



**Second Christian Church of Kittery - U.C.C.**  
***Worship with Holy Communion***  
***for the First Sunday during Lent***  
**Maine School of Ministry - MESOM - Sunday**  
**February 22, 2026 - 10:00 AM**

*Welcome one and all!*

*Remember: No matter who you are, no matter who you love,  
no matter where you are on life's journey, you're always welcome here!*

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

**WE GATHER**

**Gathering Music**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Centering Music**

**Call to Community †**

One: Then the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness.

***Many: Come, beloved, into the wilderness of our heartbreaking and troubled days.***

In the midst of our hunger for comfort, provoked by lies of scarcity,

***this Lent journey promises bread and abundance.***

In the midst of our longing for safety, enticed by promises of security,

***this Lent journey promises angels and costly solidarity.***

In the midst of our clinging to power, lured by the ease of complicity,

***this Lent journey promises prayer and turning around.***

The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness.

***Come, beloved, to worship, venturing deeper and deeper***

***into the wilderness of our broken and beautiful world.***

**\* Hymn #180**

***Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days***

ST. FLAVIAN

**\* Prayer for Transformation and New Life †**

***For the ways our faith has told un-Christian stories of Christian nationalism,  
and the ways they shape us, God, have mercy.***

***For the ways our scriptures have told unjust stories of white supremacy,  
and the ways we perpetuate them, Christ, have mercy.***

***For the ways our traditions have told unloving stories of transphobia and stranger-fear,  
and the ways we have embodied them, God, have mercy.***

***Compel us to learn and tell the truths of our Christian lineages.***

***Turn us around, Holy One. Amen,***

**\* Words of Assurance**

\* Response

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

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

A Prayer before the Scripture Reading

*Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth.  
Make us hungry for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen,*

The Scripture

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7, Matthew 4:1-11

The Message

*"No Easy Way"*

Mark Fecteau

**WE RESPOND**

The Sharing of 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 Generosity

Special Music

\* 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 †

*Good God, may these good offerings be used to get us into good trouble  
for the liberation of us all your people. Amen,*

**WE GATHER AT THE TABLE**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving ‡

Let us pray: God be with you. *And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts. *We lift them up to God.*

Let us give thanks to God Most High. *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

It is right and a good and glorious thing, always and every way to give you thanks...

...We too declare your wonder and grace as with angels and saints we sing:

**Sanctus**

(Marti McMane)

***Holy, holy, holy God ruler almighty;  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Glory be to you, O God.  
Blessed is the One who comes, who comes in the name of God.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!***

*[We invite you to come forward to receive your packet of "loaf and cup."  
When we return to our seats, we will commune together.]*

**The Words of Institution**

**We Bless the Elements**

***Holy Spirit, come! Make all things new.  
Bless this bread which you have given and human hands have made.  
Let it become for us the bread of life.  
Bless also this cup, fruit of the vine and work of human hands.  
Let it become for us the cup of salvation.  
Bless us also who eat and drink, that in this sharing we may know the living Christ  
who is with us now, and to the end of the age.  
Nourish us by these gifts to be willing servants of your world until the new age comes,  
and every creature beholds it. Amen,***

**We Share the Elements**

**We Give Thanks**

***Thank you, merciful God, for gladness in this bread and cup,  
for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give,  
for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation,  
and for the mission of justice you have made our own.  
Give us the gifts of this holy communion —  
oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies,  
the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen,***

### **WE GO OUT**

**\* Hymn #211**

***Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley***

LONESOME VALLEY

**\* A Blessing**

**\* Response (#445 - words on insert)**

***Go In Peace***

OCEAN PARK

**Music for Going Out**

† Some of this morning's liturgy is adapted for our use from *UCC Worship Ways* © 2026. Permission granted.

‡ This morning's Communion Prayer was written by Mary Luti, 2013

**Welcome to Worship!**

You have been greeted this morning by Laurie Rowan and Linda Wentworth.

Our Ushers are Kathryn and Rob Varney, and Tom Baran is our Liturgist.

We are grateful to Alan Robinson for filling-in so ably for Mike as he enjoys a well-earned Sunday off, and to Mark Fecteau for bringing the Word on this **Maine School for Ministry Sunday!**

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

**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:**

**TODAY -- Sunday, February 22 After Worship:  
Church Council Meeting – ALL are welcome!**

**Monday, February 23:**

6:00pm Seacoast Gay Men

**Wednesday, February 25:**

10:00am AA

1:00pm Prayer Time via Zoom

**NO Choir Rehearsal this week!**

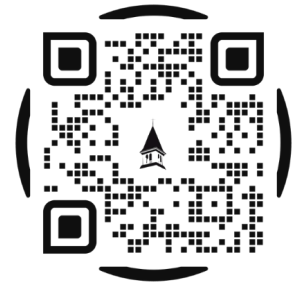
**Friday, February 27:**

5:30pm **Dinner** with Brad at *Kasha's Kitchen*  
*Reservations required! See Brad for details*

**Sunday, March 1:**

10:00am **Worship for the Second Sunday during Lent**

3:00pm **Civil Rights Sunday** - Market Square, Portsmouth  
Maybe *this* could be your Lenten discipline...



**Footprints Food Pantry Donations**

Throughout the month of **February** we'll be collecting **DIAPERS** of all types and sizes.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Next month we're collecting **READY-TO-EAT MEALS!**

## Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

*Lord, who throughout these forty days  
for us did fast and pray,  
teach us with you to mourn our sins  
and close by you to stay.*

*As you with Satan did contend,  
and did the victory win,  
O give us strength in you to fight,  
in you to conquer sin.*

*And thro' these days of penitence,  
and thro' your passiontide,  
forevermore, in life and death,  
O Christ, with us abide.*

*Abide with us, that through this life  
of doubts and hope and pain,  
an Easter of unending joy  
we may at last attain!*

ST. FLAVIAN

WORDS: Claudia Hernaman, 1873, alt.

MUSIC: Adapt. from John day's *English Psalter*, 1652

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## Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

*Jesus walked this lonesome valley,  
he had to walk it by himself;  
O, nobody else could walk it for him,  
he had to walk it by himself.*

*We must walk this lonesome valley,  
we have to walk it by ourselves;  
O, nobody else can walk it for us,  
we have to walk it by ourselves.*

*You must go and stand your trial,  
you have to stand it by yourself,  
O, nobody else can stand it for you,  
you have to stand it by yourself.*

LONESOME VALLEY

WORDS and MUSIC: American Spiritual

Music arr. Bill Thomas, 1994

Arr. © 1995 Chalice Press

## Go In Peace

*Go in peace and the peace of God,  
be with you this day.*

*Go in peace and the peace of God,  
be with you always.*

*Celebrate and share the joy,  
celebrate new life!*

*Go in peace and the peace of God,  
be with you always.*

OCEAN PARK

WORDS: Barber L. Waters, 1982

MUSIC: Kenneth E. White, 1982

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***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,***