



**Second Christian Church of Kittery - U.C.C**  
**February 25, 2024 - 10:00 AM**  
***The Second Sunday during Lent***

Welcome one and all! Whether you are gathering with us in-person or online,  
*Remember: No matter who you are, no matter who you love,  
no matter where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here!*

( \* You are invited to stand as you are able)

**WE GATHER**

<b>Gathering Music</b>	<i>Wayfaring Stranger</i>	Steel & Hulan
<b>Welcome &amp; Announcements</b>		Rev. Linda Hirst
<b>Centering Music</b>	<i>Just a Closer Walk with Thee</i>	Morris
<b>Call to Community †</b>		

One: Lent calls us to journey, this and every day, following Jesus wherever he leads us.

***Many: Lent calls us to journey: to the place where God covenants with us,  
to receive the new names we are given.***

Lent calls us to worship together, to tell future generations the good news.

***Lent calls us to practice justice, to bring God's hope to all people.***

Lent calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life.

***Lent calls each of us to take up our cross, to trust the One who bears it with us.***

Lent calls us to journey with God.

***Let us worship God, who walks with us, this and every day.***

\* Hymn (words on page 3)      ***God of Abraham and Sarah***      CONSTANTINE

\* Prayer of Transformation and New Life

***God of Sarah and Abraham, in this holy place, we know how weak is our discipleship.***

***We can spend hours at the computer, but only give you fleeting moments of our time.***

***We can talk endlessly on our cell phones, but fall silent***

***when it comes to sharing our fears, our worries, our hopes with you.***

***We seek quick fixes rather than trusting your vision and future for our lives.***

***Forgive our lack of trust, our faithless living, and for closing our ears to Jesus' call.***

***Forgive us, so we may lay aside all that keeps us from you,***

***and take up the life you offer to us, through Jesus Christ. Amen,***

\* Words of Grace

\* Gloria      Hirst/Effenberger

***Glory to you, creating One!***

***Glory to you, redeeming Son! Glory to you, O Spirit, come!***

***Meet us now, make us one! Glory to you, O God!***

Special Music

*Wade in the Water*

Spiritual

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

**A Prayer before the Scripture Reading**

(J Mary Luti)

***Make ancient words new, and lost hopes rise again,  
as you speak the promise to us this day,  
O Spirit of Truth, O Life-Giving Breath. Amen,***

**The Scripture**

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

**The Message**

*"The Creation of a Covenant"*

Rev. Jennifer Mazur

**WE RESPOND**

**We Share our Joys and Concerns**

**The Prayers of the People**

You are invited to write your name on the fabric in your bulletin, along with the names of anyone you are praying for in your life or in the world. Then bring your fabric forward and weave it through the lattice in the front of the sanctuary. Allow your fabric to weave around others, and as you do so, be reminded of the ways we are all connected in God's unfolding covenant with humanity, with the Body of Christ.

**The Prayer of Our Savior**

***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread,  
and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, and the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen,***

**Invitation to Offering**

**Special Music**

*House of Gold*

Williams

**\* Response (#204, v. 4 only)**

Hudson

***But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe:  
here, Lord, I give myself away, 'tis all that I can do!***

**\* Dedication of Gifts**

***Abundant God, receive these gifts and promises of love from your servants.  
Use them for the in-breaking of your Kingdom of love and light.  
In the name of Jesus, whose way calls us forth in covenant, we pray. Amen,***

**WE GO OUT**

**\* Closing Hymn #458**

*Ours the Journey*

OURS THE JOURNEY

**\* A Blessing**

**Music for Going Out**

*Angel Band*

Bradbury

Welcome to worship!

You have been greeted this morning by Adam and Cassie Baran.  
Our Ushers are Charlie and Nadine Donnell, and our Liturgist is Linda Wentworth.

We extend an especially warm welcome today to the members and friends of North Church in Portsmouth, and their Pastor, the Rev. Jennifer Mazur. We are blessed by their presence here this morning while the furnace that warms their beautiful sanctuary is being replaced. Pastor Brad deeply regrets needing to be out of town today, but is very grateful that the Rev. Linda Hirst could be here to share worship leadership this morning!

We are also excited to welcome Celia Woodsmith to worship this morning! Celia is a GRAMMY Nominated performer, vocalist, percussionist, and songwriter. With a style that can be described as "one of a kind: gritty, muscular, folksy and intimate, sometimes all at once" (*Bluegrass Situation*), she has been a fixture of the New England Roots Music scene since 2005. She currently lives here in Kittery with her husband and dog. Amidst touring full-time, Celia teaches songwriting, singing, stagecraft and guitar.

Following worship, please join us downstairs for a time of refreshment and fellowship!

### **Our Week Ahead:**

#### **Monday, February 26:**

6:00pm Seacoast Gay Men

#### **Wednesday, February 28:**

10:00am AA

6:30pm Choir Rehearsal

#### **Thursday, February 29:**

2:00pm Prayer Time - *via Zoom*

#### **Friday, March 1:**

9:00am Breakfast with Brad at *Kasha's Kitchen*

#### **Sunday, March 3:**

***Worship with Holy Communion***

*for the Third Sunday during Lent*

*We'll welcome back the members and friends of North Church, Portsmouth!*

### ***Second Christian Church of Kittery - UCC***

***An Open and Affirming Congregation***

***33 Government St., Kittery, ME 03904***

***207-439-3903 church@2ccucc.org***

Rev. Brad Hirst, Pastor • Mike Effenberger, Music Director • Charles Donnell, Treasurer

***Welcoming... Learning... Going Out...***

## God of Abraham and Sarah

*God of Abraham and Sarah,  
God of Moses Miriam's guide;  
God of David and the prophets,  
God in Jesus glorified;  
Up from the dust you raise a people,  
breathe in the breath of life, of soul;  
Down through the years the people praise  
you till alleluias make them whole!*

*God who dances in creation,  
spinning stars above our heads;  
God whose face is scribed in music,  
by whose hand the earth is fed:  
Up from the ground you raise the  
mountains, raise our spirits, lift our eyes;  
Down through the years  
your people praise you  
till alleluias flood the skies!*

*God who loves the poor in spirit,  
God who comforts those who mourn;  
Balm for wounds, the friend of sinners,  
taking the side of earth's forlorn:  
Up from the depths you raise your people,  
giving them courage for the day;  
Down through the years the people praise  
you till alleluias light their way!*

*In our lives from birth to dying,  
depth of sorrow, height of joy;  
Praising God in every season,  
let every key our hearts employ.  
Praise is the healing, praise, the glory,  
praise is the final mystery;  
Down through the years  
let people praise you  
till alleluias set them free!*

CONSTANTINE  
WORDS and MUSIC: James Gertmenian, 1986  
Harm. Ronald Huntington, 1986; alt.  
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## Ours the Journey

*In the midst of new dimensions,  
in the face of changing ways,  
who will lead the pilgrim peoples  
wandering their sep'rate ways?*

**Refrain:**

*God of rainbow, fiery pillar,  
leading where the eagles soar,  
we your people, ours the journey  
now and ever more.*

*Through the flood of starving peoples,  
warring factions and despair,  
who will lift the olive branches?  
Who will light the flame of care?  
[Refrain]*

*Though we reach the highest heavens,  
holding worlds at our command,  
we are yet a desert people  
searching for the promised land.  
[Refrain]*

*Should the threats of dire predictions  
cause us to withdraw in pain,  
may your blazing phoenix spirit  
resurrect the church again.  
[Refrain]*

OURS THE JOURNEY  
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