

# *Second Sunday of Lent*

## *March 5, 2023*

10:00 A.M.



### **For Your Contemplation:**

“I don’t know who – or what – put the question. I don’t even know where it was put. I don’t even remember answering. But at some moment I did answer “YES!” to someone – or something – and from that hour I was certain that existence is meaningful and that, therefore, my life in self-surrender, had a goal. . . . Dag Hammarskjöld

Prelude *Nocturne in E minor* (Frederic Chopin)

Ringling of the Chime

Welcome and Informal Moments

Choral Introit *Jesus, Remember Me*

### **Invitation to Worship**

One: It is an awesome thing to stand in the presence of God, to call upon God’s Holy Name.

**Many: As far as the heavens are above the earth,  
God’s ways are above our ways.**

One: But we come with confidence.

**Many: Because in Christ we are called to be God’s people.**

One: Come let us worship.

**Many: Let us join in praise and prayer to our gracious God.**

\*Gathering Hymn *Holy, Holy, Holy* No. 10

*\*All who are able may stand.*

### **\*Unison Prayer of Invocation**

**Wise and powerful God, you have given us your light and truth to guide us through confusion, yet we have relied instead on our human wisdom and have lost our way. O compassionate God, you offer to share our burdens and give us strength, yet we trust in our own efforts and find ourselves exhausted. Bring us back into your presence, O God; overcome our separation from one**

**another and from you. By your word and spirit, fill us with the gifts that equip us to meet life's demands, that we may be your people in the world and live in the confidence and joy of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

## CHORAL ANTHEM

Scripture *John 3:1-17* Beth Whitney, Reader  
One: This is the Word of God.  
**Many: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: "Nicodemus and Me" Rev. David C. Myers

Text: "For God's own Son was sent into the world, not to condemn the world, but that through Him, the world might be saved." . . . John 3:17

\*Hymn *When We Are Living* No. 415

## 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.**

Prayer Response O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Choral Anthem *God So Loved the World* (John Stainer)

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory Music

\*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  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication and Doxology**

**Refreshed by living waters, renewed by living bread, may we, your sons and daughters, by your own hand be led.**

**Accept the gifts we offer; receive the lives we owe. Unite us in your service; may seeds of justice grow!**

**THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Invitation

Communion Prayer and Consecration

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

\*Closing Hymn

*You Are Called to Tell the Story*

No. 330

**\*Benediction**

**God sends us forth from the gathered church to be ambassadors for Christ.**

**God looks for anyone who will lift instead of lean, help instead of hinder.**

**Go to claim a corner of the world for God and may God's Spirit go with you and abide with you. Amen.**

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

*Holy Ground*

(arr. Tim Conyers)



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# 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.



**March 5, 2023**

## March 5, 2023

### **Those serving you today:**

*Reader:* Beth Whitney

*Ushers:* Sally Howe & Judith Sutter

*Flowers:* Jan & Steve Whitfield

### **Coming Up This Week:**

Sunday, March 5:	<b>Worship 10am</b> Summerfest meeting following worship No Youth Group
Monday, March 6:	Mah Jongg, 6:00pm – 8:30pm
Tuesday, March 7:	Sheepscot Valley Chorus, 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Wednesday, March 8:	Organ Society, 9:30am
Thursday, March 9:	Chimes practice, 3:00pm Choir practice, 4:00pm
Sunday, March 12:	<b>Worship 10am</b> Youth Group, 11:30am

*Minister:* Rev. David C. Myers

*Music Director and Organist:* Joel Pierce

*Sexton:* Mary McKinney

*Office Administrator:* Ted Gilbert

*First Congregational Church (UCC)*

*PO Box 350, 28 High Street*

*Wiscasset, ME 04578*

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

*Church Office Phone – 207-882-7544*

*Pastoral Care – 207-656-7080*

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

John 3:1-17

### **Nicodemus Visits Jesus**

<sup>3</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.’ <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’ <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?’ <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You must be born from above.” <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’ <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can these things be?’ <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, ‘Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> ‘Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> ‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.