

PRELUDE

WELCOME Deacon of the Week: Kevin Murphy

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather: In the name of the Creator, the fountain of life, in the name of Christ, the pulse of life, and the name of the Spirit, the breath of life.

Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God's presence.

As we gather in worship, we call to mind the places where people gather: to work, to play, to grieve, to celebrate, to love, to struggle.

There is no place that God is not present, no people beyond God's care.

May God be revealed to us in this place, and may we see God revealed in all creation.

Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God's presence.

OPENING HYMN

Welcome

WE PASS THE PEACE OF CHRIST

First Church Bridgton, ME

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Today, Sunday, September 25

- Worship, 10 am with the Rev.
 Emily C. Goodnow preaching
- ♥ Council Meeting, 11:45 am

Tuesday, September 27

- Jeanette's Closet, 9-11 am
- ♥ Staff Meeting, 9:30 am
- Prayer Group, 1:30 pm

Wednesday, September 28

Last Day to Order Flower Bulbs

Next Sunday, October 2

Worship, 10 am with the Rev.
 Emily C. Goodnow preaching.
 Service to include Holy
 Communion

CENTERING PRAYER

O Love, Most High, you are our shelter.
Under your wings, safe from the terrors of the world, we rest in you.
Hold us in the great silence of your Word.

WE SOUND THE BELL

ANTHEM

Blessed be the Tie that Binds

First Church Senior Choir

CELEBRATION OF GRATITUDE

"If the only prayer you said was thank you, that would be enough."

Meister Eckhart

As we name the abundant blessings of our lives (anniversaries, birthdays, clean-and-sober milestones, and many more!), we offer a gratitude gift in any amount, so that the blessings we have received from God may be multiplied and shared with all who long to experience God's extravagant welcome in this church and beyond.

A MESSAGE FOR ALL CHILDREN OF GOD

Go now in peace! Go now in peace! May the love of God surround you Everywhere, everywhere you may go!

SHARING OUR SACRED STORY

Reader: Friends, hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church today!

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 CEB

Living in the Most High's shelter,
camping in the Almighty's shade,
I say to the Lord, "You are my refuge, my stronghold!
You are my God—the one I trust!"
God will save you from the hunter's trap
and from deadly sickness.
God will protect you with his pinions;













you'll find refuge under his wings.

His faithfulness is a protective shield.

Don't be afraid of terrors at night,
 arrows that fly in daylight,
 or sickness that prowls in the dark,
 destruction that ravages at noontime.

God says, "Because you are devoted to me,
 I'll rescue you.

I'll protect you because you know my name.

Whenever you cry out to me, I'll answer.

I'll be with you in troubling times.

I'll save you and glorify you.

I'll fill you full with old age.

I'll show you my salvation."

Luke 16:19-31 NRSVUE

The Rich Man and Lazarus

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead."

Reader: This is the story of life for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God

SERMON

The Rev. Emily C. Goodnow

• HYMN God of Grace and God of Glory











PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

OFFERING OF LOVE AND PROMISE

OFFERTORY MUSIC

• WORDS OF THANKSGIVING

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God for all that Love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving and Holy God, we ask that You would pour out Your blessing on this offering today. Guide us in Your way and use these gifts to make our church and our world even more:

We call out words like "joyful, kind, just" to bless our church and world

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Please note: our Office Manager, Kylie, is working remotely as she begins a new full-time position and we search for a new on-site Office Manager. In the interim we have fabulous volunteers in our church office Tuesday - Thursday each week to provide warm welcome to all who call or stop in. Thanks to our volunteers for this kindness, and thanks to our church family for your grace and patience as we all adjust to these changes.

Service Credits: Call to Worship is written by Norman Habel for "Forest Sunday" in his season of Creation Care; it's published on his website, normanhabel.com. Centering Prayer is written by Steve Garnaas-Holmes and is published on his website, unfoldinglight.net.



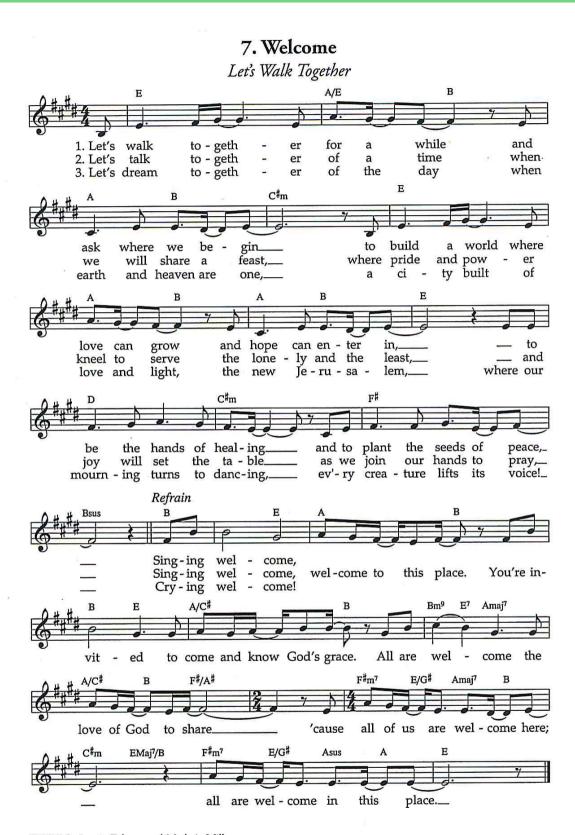












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