



Second Christian Church of Kittery - U.C.C

July 7, 2024 - 10:00 AM

Worship with Holy Communion for The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

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

Ordo Virtutum (excerpt)

Hildegard of Bingen

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Music

O Thou that Tellest Good Tidings to Zion

G. F. Handel

Call to Community †

(Inspired by Psalm 48)

One: Great is the Holy One who sits sovereign and near!

***Many: The earth rejoices on the holy mountain;
the heights and depths reveal God's love.***

We gather, we observe, we recognize; we ponder the wonders of Creator's majesty!

God's name, like our praise, reaches to the ends of the earth.

The mighty deeds of power astound and amaze.

We remember and recount from generation to generation!

*** Hymn #85**

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

MELITA

*** Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

Gracious and Loving God, have mercy on us.

We confess our own forms of rebellion and stubbornness.

We seek our own way and fail to wait for your counsel, wisdom, and insight.

We hold fast to hopes and dreams that do not include your kingdom or our neighbors.

We choose comfort over holy confrontation,

doctrine over faithful discipleship, and position over spiritual power.

Awaken in us today an unquenchable hunger and thirst for righteousness. 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

Prayer of Light

Daniel Roihl

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

A Prayer before the Scripture Reading

(J Mary Luti)

*Spirit of the Living God, turn on the light of truth
and wake up our hearts by the Word we now declare and ponder.
In ancient pages let us find fresh life, fresh hope, and fresh courage
for witness in your world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen,*

The Scripture

Ezekiel 2:1-5, Mark 6:1-13

The Message

"Welcoming, Learning, Going Out"

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

On Eagle's Wings

Michael Joncas

(All are invited to sing the choruses, after the first)

*And I will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of my hand.*

* Response (#379 in hymnal)

ELLACOMBE

*Accept, O God, the gifts we bring of spirit and of clay,
transform them into blessings on those we serve today.
Rekindle deep within us all a passion to fulfill
the ministry disciples have, empower'd to do your will.*

* Dedication of Gifts

*Creator, all we have emanates from you and your creation.
Receive these gifts we give with thanksgiving and hope
for a shared future without lack, disparities, and unmet needs. Amen,*

WE GATHER AT THE TABLE

The Sacrament of Holy Communion [‡]

Invitation

We Remember

*(You will be invited to come forward to receive a communion packet
and then return to your pew where we will commune together)*

We Bless the Gifts

Send, O God, your Holy Spirit on this offering of loaf and cup, and on us.

Inspire the imagination of your Church,

that we may grow a kingdom of peace and justice in this world.

Restore the earth with your bounty, and a peace that is able to make all things new.

Be present to us as we share this meal and th

rough all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One,

who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen,

We Share the Elements

One: The bread on this table and in our hands is blessed and broken.

Many: Sharing love, we will never be hungry.

The cup on this table is blessed and shared like the overflowing of tears and joy.

Drinking deeply, we will never thirst.

We Give Thanks

***Holy One, we come to you with our faith and our imagination,
and thank you for the promise and reassurance of this Communion.***

May we be nourished here to serve faithfully

those whose journeys you call us to hear and share.

May ours be a house of prayer and service in the world

and may we hear your words of guidance every day and every night.

We pray through the One who walks beside us,

and leads us always to you. Amen,

WE GO OUT

*** Hymn #722**

This Is My Song

FINLANDIA

*** A Blessing**

Music for Going Out

Hold to God's Unchanging Hand

Jennie Wilson

(All are invited to sing the choruses, after the first)

Hold to his hand, God's unchanging hand (x2)

Build your hopes on things eternal. Hold to God's unchanging hand.

[†] Liturgy is adapted for our use UCC WORship Ways © 2024. Permission granted.

[‡] Adapted for our use from J Mary Luti and Maren Tirabassi.

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Welcome to worship!

You have been greeted this morning by Adam and Cassie Baran.

Our Ushers are Priscilla and Orville deRochemont, and our Liturgist is Kathy Maloney.

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Daniel Roihl to our worship this morning. Please see the insert for his bio and additional information on the pieces he is sharing today.

Please join us downstairs following worship for a time of refreshment and fellowship!

Next Sunday, July 14, we will be worshipping at Fort Foster!

The gates open at 10:00. Worship will begin around 10:30.

We'll have special music from Mike and *Old Hat String Band*, and a *PotLuck Picnic!*

We'll grill up the burgers and hot dogs, provide the beverages and utensils,
and invite you to bring a favorite side dish, salad, or dessert to share.

Sign up on the sheet in the Vestry and we'll cover your \$20 gate fee (if you don't have a sticker)

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...

The Week Ahead:

Monday, July 8:

6:00pm Seacoast Gay Men

Wednesday, July 10:

10:00am AA

Thursday, July 11:

2:00pm Prayer Time - *In Person!*

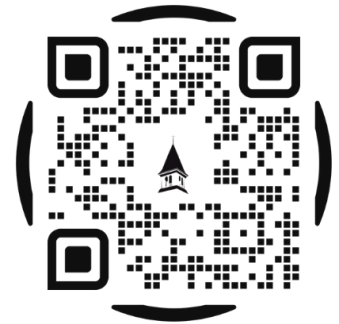
Friday, July 12:

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

Sunday, July 14: *Worship at Fort Foster*

Gates open at 10:00am

Special music begins around 10:30



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,

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

*Eternal Father, strong to save,
whose arm has bound the restless wave,
who bid the mighty ocean deep
its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.*

*O Savior, whose almighty word
the winds and waves submissive heard,
who walked upon the foaming deep,
and calm amid its rage didst sleep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.*

*O Holy Spirit, who did brood
upon the chaos wild and rude,
and bid its angry tumult cease,
and gave, for fierce confusion, peace:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.*

*O Trinity of love and power,
all travelers guard in danger's hour;
from rock and tempest, fire and foe,
protect them whereso'er they go:
thus evermore shall rise to thee
glad praise from air and land and sea.*

MELITA

WORDS: William Whiting, 1860, alt.

MUSIC: John B. Dykes, 1861

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This Is My Song

*This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.*

*This is my home,
the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams,
my holy shrine;*

*but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams
as true and high as mine.*

*My country's skies are bluer
than the ocean,
and sunlight beams
on cloverleaf and pine;
but other lands
have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.*

*O hear my song,
thou God of all the nations,
a song of peace
for their land and for mine.*

*This is my prayer, O Ruler of all nations:
let thy reign come;
on earth thy will be done.
In peace may all
earth's people draw together,
and hearts united learn to live as one.*

*O hear my prayer,
thou God of all the nations;
myself I give thee; let thy will be done.*

FINLANDIA

WORDS: St. 1, 2, Lloyd Stone, 1934;

st. 3, Georgia Harkness, c.1939, alt.

St. 1, 2 © 1934,1962 Lorenz Publishing Co.;

MUSIC: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. *The Hymnal*, 1933

arr. © 1933, renewed 1961, Presbyterian Bd. of Christian Ed.

ABOUT THIS MORNING'S MUSIC

Ordo Virtutum (excerpt)

Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

SOUL: Ah, a burning sweetness swallowed me up in sin, and I dared not enter.

VIRTUES: Fear not, nor flee, for the good Shepherd seeks his lost sheep in you.

SOUL: Now I need your help to gather me in, for I stink of the wounds
wherein the ancient serpent infected me.

VIRTUES: Run to us; follow the steps whereby you cannot falter in our company, and God will heal you.

“O Thou that Tellest Good Tidings to Zion” from *Messiah*

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Prayer of Light

Daniel Roehl (b. 1975)

On Eagle's Wings

Michael Joncas (b. 1951)

All are invited to join in singing the choruses (after the first):

***And I will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of my hand.***

Hold to God's Unchanging Hand

Jennie Wilson (1856-1913)

All are invited to join in singing the choruses (after the first):

***Hold to His hand, God's unchanging hand (x2)
Build your hopes on things eternal. Hold to God's unchanging hand.***

MUSIC NOTES

In this turbulent, inconstant world, we each struggle now and then with doubt, darkness, and despair, often in unique and deeply personal ways. Today's music, while spanning many styles and centuries, centers on the idea that God's love shines even in the darkest places, when all hope seems lost. Having faith in God's love means choosing to believe that, however bad things may seem, our story—yours, mine, all of ours—is ultimately a good one.

The music drama *Ordo Virtutum*, by the 12th-century mystic Hildegard of Bingen, is essentially an early morality play, portraying a Soul's struggle between virtue and vice. This excerpt reminds us that even the most egregious sin cannot separate us from God's love—that each of us is enough, and perfect just as we are.

“O Thou that tellest good tidings to Zion” from *Messiah* embodies the very essence of the Gospel (i.e. “good-spell” or glad news). Isaiah's words foretell God's presence among us—not for judgment or vengeance, but as a shepherd, a comforter, and a teacher of love. The light of that presence shines not merely on us, but through us, bidding us in turn to shout the good news from the mountaintop.

“Prayer of Light” further develops that same metaphor, taking a 19th-century hymn text by Henry Francis Lyte as a point of departure. Here, love's light is also a beacon, showing us a path out of darkness before ultimately kindling a divine flame in our own heart.

The verses of “On Eagle's Wings”, adapted from Psalm 91, portray God as a benevolent, watchful protector. Its powerful assurances render faith an almost trivial concept—but like love, faith is less a state of mind than a conscious action. Unlike belief, which rests on justification, faith relies on practice, which (as any musician knows) involves plenty of mistakes, and carrying on despite never quite getting it perfect. The song's chorus promises as faith's reward nothing less than transformation, rendering us once again sources, and not mere recipients, of divine light.

If suffering is one side of the coin of doubt, then the other is transience. We've each been granted a ticket for a short ride through this universe of miracles. As I stumble toward the half-century mark of my own faith journey, the genuine gratitude I feel is tinged with a profound and growing awareness that each blessing I count is ephemeral. “Hold to God's Unchanging Hand” reminds us that, of all the countless wonders vying for our attention, only one is constant—even if our understanding of it is not. It invites us to regard the world, as much and as often as we possibly can, through the lens of that one unwavering (if unfathomable) source of truth: God's love.

-Dan Roihl

ABOUT OUR GUEST ARTIST

Dr. Daniel Roihl has spent most of his life sharing his infectious passion for the musical arts with audiences, students, and collaborators of all ages and experience levels. As a conductor and clinician, he has led choral and instrumental ensembles in community, church, and scholastic settings throughout New England and Southern California, most recently as past Director of the Granite State and Nashua Choral Societies in New Hampshire. While serving on the faculties of Scripps College, Deerfield Academy, USC, and World Mission University, he has taught courses in conducting, choral literature, and music theory. As a composer and arranger, he has fulfilled commissions for Boston's Youth Pro Musica, the Royal School of Church Musicians, several churches, and the installation of a past Harvard President. As a singer (primarily countertenor), he has been featured in several operas, at early music festivals in Bloomington and Corona del Mar, and on soundtracks for the 2007 film *I Am Legend* and the 2016 video game *Final Fantasy XV*. Despite an active solo career, however, his first musical love remains ensemble (choral) performance. Roihl holds degrees in choral music from Harvard (B.A.), Yale (M.M.), and the University of Southern California (D.M.A.) Currently he works full-time as the Cybersecurity Program Coordinator for a multinational tax software company. When not making music (or battling cybercrime) he enjoys rollerblading, hiking the White Mountains with his wife Becky, and spending time with his two young children.