

HOSANNA
in the
highest

First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

An Open and Affirming Church

Palm and Passion Sunday

April 13, 2025

10:00am

* Indicates to please stand as 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 Coffee in Fellowship Hall immediately following the worship service.

The First Congregational Church of Wiscasset is an Open and Affirming Church affiliated with the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ.

About Holy Week and Today's Palm/Passion Service:

Today is Palm Sunday and beyond that Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Cross. Before we get to the triumphant celebration that is Easter, we have to go through the cross. The cross was an instrument of the violence of the state, designed to humiliate its victims and reinforce the power of Rome. But through Christ's death and resurrection it instead became an instrument of God's grace that showed the humility and servanthood of Christ and displayed the power of God. The Kingdom of God turns our world upside-down. It changes the way we view the world, such that even an instrument of shame and violence can become a symbol of peace and glory.

Palm/Passion Sunday is a day of contrasts. In the first part we experience the joyous demonstration of loyalty to Jesus. Yet the shouts of "Hosanna!" are under a shadow cast by the crucifixion to come. The service embodies the sharp contrasts of the week to come, recognizing the contrasts within the entire Lenten Journey that culminates in the mystery of Christ's dying and rising. Thus, we encounter anew the ambiguity of our own participation in the triumphal entry and the passion of our Lord.

PRELUDE *The Palms* Jean-Baptiste Faure

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT *As the Deer*

PROCLAMATION OF THE ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM LUKE 19:28 – 40

* HYMN *All Glory, Laud and Honor* No. 178

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (UNISON)

God of infinite power, we praise You for Jesus, Who came riding into the city of Jerusalem on a lowly beast, victorious through love and not through violence. Help us to learn the meaning of power and glory through Christ, Who, though being one with You, took on the form of a servant and shared our human life and sufferings. May we truly participate in the life and struggles of the world's peoples, to our joy and Your glory! Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM *A Festival Hosanna* Douglas Nolan

PSALTER READING Psalm 118:1 – 1, 19 – 29

JOYS AND CONCERNS: After each Joy or Concern please respond:

Pastor: "Lord," Congregation: "Hear our Prayer"

MORNING PRAYER SILENT PRAYERS

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 *Hear Our Prayer, O God*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY *My Jesus, I Love Thee* William Featherston

**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 PASSION OF HOLY WEEK

EPISTLE LESSON

Philippians 2:5 – 11

Liturgist: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

* HYMN

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

No. 187

THE PASSION ACCORDING TO LUKE

LUKE 22:14 – 23:56

A READER'S THEATER

Thanks to those participating:

Readers: Narrator:

Rev. Myers

Jesus:

Becky Lenz

Peter:

Martha Speed

Servant Girl:

Angie Eddy

Voice 1:

Susan Zimmerman

Voice 2:

Dave Lenz

Pilate:

Dave Lenz

Criminal 1:

Martha Speed

Criminal 2:

Susan Zimmerman

Centurion:

Beth Maxwell

* MEDITATIVE HYMN

When Jesus Wept

No. 190

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

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

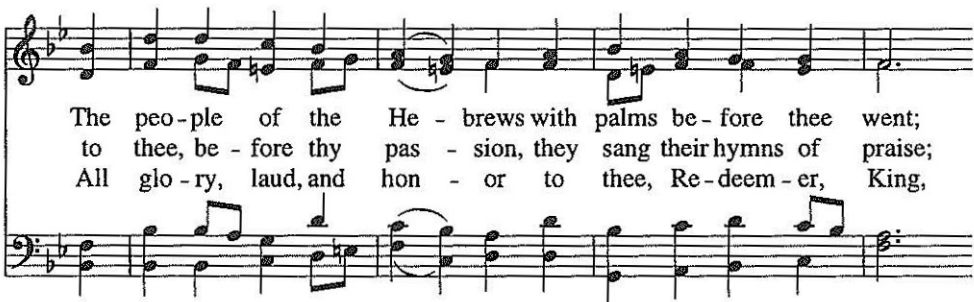
All Glory, Laud and Honor



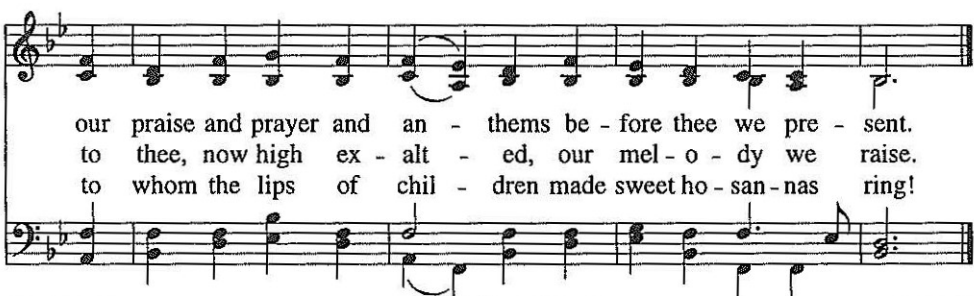
1. All glo - ry, laud and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King,
 2. Thou art the King of Is - rael, thou Da - vid's roy - al son,
 3. Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!
 who in the Lord's name com - est, the true and bless - ed One;
 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.



The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
 to thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King,



our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!

WORDS: Attr. Theodulph of Orleans, c. 321; tr. John M. Neale, 1854, alt.
 MUSIC: Melchior Teschner, 1615; arr. William Henry Monk, 1861

ST. THEODULPH
 76.76D

Psalm 118

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.

The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

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

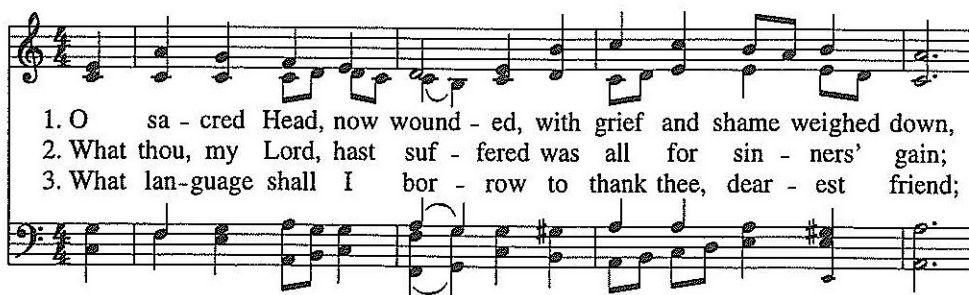
People: Thanks be to God.

Philippians 2:5 – 11

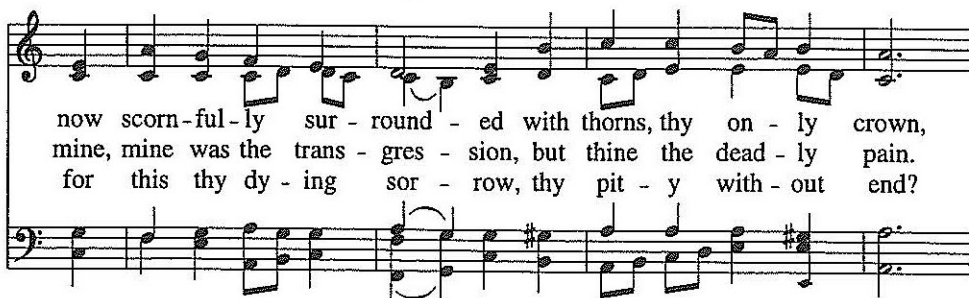
Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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

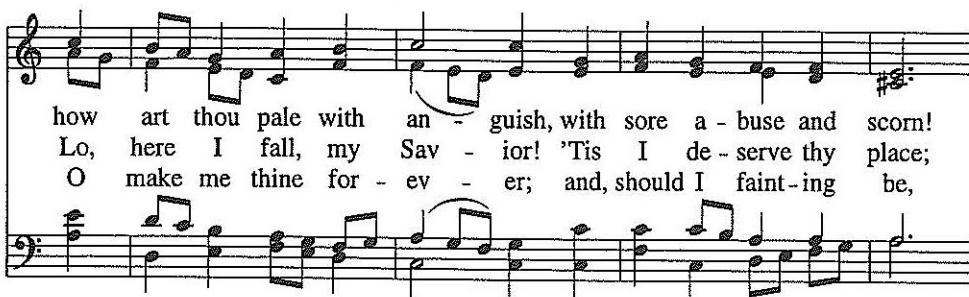
People: Thanks be to God.



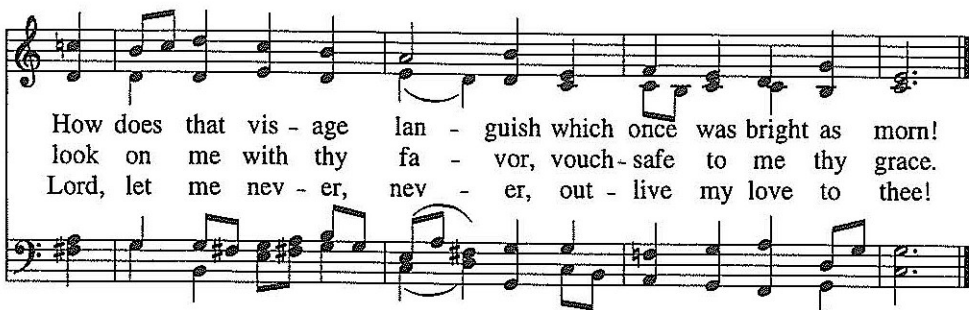
1. O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
 2. What thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered was all for sin - ners' gain;
 3. What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend;



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thy on - ly crown,
 mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?



how art thou pale with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn!
 Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve thy place;
 O make me thine for - ev - er; and, should I faint - ing be,



How does that vis - age lan - guish which once was bright as morn!
 look on me with thy fa - vor, vouch - safe to me thy grace.
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, out - live my love to thee!

WORDS: Medieval Latin, attr. Bernard of Clairvaux (12th century),
 German para. Paul Gerhardt, 1656; tr. James W. Alexander, 1830
 MUSIC: Hans Leo Hassler, 1601; harm. J. S. Bach, 1729

PASSION CHORALE
 76.76D

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!” Then they began to ask one another, which one of them it could be who would do this. A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. “You are those who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. “Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.” And he said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!” Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me.” He said to them, “When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?” They said, “No, not a thing.” He said to them, “But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, ‘And he was counted among the lawless’; and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled.” They said, “Lord, look, here are two swords.” He replied, “It is enough.”

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him, "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?" When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, "Lord, should we strike with the sword?" Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, "Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!"

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, "This man also was with him." But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!" At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and kept asking him, "Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?" They kept heaping many other insults on him. When day came, the assembly of the

elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us." He replied, "If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." All of them asked, "Are you, then, the Son of God?" He said to them, "You say that I am." Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!"

Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king." Then Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He answered, "You say so." Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no basis for an accusation against this man." But they were insistent and said, "He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place." When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him." Then they all shouted out together, "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!" (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him." But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and

their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us’; and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun’s light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, “Certainly this man was innocent.” And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his

acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

When Jesus Wept

190

May be sung as a round

The musical score is written on three staves in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is marked with four circled numbers (1, 2, 3, 4) indicating where the round begins. The lyrics are: "When Je - sus wept, the fall - ing tear in mer - cy flowed be - yond all bound; when Je - sus groaned, a trem - bling fear seized all the guilt - y world a - round."

WORDS and MUSIC: William Billings, 1770

WHEN JESUS WEPT
T.M.

Those serving you today:
Interim Minister: Rev. David Myers
Music Director/Organist: Joel Pierce
Ushers: Youth Group
Reader: Linda Wallace

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday Observance of Last Supper and Tenebrae Service.
St. Philip's Episcopal Church will join us for this traditional service that combines the elements of the Last Supper (Communion) that Jesus shared with His disciples and the Service of Tenebrae (increasing shadows) that takes us up to the burial of Jesus. During the Tenebrae service readers will recall the words of desertion and betrayal as the darkness grows. At the point of Jesus' death on the cross a loud Strepitous (noise) will be heard, symbolizing the moaning of the earth and "the curtain of the temple was split in two, from top to bottom." (Luke 23:45)

Good Friday Service at St. Philip's Episcopal 6:00 pm

A service of prayerful music and remembrance of Jesus death

You are invited to join the members of St. Philip's episcopal Church and members of our choir for a service that reflects the meaning of crucifixion of our Lord to our faith.

Easter Sunrise Service at the Town Wharf 6:00 am

Come and join us and St Philip's Episcopal Church as we celebrate The Resurrection! Sarah Whitfield will lead us in music on the flute and Rev. Myers will preach. The Message is "And So Are You!" based on Luke 24:1 – 10; 28-35.

Easter Service of the Resurrection 10:00 am

Our traditional Easter celebration of Resurrection in the Sanctuary! The choir will be singing, and the Message is "Please no Explanations Within the Church!"

Sunday, April 27, 2025

Special Worship Service 10:00am

Baptisms (2), Confirmation and the Reception of New Members

Coming Up:

Sunday, April 13:	Choir Practice, 8:10am. Palm Sunday Worship – 10:00am. Coffee & Fellowship following church in F.H. Meeting for those interested in joining the church, 11:20am. Youth Group, 11:45am. Sheepscot Valley Choir Concert, 3pm, in Damariscotta Lenten Bible Study and Pot-Luck Supper in Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm.
Monday, April 14:	Mah Jongg, 6:00pm – 8:30pm.
Tuesday, April 15:	Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00pm. Sheepscot Valley Chorus, 7:00pm.
Wednesday, April 16:	Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00pm. Organ Society, 9:30am. Feed Our Scholars(FOS), 11:00am. Chair Yoga with Samantha, 12:00pm(noon).
Thursday, April 17:	Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00pm. Maundy Thursday Observance of the Last Supper, 7pm
Friday, April 18:	Good Friday Service at St. Philip's Church, 6:00pm
Sunday, April 20:	Easter Sunrise Service at the Town Wharf 6:00 am Easter Service of the Resurrection 10:00 am

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.

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.*

Chair Yoga with Samantha Main



Class Details

- Day: Wednesdays
- Time: 12:00 PM

Overview

Chair Yoga with Samantha is a gentle form of yoga that is practiced sitting on a chair or standing using a chair for support. This class is perfect for those who want to enjoy the benefits of yoga but have limitations with traditional mat-based poses.

Benefits of Chair Yoga

- Improved Flexibility: Increases range of motion in joints.
- Enhanced Balance: Helps in maintaining balance and preventing falls.
- Stress Reduction: Promotes relaxation and mental clarity.
- Accessibility: Suitable for all ages and fitness levels, including those with mobility issues.

What to Expect


During the session, Samantha will guide you through a series of movements and breathing exercises designed to promote physical and mental well-being. Each class is structured to accommodate various abilities, ensuring everyone can participate comfortably.

How to Prepare

- Wear Comfortable Clothing: opt for something that allows free movement.
- Hydrate: Drink water before and after the session.
- Find Your Space: Choose a quiet, comfortable area with a sturdy chair.

Join Samantha for a rejuvenating experience that brings the benefits of yoga to everyone, right from the comfort of a chair!

***Sam is a Registered Yoga Teacher with over 200 hours and is a Personal Trainer.**



Director Linda Blanchard
Assistant Director Sean Fleming

Sheepscot Valley Chorus

Spring Concert

Featuring folk tunes through the centuries



Sumer is icumen in
The Agincourt Song
Barbara Allen
The Ash Grove
Wellerman and more

Bob Chilcott

A Little Jazz Mass
with jazz trio



David Myers-Wakeman, tenor

Music Award Winners

Jayden Brown of Lincoln Academy
Hannah Hills of Boothbay Region HS
Olivia Whittaker of Wiscasset MHS

Saturday, April 12, 3:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 13, 3:00 p.m.
Damariscotta Baptist Church

Tickets \$20 Students Free

Tickets available at Sherman's Book Stores in Boothbay Harbor and Damariscotta