



## Fifth Sunday of Lent

Congregational responses are in bold,  
• means "please rise in body or spirit."  
March 26, 2023 | Order of Worship

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Today, March 26

- Worship 10 am with Rev. Emily Goodnow preaching
- Book Study, 11:30 am
- Children's Choir Rehearsal, 11:30 am
- Council Meeting, 11:30 pm

### Tuesday, March 28

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

### Thursday, March 30

- Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm

### Next Sunday, April 2

- Palm Sunday Worship, 10 am with Sharon Craig Economides preaching.
- New Members Class, 11:30 am
- Children's Choir Rehearsal, 11:30 am
- Book Study, 11:30 am

### Prelude

### Welcome

Deacon Glenn Tippy

### Call to Worship

Led by Randee Cassidy

Have you ever felt washed up, brittle, worn-down to the bone?

**Have you ever felt grief lay heavy on your back?**

Have you ever felt like hope was out of reach?

**Have you ever wondered, can these bones live?**

If you have, then you are in the right place, for this is God's house.

Hope lives here.

**So, come. Rest your weary bones.**

Let us worship Holy God.

### •Hymn

Precious Lord, Take My Hand  
*#472 in Black Hymnal*

### Prayer of Confession

Led by Debbie Owen

Jesus of Nazareth,

**I confess: I forget that you know this feeling.**

**I forget that you, too, have wept.**

**I forget that you, too, have lost.**

**I forget that you, too, have gathered at the tomb,**

**have grieved for a friend, have felt the sting of humanity.**

**Forgive me for all the times I place blame on you.**

**Forgive me for all the times I create distance, imagining that you could never feel what I feel.**

**Forgive me for allowing the valley of dry bones to be a sea of space between us.**

**Pour yourself into the cracks in my heart. Bring these bones back to life. Bring me closer to you.**

**With gratitude I pray, amen.**

## Words of Forgiveness

Friends, you could spend your whole life ignoring God,  
pushing God away, or trying to solve the world's problems all on your own,  
and God would still love you all the same.  
Even in our shortcomings, we are God's beloved.

So hear and believe this good news:

**We are saved by grace through faith. We belong to God. We are not alone.**

## We Pass the Peace of Christ

### Anthem

He Shall Feed His Flock | from Handel's Messiah  
*Judy Harrison*

## 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.

## We Sound the Bell

### 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

Read by Ruth Reynolds

*Reader: Friends, hear what the Spirit is saying to the church today.*

- Ezekiel 37:1-14
- John 11:1-45

Inclusive Bible Translation  
Inclusive Bible Translation

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

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Sermon**

the Rev. Emily Goodnow

• **Hymn**

My Life Flows on in Endless Song  
*#476 in Black Hymnal*

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

**An Offering of Love and Promise**

Led by Price Hutchins

**Offertory Music**

He is Life | Hank Beebe  
*First Church Senior Choir*

• **Words of Thanksgiving**

Praise God, from whom 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**



Service Credits: Liturgy in this service written by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC |  
sanctifiedart.org.

## FIRST CHURCH MINISTRY LEADERS

### Ministers

All of Us

### Senior Pastor

Rev. Emily C. Goodnow

### C.E. Coordinator

Sandy Wissmann

### Music Director

Deborah Owen

### Organist & Pianist

Oren Varess

### Jr. Choir Director

Judy Harrison

### Sunday School Teachers

Wensday Morse, Rosemary Wiser,  
Jessica Engstrom, Peter Vigna,

### Moderator

Megan Sawyer

### Treasurer

Karla Swanson-Murphy

### Trustee of the Month

Phil Allen

### Deacon of the Week

Glenn Tippy

### Greeters

Glen Jukkola, Julie Schoenfeld,  
Mary Stinchfield

### Office Manager

Theresa Sawyer

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please see this week's insert for our  
Holy Week Services schedule*

*Please see the Easter Flower Order Form insert.  
If you wish to order Easter Flowers for the  
sanctuary please fill out the form.  
(deadline/instructions included)*

### Do You Love it Here?

Are you ready to make things official and join the church? Our Deacons and Rev. Emily are hosting a New Members Gathering on Sunday April 2nd after worship. Join us to learn more about our church family, connect with Deacons and other new folks, and learn more about joining the church. RSVPs help us plan for lunch but are not required.

### April 2nd Snack & Chat

If your last name is within this range, Smi - Sti, please consider bringing a snack and helping with setup, serving, and cleaning up. Thank you!

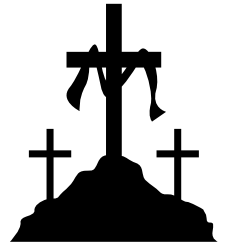
### Donations for Bridgton Food Pantry

The Missions Team is currently taking donations of condiments, such as ketchup, mayonnaise, dressings, pickles, mustard, etc for the Bridgton Food Pantry.

There is a basket in the sanctuary to leave your donations. Thank you for your continued support!!!

Church office is open 9 am - 12 pm, Monday-Friday  
33 S. High St., Bridgton ME 04009 | 647-3936  
bridgtonucc.org | office@bridgtonucc.org

# Holy Week Services



**Sunday**  
**April 2, 10 am**

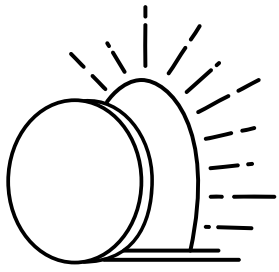
**Palm Sunday:** Enjoy the Palm Parade singing "Hosannah". Walk through the Holy Week stations starting at the Triumphal Entry and ending at the tomb.

**Thursday**  
**April 6, 7 pm**

**Maundy Thursday:** A reflective & contemplative Tenebrae Service of music, readings, and Holy Communion.

**Friday**  
**April 7, 12 pm**

**Good Friday:** A service of scripture, prayer, and music offered by Jan & Glen Jukkola on violin and piano.



# *Easter Sunday Services*

*Easter Sunrise,  
6 am at Knights  
Hill Beach*

We gather at Knights Hill Beach in the first hours of the day as the sun rises over the water and we proclaim together, "Christ is Risen!"

*Children's Easter  
Service & Egg  
Hunt, 9 am*

Join us on the church lawn, rain or shine, for a 15 minute child-focused service followed by an Easter Egg Hunt! Don't forget your basket!

*Traditional  
Easter Sunday  
Worship, 10 am*

We gather in the church sanctuary and online to share the Good News: Christ is Risen, Love Wins, Alleluia!

