



Second Christian Church of Kittery - U.C.C
April 14, 2024 - 10:00 AM
Worship for the Fourth Sunday of Easter
Second Sunday Jazz

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

Gathering Music

I Love You

Cole Porter, *arr.* Herbie Mann

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Music

Call to Community †

One: One: In a world uprooted at every turn, come, beloved of God, for replanting.

***Many: Our hope and weariness are mixed together,
yet we come, trusting ancient promises.***

The Holy One who led the people out of Egypt, yearns to lead us, too.

***God will not rest until all Creation is rerooted, restored,
and renewed for rejoicing.***

Let us be joined to God's song of justice, bearing beauty into the life of the world.

May our lives be formed for faithfulness by the One who is always faithful.

* Hymn #434

Restless Weaver

BEACH SPRING

* Our Gathering Prayer

Loving God, in your infinite wisdom, we are glad that you make all things new.

Where there is hate, show your love. Where there is war, bring your peace.

Where there is despair, bring your hope. Where there is fear, bring your understanding.

Where there is scarcity, bring your abundance.

Where there is systemic oppression, bring equal justice for all.

By your perfect grace and mercy, renew us for the path forward. Amen,

* 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

Memphis Underground

Herbie Mann

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WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

A Prayer before the Scripture Reading

(J Mary Luti)

At your word, God of Life, the earth grows green and every creature springs to life!

Re-create us too, we pray, by your holy Word.

*As we receive the ancient Good News, give us the new joy and justice of Easter -
all death destroyed, all captives freed! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen,*

The Scripture *Living Psalm 31:9-16, Matthew 22:34-40*

A Musical Interpretation

The Message

"Eclipses and Ellipsis"

Rev. Dr. Allen Ewing-Merrill

WE RESPOND

We Share our Joys and Concerns

The Prayers of the People

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

Moon Dreams

Johnny Mercer, arr. Herbie Mann

* Response (#317 in hymnal)

Amen

African-American

* Dedication of Gifts

With what you see before us, O God, we demonstrate our deepest devotion.

Receive our gifts and promises – our very best – as sweet offerings before you.

May they be the blessing to others that they have been for us. Amen,

WE GO OUT

* Closing Hymn

Now the Peace of Easter

NOËL NOUVELET

* A Blessing

Music for Going Out

Sudan

Herbie Mann

Welcome to worship! You have been greeted this morning by Tom and Linda Baran.

Our Ushers are Rob and Diane McDonough.

Today we are happy to welcome the Rev. Dr. Allen Ewing-Merrill to our pulpit. Allen is the Executive Director of The BTS Center, which has roots dating back to 1814. The BTS Center seeks to build on the legacy of the former *Bangor Theological Seminary* by offering theologically grounded programs of continuing education and spiritual formation aligning with their vision of *human hearts renewed, justice established, and creation restored*. Please greet Allen downstairs following worship for some continuing conversation.

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...

We are delighted to welcome back our Second Sunday Jazz Trio, with our own Mike Effenberger on piano, Jim Rudolf on drums, and Rob Gerry on bass. Today they will be sharing some selections from the songbook of American flutist Herbie Mann.

The Week Ahead:

Monday, April 15:

6:00pm Seacoast Gay Men

Tuesday, April 16:

4:00pm As the Page Turns...

Wednesday, April 17:

10:00am AA

6:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 18:

2:00pm Prayer Time - *via Zoom*

3:00pm Table of Plenty

Our Team serves at St. Raphael's Church

Friday, April 19:

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

Sunday, April 21:

10:00am *Worship for the Fourth Sunday of Easter*

11:20am Prospective New Members Gathering

Our Mission Statement

Second Christian Congregational

United Church of Christ

***is a God-centered, Christ-formed, Spirit-led,
Open and Affirming gathering of God's People.***

It is our mission:

To welcome all people into our community of faith,

To learn together the cost and joy of discipleship, and

To go out into the world to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ,

Restless Weaver

*Restless Weaver, ever spinning
threads of justice and shalom;
dreaming patterns of creation
where all creatures find a home;
gathering up life's varied fibers –
every texture, every hue;
grant us your creative vision.
With us weave your world anew.*

*Where earth's fragile web is raveling
help us mend each broken strand.
Bless our urgent, bold endeavors
cleansing water, air and land.
Through the Spirit's inspiration –
offering health where once was pain –
strengthen us to be the stewards
of your world knit whole again.*

*When our violent lust for power
ends in lives abused and torn,
from compassion's sturdy fabric
fashion hope and trust reborn.
Where injustice rules as tyrant,
give us courage, God to dare
live our dreams of transformation.
Make our lives incarnate prayer.*

*Restless Weaver, still conceiving
new life – now and yet to be –
binding all your vast creation
in one living tapestry:
you have called us to be weavers.
Let your love guide all we do.
With your reign of Peace our pattern,
we will weave your world anew.*

Now the Peace of Easter

*Now our words are spoken,
now our trust is born.
Energies are rising –
we prepare to learn.
We pass our peace
and share our neighbors' need
and the holy Gardener
gives us shoot and seed.*

*Green comes up in churches –
care for earth and air,
stewardship of resource –
renewal and repair.
Damage is done that
makes creation weep –
Easter opens graves of
all that is buried deep.*

*Now the peace of Easter
rests on each one here,
rising like the morning,
falling like the tear.
Raised from the dead –
Christ love for us is seen –
Easter comes again
like wheat arising green.*

NOËL NOUVELET

WORDS: Maren Tirabassi, 2017

MUSIC: French carol

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BEACH SPRING

WORDS: O.I. Cricket Harrison, 1988, rev. 1993

MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White, 1844; Harm Ronald A. Nelson 1988

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