

1st Sunday after the Epiphany

January 8, 2023

10:00 A.M.



(You are invited to a time of quiet preparation for worship during the Prelude.)

Prelude

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome and Informal Moments

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it! Psalm 118:24

Musical Introit

Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 29)

One: Give glory to the Creator and bow in holy splendor!

Many: The voice of the Creator renews and rebirths.

One: Give glory to the Holy One and bow in holy splendor!

Many: The voice of the Holy One redeems and restores.

One: Give glory to the Living Water and bow in holy splendor!

Many: The voice of the Living Water refreshes and revives. Glory to God!

*Hymn

Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

No. 164

***Unison Prayer of Invocation**

Holy God, you are present among us. We receive your love and affirmation. We cherish your guidance and direction. We strive to follow your path and the example of your offspring, Jesus. Remind us in worship of our connection to you and your covenantal relationship with us. Whoever we are, wherever we are, wash us in the baptized life for renewal and revitalization. Amen.

Scripture

Matthew 2:1-12

Ann Dunlevy, Reader

Sermon

Traveling

Rev. Amy Lignitz Harken

**All who are able may stand.*

*Hymn

O For a World

No. 500

Pastoral Prayer and 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

*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**

***Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving**

Giver of all good gifts, we thank you for providing in abundance and allowing us to participate as co-givers with you. We dedicate our offerings in your many names. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

As With Gladness Men of Old

No. 168

*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



*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from
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Those serving you today:

Bell Ringer: Tom Kovarik

Reader: Ann Dunlevy

Musician: Kyle Singhal

Ushers: Deane & Susan Attwood

Interim Minister: Rev. Dr. Amy Lignitz Harken

Music Director: Joel Pierce

Sexton: Mary McKinney

Office Administrator: Janet Leonard

First Congregational Church (UCC)

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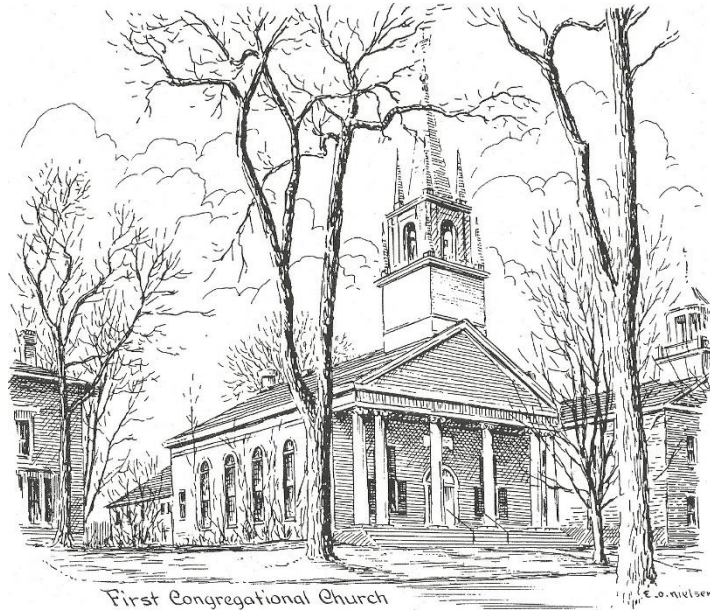
First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Wiscasset, Maine 04578

(207) 882-7544

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.



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Coming Up This Week:

Sunday, January 8:	Worship 10am Youth Group 11:30am
Tuesday, January 10:	Sheepscot Chorus 7:00-9:00pm Reports Due for Annual Report
Wednesday, January 11:	Organ Society, 10am Speaker Sharon Hobson from One Less Worry
Thursday, January 12:	3:00 Chimes practice 4:00 Choir practice
Sunday, January 15:	Worship 10am

Announcements

Fellowship Hall Worship – Starts Today!

In order to save money on heat, we will be worshipping in Fellowship Hall through March. Thanks to the choir who will continue to uplift us with their lovely music!

Organ Society – Special Speaker on January 11, 10:00am

Sharon Hobson began One Less Worry to provide menstrual products in schools and food pantries in the Knox County area. Sharon will visit the Organ Society to discuss her program and how the Organ Society might institute a similar program in the Wiscasset area. Please join us on January 11th at 10am to learn more about this program of women helping women and girls.

Annual Reports – due January 10!

First Congregational Church's annual meeting is coming up on January 29, so please put it on your calendar now and plan to attend either in person or on Zoom. Reports are due to the Office Administrator no later than January 10. Thanks so much!

Matthew 2:1-12

2 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, ²“Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet:

6 ‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.’”

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; ⁸and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; ¹¹and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

