



**Seventh Sunday in Eastertide**  
Congregational responses are in bold,  
• means "please rise in body or spirit."  
May 12, 2024 | Order of Worship

*Sanctuary flowers are provided by First Church Guild in honor of Mother's Day*

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

***This Sunday, May 12***

- Worship at 10 am, with Liz Brown preaching.

***Monday, May 13***

- Grief & Loss Grp Meeting, 5:30 pm

***Tuesday May 14***

- Jeanette's Closet, 9 am
- Tiny Tots Music & Fun, 9 am
- Prayer Group, 1:30 pm
- Trustee Meeting, 5:45 pm
- Senior Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm

***Next Sunday, May 19***

- Children's Sunday Worship at 10 am, with a sermon by Sophia Berry
- Ice Cream Social, after worship
- Deacon Meeting, 11:30 am

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

Deacon Stephanie Wilcher

**Call to Worship**

*Led by Stephanie Wilcher*

Holy God, heavenly Mother, you have given us birth and watched over us in love. We praise you.

**Risen Christ, loving brother, you have shared with us the gift of life.**

**We thank you.**

Holy Spirit, confident sister, you have walked with us and believed in us.

We give you our hearts.

**Eternal God, Holy Trinity, family of grace, we worship you.**

**We gather at the family table to tell stories, to share bread, and to give each other our hearts, so that our lives will be changed. Alleluia!**

**• Hymn**

What a Covenant  
*#471 in the Black Hymnal*

**Centering Words**

"Aimless Love" by Billy Collins  
*Read by Laura Lamb Brown-Lavoie*

**We Pass the Peace of Christ**

## **Anthem**

Cradle Me Lord | B & S Poorman  
*First Church Senior Choir*

## **Celebration of Gratitude**

*Led by Stephanie Wilcher and family*

*“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**

*Led by Stephanie Wilcher and family*

## **A Message for all Children of God**

*Led by Jim Cossey*

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

*Our youngest disciples are invited to go downstairs with Sandy and our Children’s Ministry Team*

## **Sharing Our Sacred Story**

*Read by Stephanie Wilcher*

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

- **Psalm 139:1-14a**
- **Matthew 6:25-34**

Inclusive Bible Translation  
Inclusive Bible Translation

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

**All: Thanks be to God**

## **Sermon**

*Liz Brown*

## **•Hymn**

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing  
*#459 in the Black Hymnal*

## Prayers of the People

*Sharon Libbey*

### 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

*Stephanie Wilcher*

### Offertory Music

The Lilies of the Field | DE.Wagner  
*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

*Sharon Libbey*

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

*Laura Lamb Brown-Lavoie*

**Postlude** *If you would like to maintain quiet meditative time during the postlude, please feel free to move to the front two pews by the piano.*



### Service Credits:

*Call to Worship is written by Steve Garnaas-Holmes and is published on his website, <https://unfoldinglight.net/worship-resources/>. Centering words are written by Billy Collins and published in Poetry (February 2002).*

## 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

Oren Varess

### Sunday School Leaders

Wensday Morse, Jessica  
Engstrom, Edna Engstrom,  
Rosemary Wisner, Logan Smith,

### Moderator

Megan Sawyer

### Treasurer - Asst. Treasurer

Peter Clark, Gail McBride

### Trustee of the Week

Carly Hall

### Deacon of the Week

Stephanie Wilcher

### Greeters

Price Hutchins, Eileen Perry,  
Pete Oberg

### Office Manager

Theresa Sawyer

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*With gratitude for the gift of Study Leave, Emily is away May 10-18 attending the Festival of Homiletics (a preaching conference). The Rev. Neil Wilson, pastor at the Lovell UCC Church, has generously agreed to be on call for anyone who needs pastoral support. Please contact Neil at [pastor@lovellucc.org](mailto:pastor@lovellucc.org) or by cell 260-849-1512.*

*And many thanks to our own Liz Brown who is stepping into the pulpit today, and to the many leaders who are offering leadership in the service.*

### Children's Sunday Service

#### **Next Sunday May 19th at 10 am Worship**

Please join us next Sunday for this special worship service. It will be a joyful service led by our children, with a sermon by Sophia Berry. And after worship, join us for an Ice Cream Social during Snack & Chat!

### Missions Team Thanks You!!

Because of your generosity, we were able to donate 61 hygiene kits to the Church World Service who will distribute the kits. Thank you!

### Church Yard Sale Request

Saturday May 25th from 8 am to noon is our Spring Yard Sale! If you'd like to help out, there is a Volunteer Signup Sheet on the Welcome Table. If you'd like to donate items, please contact Phil Allen at [pallen@chalmersinsurancegroup.com](mailto:pallen@chalmersinsurancegroup.com) or (207)595-1009

### Bridgton Food Pantry Donations

The Food Pantry is asking for donations of cleaning supplies. This could be dish detergent, glass cleaner, bleach, sponges, multi-purpose cleaners, laundry detergent.

*There is a basket in the sanctuary to leave your donations.*

*The Missions Team thanks you for your support!!*

### Snack & Chat May 19th

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

Church office is open 9 am - 12 pm, Monday-Friday  
33 S. High St., Bridgton ME 04009 | 647-3936  
[bridgtonucc.org](http://bridgtonucc.org) | [office@bridgtonucc.org](mailto:office@bridgtonucc.org)