

## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Congregational responses are in **bold** and • means "please rise in body or spirit."

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 | ORDER OF WORSHIP



### Prelude

*Julia Edwards (she/her)*

### Welcome

*Deacon Kate Berry (she/her)*

### Call to Worship

*Led by Deacon Kate Berry (she/her)*

Come if you are lost, or found, or a little bit of each.

**We come to worship! We come to celebrate the goodness of God.**

Come if you are confident, or anxious, or a little bit of each.

**We come to pray. We come to kneel on sacred ground.**

Come if you are searching, or certain, or a little bit of each.

**We come to sing. We come to dwell in sacred music.**

Come if you are joyful, or grieving, or a little bit of each.

**We come for story. We come to find ourselves in sacred text.**

Come if you're here for yourself, or for someone else, or a little bit of each.

**We come for community. We come for you. We come for me. We come to worship our God.**

### • Hymn

Home | from The October Project's *The Book of Rounds* 4

(transposed from key of F)

Words by Julie Flanders  
Music by Emil Adler

The musical score is written on two staves in 4/4 time. The first staff contains measures 1 through 4, and the second staff contains measures 5 through 8. Each measure is numbered in a box above it. The lyrics are written below the notes. The music is in a simple, melodic style with a key signature of one flat (Bb).

1 2

When you're far a - way, when you feel a - lone,

5 3 4

when the whole world has be-trayed you, I will be your home

## Centering Words

Verse 3 of “The Love of God” by Frederick M. Lehman

*Read by Deacon Kate Berry (she/her)*

Could we with ink the ocean fill,  
And were the skies of parchment made,  
Were every stalk on earth a quill,  
And every man a scribe by trade;  
To write the love of God above  
Would drain the ocean dry;  
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,  
Though stretched from sky to sky.

## We Pass the Peace of Christ

## 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

*Pastor Spencer Law (he/him)*

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 Deacon Kate Berry (she/her)*

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

- Luke 15:1-10

*Inclusive Bible Translation*

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

**All: Thanks be to God**

## Sermon

*the Rev. Emily C. Goodnow (she/her)*

## Special Music

Let Me Know | Vance Gilbert  
*Julia Edwards (she/her)*



## HOLY COMMUNION

**The Rev. Emily C. Goodnow & Pastor Spencer Law co-presiding**

*Our communion table is open to all. We celebrate with gluten free bread or almonds, grape juice or water.*

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

### **Communion Music**

*Played by Julia Edwards (she/her)*

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Holy God, we give you thanks for bread and cup, table and community, for Christ and for each other. As this feast becomes part of our bodies, awaken us to the knowledge that we are the body of Christ together. As this blessing becomes part of our lives, awaken us to be Your hands and Your feet in this world.**

**God who is Love, hear us now as we call out the prayers of our own hearts to You:**

*(We name our prayers to God, aloud or in our hearts)*

**Hear our prayers, we humbly pray. And hear us now as we pray the prayer Jesus taught us saying...**

### **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**

*Deacon Kate Berry (she/her)*

### **Offertory Music**

May It Be | Matt Goldstein | Music & lyrics in insert

*Played by Julia Edwards (she/her)*

### **• 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

We Sing Ourselves Out Into the World | May It Be | Matt Goldstein  
*Led by Julia Edwards (she/her)*

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## Let Me Know | Vance Gilbert

Am I sheep, or am I shepherd? Let me know  
Am I sheep, or am I shepherd? Let me know  
Am I shepherd? Am I sheep? When these waters get too deep,  
Won't you take me in my sleep, Lord, and let me know

Am I walkin' or am I flyin'? Let me know  
Am I walkin' or am I flyin'? Let me know  
Am I walkin'? Am I flyin'? Lord, please dry these tears I'm cryin'  
I don't understand, Lord, but I'm trying, let me know

Am I rock, or am I water? Let me know  
Am I rock, or am I water? Let me know  
Am I rock? Am I water? And if my mamma's still your daughter,  
Won't you teach me what you taught her? Let me know

Am I sheep, or am I shepherd? Let me know  
Am I sheep, or am I shepherd? Let me know  
Am I shepherd? Am I sheep? When these waters get too deep,  
Won't you take me in my sleep, Lord, and let me know

## **Communion Music**

### **Be Still and Know**

Be still and know that I am,  
Be still and know that I am,  
Be still, be still, be still and know

### **Sing Out Love**

Sing out love to all the world,  
God is here, God is here

### **Sanctuary**

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary  
Pure and holy, tried and true  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living  
Sanctuary for you  
It is you, Lord, who came to save  
The heart and soul Of everyone  
It is you Lord, who knows my  
weakness  
Who gives me strength, with thine  
own hand.

### **How Could Anyone?**

How could anyone ever tell you that you're anything less than beautiful?  
How could anyone ever tell you that you're less than whole?  
How could anyone fail to notice that your loving is a miracle?  
How deeply you're connected to my soul

# May It Be

music & lyrics by **Matt Goldstein**  
& **Will Cabaniss**

Chords: A<sup>b</sup> D<sup>b</sup> F<sup>m</sup> E<sup>b</sup>sus E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>m7 A<sup>b</sup>/E<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> D<sup>b</sup>/A<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>

Voice

4

May it be sim - ple, may it be kind. May it be  
May we be soft - er, may we be strong. May we find  
May we sing of - ten, may we sing true. May we sing

ea - sy most of the time. May it be o - pen, may it be  
pla - ces where we be - long. May we be here now, and be where we're  
sto - ries of all we could do. May we sing some - thing, just out of the

7

free. May it be you, and may it \_\_\_\_\_ be me. \_\_\_\_\_  
from. May it be good, and may it \_\_\_\_\_ be fun. \_\_\_\_\_  
blue. Sing it for me, and sing it \_\_\_\_\_ for you. \_\_\_\_\_

This song is meant to change, to  
evolve, and to be co-created with  
you!

I hereby invite you to make this  
your own in whatever way flows  
forth.

I ask that you honor the melody  
and first set of lyrics in some way,  
shape or form.

But other than that, follow the  
music where it leads you!

Maybe you write your own words.

Maybe you improvise them in the moment.

Maybe you invite your audience to sing with you.

In fact, I hope that you do.

Maybe you even invite them to improvise their  
own words. That can be quite beautiful!

Maybe you arrange the song in a new way.

Maybe you add new chords.

However you choose to dance with this song,  
I thank you for giving it a home and breathing  
life into this music.

Whatever you dream of. May it be.

## First Church Ministry Leaders

### Ministers

All of Us

### Senior Pastor

Rev. Emily C. Goodnow (*she/her*)

### Minister for Intergenerat'l Innovation

Pastor Spencer Law (*he/him*)

### C.E. Coordinator

Sandy Wissmann (*she/her*)

### Music Director

Deborah Owen (*she/her*)

### Organist & Pianist

Oren Varess (*they/them*)

### Youth Choir Director

Cassie Cooper-Ricci (*they/them*)

### Office Manager

Kylie Morel (*she/her*)

### Co-Moderators

Rosemary Wiser (*she/her*)

Marita Wiser (*she/her*)

### Treasurer - Asst. Treasurer

Peter Clark (*he/him*)

Gail McBride (*she/her*)

### Trustee of the Week

Arch Owen (*he/him*)

### Deacon of the Week

Kate Berry (*she/her*)

### Greeters-Hospitality

Stephanie Wilcher, Glen Jukkola, Jan  
Yindra

### Childcare Leaders

Edna & Jessica Engstrom, Logan  
Smith, Gail McBride, Sharon Libbey,  
Martha Spencer, Rosemary Wiser

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### This Sunday, September 14

- Worship, 10 am, with Rev. Emily preaching.  
Service includes Holy Communion
- Special Congregational Meeting,  
immediately after worship
- Snack & Chat, 11:30 am
- Trustees' Meeting, 11:30 am

### Tuesday, September 2

- Jeanette's Closet, 9 - 11 am
- Tiny Tots, 9 - 10 am
- Staff meeting, 10:30 am
- Prayer Group via Zoom, 1:30 pm
- Topics on Autism Group, 6 pm

### Wednesday, September 17

- Bible Study with Rev. Emily, parlor, 10 am, text is  
Luke 16:1-13. It's a tricky one - come ready to dig in!

### Thursday, September 18

- Senior Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm

### Friday, September 19

- Bible Study of Revelation with Debbie Owen, 2 pm

### Saturday, September 20

- Music on Main, with our teens offering  
facepainting!

### Next Sunday, September 21

- Worship, 10 am, with Rev. Emily preaching.
- Snack & Chat, 11:30 am (*Hal-He last names helping*)
- Deacons' Meeting, 11:30 am

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

## **Announcements**

### **Special Congregational Meeting Today**

A special Congregational Meeting will be held today, September 14, 2025 immediately following the service to consider a proposal by the Trustees to add Heat Pumps to the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. Because this proposal will draw on Capital funds to implement, the Council has voted to bring it to a congregational meeting for approval.

### **Lake Region Woodshed Volunteer Meeting & Workday**

All are welcome to join us for a volunteer meeting and workday at the Woodshed site on Wednesday, September 24th at 4pm. Bring work gloves and wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty.

The woodshed now has an on-site wood coordinator named William. Would you like to help? William would love help picking up wood donations, and/or splitting wood. If you'd like to help please contact Emily and she will put you in touch with William.

### **Save the Date: Confirmation Sunday, September 28th**

Confirmation Sunday is September 28! Our confirmands are as follows: Garrett Sawyer, Sophia Berry, Emjae Wilcher, Audri Wilcher, & Hadley Spekke!

### **New Members Gathering & Joining Dates**

If you love it here and are not yet a member, but would like to be, please join us on Sunday, October 12 at 11:30 am for our next new members gathering! The next joining date would be the following Sunday, October 19.

### **Third Annual Progressive Dinner: October 18th**

Our third annual progressive dinner is taking place on October 18th from 5 to 8:30 pm. Deadline to sign up is October 9th. Donation is \$20/person. Sign-up will be after church on Sept. 14th, 21st, 28th, and October. 5th. Or you can call Sharon at (207) 647- 5553 or (207) 749-5359. For more information, please see the weekly email.