



## Second Christian Church of Kittery - U.C.C.

**Easter Sunday**

**April 5, 2026 - 10:00 AM**

Welcome one and all! Whether you are gathering with us on-site or on-line,

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

*\*Indicates that you are invited to stand as you are able.*

### WE GATHER

#### Gathering Music

*3 Short Pieces for Trumpet and Piano*  
Maddoc Johnson and Mike Effenberger

Elaine Fine

#### Welcome & Announcements

#### Centering Music

*Easter Fanfare*  
The Second Christian Choir

Douglas E. Wagner

#### Call to Community †

(inspired by Psalm 118)

One: O give thanks to the Holy One, for God is good;  
God's love abides, endures, and prevails forever!

***Many: Alleluia! The resurrection life comes to us. Christ is risen!***

In distress, I call. In grief, I cry. In despair, I come.

The Holy One answers. The Holy One comforts. The Holy One comes.

***Alleluia! The resurrection life comes to us. Christ is risen!***

God, my refuge and confidence, surrounds me with strength and victory! Exalt God's holy name!

***Alleluia! The resurrection life comes to us. Christ is risen!***

#### \* Hymn #215

***Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain***

ST. KEVIN

#### \* Gathering Prayer †

***Holy One, just as they came to the tomb to honor you early on that first Easter morning,  
we gather to praise you on this day.***

***May our alleluias resound in adoration and shared joy that you are risen  
and that today we share with all creation in the promise of new life.***

***May we encounter your glory in this assembled community  
as we follow you from the empty tomb into all the possibilities that await. 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!***

#### Anthem

*Now the Green Blade Riseth*  
The Second Christian Choir

Kevin McChesney

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

**A Prayer Before Reading Scripture**

*God of empty tombs, God of resurrected life,  
through these words speak to our hearts and minds this Easter morning.  
Remind us again, who you are. Teach us again, your love everlasting.  
Transform our hearts, minds and lives through your wisdom and grace. Amen,*

**The Scripture**

Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10

**The Message**

*"Do Not Be Afraid!"*

**WE RESPOND**

**We Share our Joys and Concerns**

**The Prayers of the People**

**The Prayer of Our Savior**

*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,*

**We Offer of Ourselves**

**Special Music**

*Somebody Bigger than You or I*

Lange, Heath, and Burke

**\* Response <sup>†</sup>**

OLD HUNDREDT

*O morning of our hearts we sing; our endless alleluias ring!  
Amid the shadows of our gloom - new hope, new life, an empty tomb!*

**\* Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication <sup>†</sup>**

*Holy Love, receive these gifts as seeds given in thanksgiving for your generosity.  
Let us rejoice in giving just as the sun dances in its power.  
Help us to nourish these offerings to meet the needs of our community  
and to witness to your goodness.  
We dedicate them to the flourishing of your kingdom. Alleluia! Amen,*

**WE GO OUT**

**\* Closing Hymn #234**

*Crown Him with Many Crowns*

DIADEMATA

**\* Benediction**

**Music for Going Out**

*Angel Band*

William Bradbury

<sup>†</sup> Portions of this morning's liturgy are adapted from UCC Worship Ways. © 2026. Used with permission.

<sup>‡</sup> by Mary Luti, from *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*, © 2024 The United Church of Christ.

## ***Welcome one and all!***

You have been greeted today by Janet Topolewski and Donald Tirabassi.  
Our Ushers this morning are Priscilla and Orville deRochemont and Sylvia Sutton.  
Mark Fecteau is our Liturgist.

If you are a guest of ours today, whether in our pews or online, we extend a special welcome!  
We hope this morning's worship service has helped you to hear the promise of the Resurrection for  
your life. If you do not have a church you attend regularly, we hope you will accept our invitation  
to worship with us again - and consider making Second Christian your church home.  
Be our guest for *Second Sunday Jazz* on the second Sunday of every month - *next Sunday* - when our  
jazz quartet brings a different kind of spirit to our worship!

Today we extend a special welcome to Maddoc Johnson, a talented trumpet player, bandleader, and  
vocalist from Portsmouth, currently finishing studies at New England Conservatory in Boston.  
Maddoc has been with us before and we are delighted to welcome them back!

### **This Week at Second Christian:**

#### **Monday, April 6:**

6:00pm Seacoast Gay Men

#### **Wednesday April 8:**

1:00pm Prayer Time - *via Zoom*

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal - *Note Special Time!*

#### **Friday, April 10:**

9:00am No Breakfast with Brad this week!

#### **Sunday, April 12:**

10:00am ***Second Sunday Jazz***  
***for the Second Sunday of Easter***  
Rev. Maren Tirabassi, preaching



***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,***

***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

## Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

*Come, ye faithful, raise the strain  
of triumphant gladness;  
God hath brought his Israel  
into joy from sadness:  
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke  
Jacob's sons and daughters,  
led them with unmoistened foot  
through the Red Sea waters.*

*'Tis the spring of souls today:  
Christ hath burst his prison,  
and from three days' sleep in death  
as a sun hath risen;  
all the winter of our sins,  
long and bleak, is flying  
from his light, to whom we give  
laud and praise undying.*

*Now the brightest season dawns  
with the day of splendor,  
with the royal feast of feasts,  
comes its joy to render;  
comes to glad Jerusalem,  
who with true affection  
welcomes in unwearied strains  
Jesus' resurrection.*

ST. KEVIN

WORDS: John of Damascus (8th century);

tr. John Mason Neale, 1859

MUSIC: Arthur S. Sullivan, 1872

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## Crown Him with Many Crowns

*Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne.  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem  
drowns all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless King  
through all eternity.*

*Crown him the Lord of life,  
who triumphed o'er the grave,  
and rose victorious in the strife  
for those he came to save;  
his glories now we sing  
who died, and rose on high,  
who died, eternal life to bring,  
and lives that death may die.*

*Crown him the Lord of peace,  
whose power a scepter sways  
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,  
and all be prayer and praise.  
His reign shall know no end,  
and round his pieced feet  
fair flowers of paradise extend  
their fragrance ever sweet.*

*Crown him the Lord of love;  
behold his hands and side,  
those wounds, yet visible above,  
in beauty glorified.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
for thou hast died for me;  
thy praise and glory shall not fail  
throughout eternity.*

DIADEMATA

WORDS: Matthew Bridges, 1851, Godfrey Thring, 1874

MUSIC: George J. Elvey, 1868