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

Worship for the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2026 - 10:00 AM

Welcome one and all!

Remember: No matter who you are, no matter whom 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

Leader: Let us come and worship the God of autumn rain and apple harvest, road stand pumpkins and leaves to rake.

People: Let us come and worship the God of squirrels gathering, the last high-flying geese, the cat curled by the fire.

Leader: Let us come and worship the God of chipmunk and hawk, of bear preparing to sleep and bees in the hive, of the child in a warm coat, and the child looking for a warm meal.

People: Let us come and worship our God, whose creation is wide and gracious, including humanity in all our wondrous variation.

*** Hymn #64** ***We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God*** ELLACOMBE

*** Opening Prayer**

Holy Creator, give us eyes to see and ears to hear how every living thing speaks to us of your love. Enable us to rejoice that we are alive among so many miracles and give us a spirit of gratitude and responsibility for all your creatures, for we pray in the name of Jesus who lay in a cow's manger when he was born, who told a parable about the kindness of dogs and who came to Jerusalem on a borrowed donkey. Amen.

*** Response** ***Glory to you, creating One!*** Hirst/Effenberger
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

Prayer before the Scripture Reading

Star-writer God, we long to read your words. Wind-singer God, we love to listen to your harmony. Seed-planter God, we rejoice in your harvest. Lava-chef God, we are warmed by your power. God of eagle and blue heron and chipmunk, we swoop and stalk and scamper following your path and praising you. Amen

The Scripture Psalm 148: 1-12 (don't worry, there will be more scripture in the message)

The Message *Before We Bless Them, the Animals Bless Us*

Hymn #61 ***All Things Bright and Beautiful*** ROYAL OAK

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 kindom 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 kindom, and the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen,

Invitation to Generosity
Special Music

*** Response** ***Praise God whose mercies never cease,*** OLD HUNDREDTH
whose justice raises up the least
and sits all creatures down to feast -
God's mercy is our hope and peace!

*** Dedication of Gifts**

Bless, O God, these gifts of this autumn Sunday, and teach us to give you our hearts, our spirits, our time, and our prayer every day of the week to come and every season of our lives. Amen

WE GO OUT

*** Hymn #21** ***Let the Whole Creation Cry*** LLANFAIR

*** Benediction**

Response** (#434 in Hymnal) ***God Be with You Till We Meet Again GOD BE WITH YOU

God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.
Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.

Music for Going Out

Join us for *Blessing the Animals* on the Front Steps
(in Vestry for inclement weather)

Second Christian Church of Kittery - UCC
An Open and Affirming Congregation
33 Government St., Kittery, ME 03904
207-439-3903 church@2ccucc.org
Rev. Maren Tirabassi, Sabbatical Interim ● Mike Effenberger, Music Director ● Charles Donnell, Treasurer
Welcoming all… Learning together… Going Out to serve

Welcome to Worship!

You have been greeted this morning by Don Tirabassi and Janet Topolewski.
Tom and Linda Baran are our Ushers, and Kathy Runey is our Liturgist.

We are so grateful to have **Alan Robinson** serving as our Pianist/Organist today!

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

The Week Ahead:

Monday, September 28:	
6:30pm	Seacoast Gay Men
Wednesday, September 30:	
10:00am	AA
1:00pm	Prayer Team - *via Zoom*
6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, October 2:	
9:00am	Breakfast with…***a SURPRISE!*** at Kasha's Kitchen
Sunday, October 4:	
9:00am	Choir Rehearsal
10:00am	***Worship for World Communion Sunday…****With special music by* ***The Second Christian Choir!***

Announcements

- Long-time member, **Richard Hollings**, has recently passed away. **Please send cards to:** Jane Hollings, 1000 Old Carriage Court, Apex, NC 27502
- **October 4, 2026 – *World Communion Sunday***
  Next Sunday we gather together for ***World Communion Sunday***. If you have anything "smallish" you would like to display on a table downstairs during Coffee Hour (with an index card saying where it comes from and your name) please bring it. If you have any clothing from a heritage country, please wear it.
- ***Fall Clothing Drive*** – Oct. 4–Oct. 31st! For more details, email ***Mark Fecteau*** at **elfspeeder@outlook.com**

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,

We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God

We sing your mighty power, O God,
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad,
and built the lofty skies.
We sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at your command,
and all the stars obey.

We sing your goodness, sovereign God,
who filled the earth with food;
you formed the creatures with your word,
and then pronounced them good.
Oh! how your wonders are displayed
where'er we turn our eyes:
if we survey the ground we tread,
or gaze upon the skies.

There's not a plant or flower below
but makes your glories known;
and clouds arise, and tempests blow,
by order from your throne.
While all that borrows life from you
is ever in your care,
and everywhere that we can be,
you, God, are present there.

ELLACOMBE
WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1715, alt.
Music: *Gesangbuch der H. W. k Hofkapelle*, 1784

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

GOD BE WITH YOU
WORDS: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880, alt.
MUSIC: William G. Tomer, 1880

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All Things Bright and Beautiful

Refrain:
All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful:
in love God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
and made their tiny wings. [Refrain]

The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky.

The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them every one.

ROYAL OAK
WORDS: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848
MUSIC: English Melody (17th century);
adapt. Martin Shaw, 1915

Let the Whole Creation Cry

Let the whole creation cry, Alleluia!
"Glory be to God on high!" Alleluia!
Sun and moon, lift up your voice, Alleluia!
Night and stars, in God rejoice, Alleluia!

All who strive to serve the Lord, Alleluia!
Prophets burning with God's word, Alleluia!
Those to whom the arts belong, Alleluia!
Add your voices to the song, Alleluia!

Men and women, young and old, Alleluia!
Raise the anthem manifold, Alleluia!
Join with children's songs of praise, Alleluia!
Worship God through all your days, Alleluia!

LLANFAIR
WORDS: Stopford A. Brooke, 1881, alt.
MUSIC: Robert Williams, 1817