

First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

An Open and Affirming Church

PO Box 350, 28 High Street, Wiscasset, Maine 04578

207-882-7544, www.uccwiscasset.org



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.



April 27, 2025

April 27, 2025
Second Sunday of Easter
A service of Baptism, Confirmation and Membership
10:00am

* Indicates to please stand with your heart or your posture.

We joyfully welcome **all** to our worship service, including those who join us on Zoom! We invite you to join us for a celebration of our New Members in fellowship Hall immediately following worship.
The First Congregational Church of Wiscasset is an Open and Affirming Church affiliated with the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ denomination.

For Your Contemplation:

“Carlyle Marney, a great preacher from a couple of generations ago once told of an old man who was asked once, “Have you ever seen God?” He said, “No, but I have known a couple of Jesuses in my lifetime.” . . . from the sermib

PRELUDE

Coming Home

Jeanne Cotter

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Come to the Water

Glaser/arr. Pierce

* INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Jesus said: “This is my commandment: Love one another.”

We come to worship the God who is love, that we may learn to love one another.

Jesus also said: “No longer do I call you servants, but I now call you my friends”.

We come to worship the God whose friends we are through Christ.

Today we welcome those who are making a life changing commitment to follow Christ’s teachings, and also those who have decided that this expression of God’s family is true to the faith that fuels their love and faith.

We welcome them and pledge our acceptance of the gifts they bring to our faith community.

Let us sing praise to God, and live in love and friendship toward the human faith, through Jesus the Christ.

* HYMN *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry* No. 327

INVOCATION

CHORAL ANTHEM *Make This Church a Welcome Place* Joel Raney

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

MORNING 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 *There is One Lord*

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

I John 4:7 – 12

John 15:1, 4 – 5, 8

Liturgist: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

* HYMN *Here I Am , Lord* No. S-8

SERNIB (a very short sermon): “God is Love” Rev. Myers

Text: “. . . everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.” . . . I John 4:7b – 8

A SERVICE OF BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, AND COMMITMENT

Introduction: The Church is born of God, and represents the tradition of faith from the calling of the disciples to our present time. It tells our faith story, binds us with sacred moments of being called by God through our Baptism and the sharing of bread and wine as the disciples shared with

Jesus. The Church's mission is to continue to share God's love through the grace and love Jesus revealed. Therefore, we are called to both be disciples and to invite others to be disciples. Today we rejoice that those who stand before you are ready to confirm the promises made in their names when they were baptized. They come ready to be full participants in the Body of Christ, the bread for the world.

Congregation: **Today we celebrate new life in the church, the heroes and heroines of a history yet to be made. We hold out our hands to them and beckon them to join us on the journey. As they walk beside us, we may tell them our stories, but we may not tell them the way. It is a quest they must follow by themselves. We celebrate a new generation of faith, a new branch, with its leaves to blossom. Let us make a place for them and let them know that the family of Christ is their family too, as we all worship and witness God's love together.**

The Sacrament of Baptism

*Reagan Eddy, Natalie Dunbar, Olivia Whittaker
and their parents and/or sponsors*

Rev. Wallace: Baptism is a moment in the Christian community when we recognize the grace of God living in each newborn creation. God offers us the possibility of transformation, a continuing process of renewal of body, mind and spirit, which takes place within faith communities.

To parents and sponsors

A covenant is integral to relationships with God, so today we affirm our covenant together.

Parents and Sponsors: **We acknowledge the need for our children to be nurtured by a Christian community of caring and concerned people that they may explore the dynamics of a God who created and loves them. We covenant to bring them into the life of the Christian community to worship, to hear the story of the roots of our faith, to be called into response to the gospel, and to be in relationship with other believers as they grow into their own faith in God.**

Rev. Myers: I ask this congregation, what will be your part in helping these persons discover the grace of God within themselves?

Congregation: **We promise to give these parents our support as they live with this child in the pathways of Christ. We offer ourselves also, as ones who take these being baptized into our love, our prayers, and our daily lives, striving to build a community rich in the spirit of God in which to nurture them.**

Rev. Wallace: Baptism is an act of naming and knowing one's identity, within the community and individually before God. Baptism is a recommitment of a creation with its Creator. Baptism is a bond of love.

Baptism

(to parents): What name shall be given this child?

(parents or sponsors): (Child's name)

Revs. Wallace and Myers: (Name) we baptize you in the name of God our Creator, Jesus Christ our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Sustainer.

Rev. Myers: These children are now received into the love and care of the church. See what love God has given us that we are all called "beloved children of God".

Congregation: **Gracious God, giver of life, you have called us by name, and pledge to each of us your faithful love. We pray today for your blessing on Reagan, Natalie, and (?) Olivia.**

Confirmation (Confirming the vows made at Baptism)

Pastors: Do you in the presence of God and this congregation renew and confirm the vows and promises made in your name at your baptism?

Confirmands: **I do.**

Pastors: Do you believe that the life and teachings of Jesus are sufficient for you to first repent of your sin and shortcomings, and secondly to receive God's forgiving grace?

Confirmands: **I do.**

Pastors: Will you join the entire congregation and confess your faith?

*At this time the confirmands will come and kneel to be confirmed.
Parents, mentors and friends may come forward to surround them
with love and support with the laying on of hands.*

Pastors: *Name*, may God defend you with grace and by God's Spirit confirm you in the faith and fellowship of all true disciples of Jesus Christ.

Reception of New Members

**Allison Crosscup, Samantha Main, Laura Mewa,
Ruth Mewa, Tori Orr, and Jennifer Surgenor**

*After all are confirmed, all confirmands and new members through transfer
will be invited to join and become full members in
this congregation of the United Church of Christ Church.*

Pastor (to all confirmands and new members): Will you be loyal to Christ through the United Church of Christ with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

Confirmands and new members: **I will.**

Pastor (to the entire congregation): Brothers and sisters, I commend to your love and care these persons whom this day we receive in the full membership of this congregation. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their faith, and help them grow in love.

Congregation: **We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ's holy Church, and welcome you to this congregation, the First Congregational Church of Wiscasset, Maine, United Church of Christ.**

With you we renew our vows to uphold it with our prayers, our service, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

With God's help, we will endeavor to live after the example of Christ that surrounded by steadfast love you may grow in faith and love, be confirmed and strengthened to be disciples of Christ to witness to the whole world.

Pastor: And now may God the Eternal One, God revealed in Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit bless, preserve and keep you, now and evermore.
Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table: As we gather at this table remembering Jesus' last meal with His disciples, we come knowing that Christ welcomed all. Come. Join the body of Christ that forgives and has compassion to all.

For we are the Body of Christ, and around this table we enact our faith. The Body broken that we share restores us to wholeness; and Lifeblood is poured out to bring healing to our world. God has told us that the heavenly realm is at hand. Even though we get too wrapped up in our busyness, we experience bits and pieces of it when we extend love and care to those in need, whether we know them or not. And God now invites us to gather as One Body, in One World, loved and redeemed by God.

Prayer of Consecration

Revs. Myers and Wallace

Rev. Wallace: Holy God, in the fullness of time, you sent your son Jesus Christ, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, all that we may be reconciled to you O God, the source of life and love.

Jesus healed the sick, ate and drank with outcasts and sinners. Jesus opened the eyes of the blind and proclaimed the Good News of your Kingdom to the poor and these in need. In all things Jesus fulfilled your gracious will.

On the night Jesus freely gave himself to death, our Lord took the Bread...and when he had given thanks to You, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me".

(Confirmands serve bread in the pews)

Rev. Myers: After supper Jesus took the **cup of wine**, . . . and when he had given thanks, He gave it to them, and said, "Drink from this all of you; this is My blood of the New Covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sin. "Whenever you drink of it, do this in remembrance of Me."

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison): **Our Creator, our Savior, our Sustainer:
In this Holy Mystery You have given yourself to us. We are eternally**

**grateful. Empower us, that we may go into the world in the strength of
Your spirit to give ourselves to each other in the name of Jesus Christ who
gave his life for us.**

We serve one another and the world

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* arr. David Lantz III

* PRESENTATION WITH 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.**

* HYMN

Sent Out in Jesus' Name

see insert

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 God 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

A Dance in the Spirit

Jeanne Cotter

You are invited to sit for the postlude.

* * * * *

“Our worship ends, let our service begin”

I John 4:7 – 12

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

John 15:1, 4 – 5, 8

Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Liturgist: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

327 I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry

Unison

1. I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be
 3. When you heard the won - der of the word I was
 5. In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too
 7. I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be

there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you
 there to cheer you on; you were raised to praise the
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you
 there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you

were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.
 liv - ing God, to whom you now be - long.
 through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.
 were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.

2. I was there when you were but a child, with a
 4. If you find some one to share your time and you
 6. When the eve - ning gen - tly clos - es in and you

faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you
 join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your
 shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have

wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell.
 vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.
 al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.

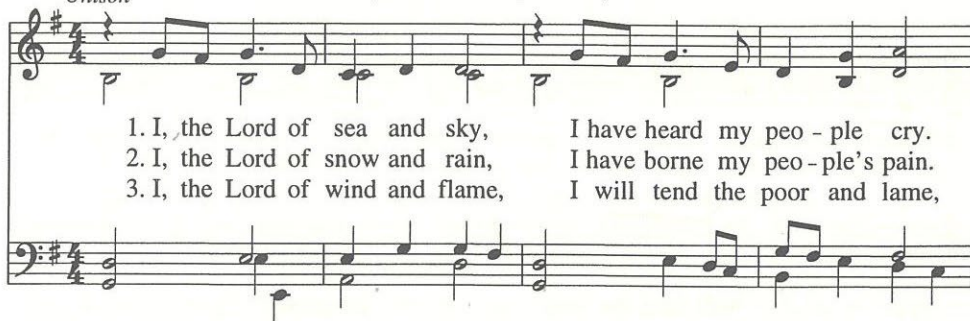
D.C.

S-8


I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

(Here I Am, Lord)

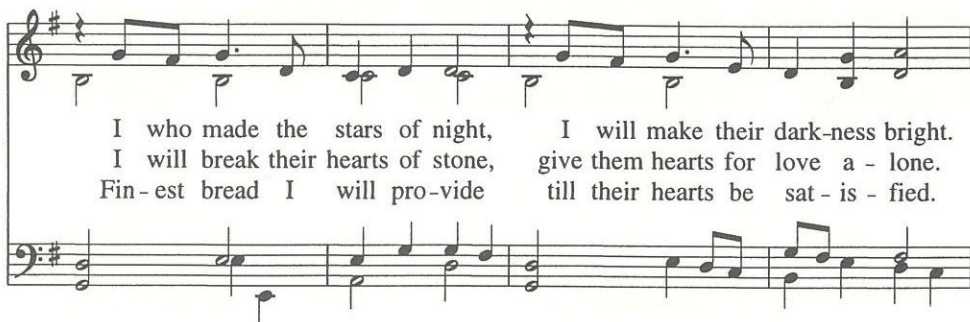
Unison



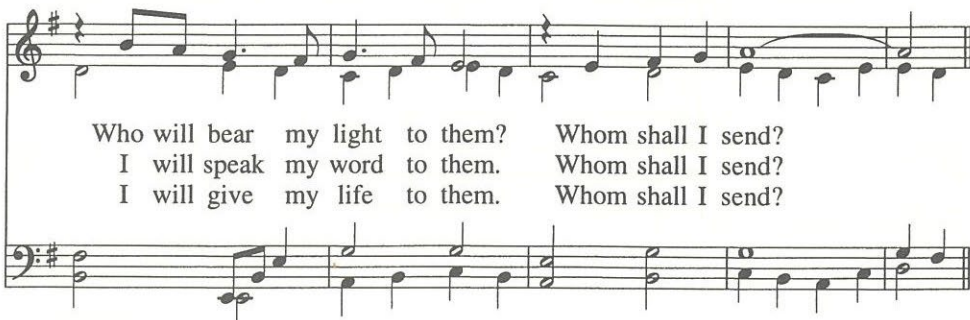
1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,



All who dwell in deep - est sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them, they turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.



I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin - est bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain (Harmony optional)



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, If you



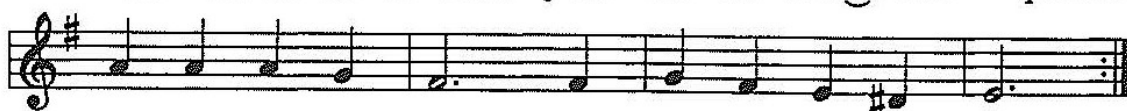
lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Sent Out in Jesus' Name

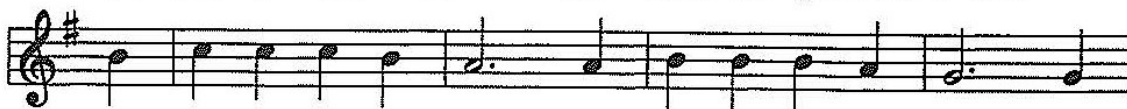
(Enviado Soy de Dios)



Sent out in Je-sus' name, our hands are rea-dy now to
En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá pa - ra



make the earth the place in which the king-dom comes.
cons - tru - ir con El un mun - do fra - ter - nal.



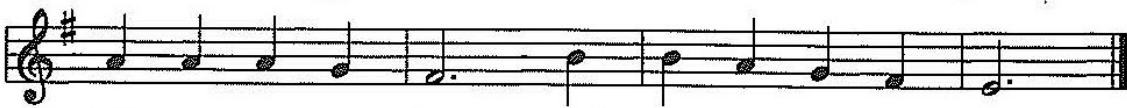
The an-gels can-not change a world of hurt and pain in -
Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar un



to a world of love, of jus-tice and of peace. The
mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do de paz. Me



task is ours to do, to set it real-ly free. O
ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad; a -



help us to o - bey and car - ry out your will.
yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.

WORDS: Anon.; trans. by Jorge Maldonado, alt.
MUSIC: Trad. Cuban; arr. by Carmen Peña

ENVIADO
12 12.12 12 D

Those serving you today:
Interim Minister: Rev. David Myers
Music Director/Organist: Joel Pierce
Reader: Deb Olson
Flowers: Ron Sanchez/Donated Flowers

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Habitat for Humanity 7 Rivers Maine will hold their annual “Spring Walk to Build” the afternoon of May 4th. We are a covenant partner, which means our congregation has agreed to support their work with both our prayers and our financial contributions. Our youth will be walking along with several adults. IF you are willing and able to write a check, please make it out to HFH7RM and bring it or mail it to church on May 4th. Or place it in the offering plate today! If you are interested in walking, please call Cindy Clement at 301 788 1838 to get registered.

Chair Yoga with Samantha, Wednesday, April 30 is **CANCELLED** this week.

Talent and Services Auction, date to still be determined.

Communion Sunday: We are now serving all gluten free (gf) elements during communion, and “the cup” contains grape juice.

NOTE: Liturgy for today’s worship is taken from *Flames of the Spirit: Resources for Worship*. Edited by Ruth C. Duck, The Pilgrim Press, New York, 1985

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

Coming Up:

Sunday, April 27:	Choir Practice, 8:10am Sunday Worship – 10:00am Outreach Team, Quarterly Meeting after Church Youth Group, 11:45
Monday, April 28:	Mah Jongg, 6:00 – 8:30pm
Tuesday, April 29:	Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00pm
Wednesday, April 30:	Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00pm Organ Society, 9:30am Feed Our Scholars(FOS), 11:00am Chair Yoga with Samantha, Cancelled
Thursday, May 1:	Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00pm Garden Club of Wiscasset, 11:30-2:00pm (End of Season Meeting)
Friday, May 2:	F.O.S. Paint Party 6-8pm @ St. Philip's (Limited Capacity)
Sunday, May 4:	NO Choir Practice Sunday Worship – 10:00am No Youth Group
Saturday, May 10:	Garden Club Wiscasset, Plant Sale, Town Hall

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 plate of offering. It will only be shared with the pastor.

Need a ride or Can you provide a ride?

If you need or would be willing to provide a ride to and from church on Sundays for those unable to drive themselves, please call Lisa Hargreaves at 207.315.0802.

Volunteer Opportunity at St. Philip's Church

St. Philip's is looking for volunteers to in the Bargain Basement thrift shop. Contact Sharman Ballantine at sharman1738@gmail.com or 207 481 1043 for more info.