minister: Rev. David C. Myers*  
*[dmyers421@gmail.com](mailto:dmyers421@gmail.com)*  
*C. 202-302-6903, H. 207-563-8217*  
*Music Director and Organist: Joel Pierce*  
*Sexton: Mary McKinney*  
*Office Administrator: Ted Gilbert*