

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NEW MEMBERS SUNDAY

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

OCTOBER 19, 2025 | ORDER OF WORSHIP



Prelude

Oren Varess (they/them)

Welcome

Deacon Glenn Tippy (he/him)

Call to Worship

Adapted from Thom Shuman
Led by Deacon Glenn Tippy (he/him)

We have gathered in God's holy presence,
the One who etches grace on our hearts.

**This is the place where God
will call us to follow.**

We glorify our God, who yearns for justice,
not just for a favored few, but for the least of our world.

**This is the place where God
will write compassion on our souls.**

We give thanks to God for unceasing grace;
we remember God's persistence in saving us.

**This is the place where God
will breathe the Word into our lives.**

• Hymn

All Are Welcome (Let Us Build) | Marty Haugen

Insert

Centering Words

Written by the Rev. Maren Tirabassi

Read by Deacon Glenn Tippy (he/him)

And the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. And he replied, "keep it light..."

Our Feather,
one small brush of the grand and lifting wing,
holy are all the names of God.

Your kindness come
and your kiss be felt warm
on every lump of soil,
gust of wind,
lapping of salt sea and fresh water.

Give us today
and let us recognize it
as a gift —
the bread and beauty of it —
and that it is like no other.

Forgive us all the love
we owed but hoarded,
and our careless or angry trespassing
on the lives of your children,
even as, with unbearable effort,
we forgive
the taking and the trampling
of what is precious to us.

Draw your hush across our lips,
and pull us back
from what we would regret.
Find us an escape or stay with us
when there is none,

for yours is the place our hands are held,
yours is the courage of the sequoia
and the broken atom,
yours are galaxies of starlight,
and the hum of bees —

Now ... and when we come to sing
all our todays
into your tomorrow.

We Pass the Peace of Christ

Pastor Spencer Law (he/him)

Anthem

Precious Lord, Take My Hand | Arr. by Roy Ringwald

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.

We Sound the Bell



We Welcome New Members into Our Church Family

Patty Shuttleworth, William Shuttleworth, Justin Reid, Sarah Kelly Reid, Gail Boukary, and Renee Leask

Bubbles symbolize the blessings and joy of this moment. Every promise made creates a sacred bubble of hope in our community. Folks of all ages are invited to blow bubbles in celebration as our new members join our church family!

Questions of the New Members

Questions of the Congregation

Do you come today to welcome these new members into our church family?

We do.

Do you promise to walk together, pray together, sing together, worship together, learn together, hold joys and pain together, and build sacred community together as we go?

We do.

Will you walk with these new members in the way of Christ?

We will.

Can we join together to resist oppression and evil, work for love and justice, and be a voice of light and love in this world as best as we are able?

We can!

Will you allow yourselves to be changed by these new members, living into your called identities as beloved children of God?

We will.

Prayer of Welcome and Celebration

Presentation of Gifts

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

Sharing Our Sacred Story

Deacon Glenn Tippy (he/him)

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

- Luke 18:1-8

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)

• Hymn

Down to the River to Pray | Sung 4x through

DOWN TO THE RIVER TO PRAY

American folk song

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The time signature changes from 2/4 to 3/4 and back to 2/4. The lyrics are as follows:

As I went down to the riv-er to pray, stud-y-ing a-bout that
good old way and who shall wear the star - ry crown— Good Lord,
show me the way! 1. O *sis-ters, let's go down. Let's go down, come on
down. O *sis-ters, let's go down, down to the riv-er to pray.

2. *brothers, 3. *siblings, 4. *beloved

Text and music: American folk song; "The Good Old Way," attr. to George H. Allan,
fr. *Slave Songs of the United States*, 1867.

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

Deacon Glenn Tippy (he/him)

Offertory Music

Hold On to the Rock | Words and Music by Pepper Choplin

Soloist, Deborah Owen (she/her) & 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

Oren Varess (they/them)

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

Lorri Rodgers (*she/her*)

Deacon of the Week

Glenn Tippy (*he/him*)

Greeters-Hospitality

Glen Jukkola, Arch Owen, Leslie
McAllister

Childcare Leaders

Edna & Jessica Engstrom, Laura
Cleveland, Jane Gibbons

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

This Sunday, October 19

- Worship, 10 am, with Rev. Emily C. Goodnow preaching
- Youth Music Program, 11 am
- Snack & Chat, 11:30 am
- Deacons' Meeting, 11:30 am

Tuesday, October 21

- Jeanette's Closet, 9 - 11 am
- Tiny Tots, 9 - 10 am
- Staff Meeting, 10:30 am
- Prayer Group via Zoom, 1:30 pm
- CUKES Rehearsal, 2 pm
- Topics on Autism Group, 6 pm

Wednesday, October 22

- Bible Study with Rev. Emily leading, parlor, 10 am

Thursday, October 23

- Missions Meeting, 5:30 pm
- Senior Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm

Friday, October 24

- Bible Study with Debbie Owen, 2 pm

Saturday, October 24

- Keith Manchester's Graveside Service, Kansas Road Cemetery, 11 am — All are welcome.
- Music on Main — our teens will be offering facepainting!

Next Sunday, October 26

- Worship, 10 am, with Rev. Benjamin Perry preaching
- Youth Music Program, 11 am
- Snack & Chat, 11:30 am
- Council' 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 |
office@bridgtonucc.org

Announcements

Donation Need: Halloween Candy!

Our teens will be handing out candy on Halloween night at Maine Street Graphics on Elm St., and we're currently collecting candy donations! If you would like to donate, please note the following:

- candy must be individually wrapped
- candy can be dropped off on Sunday mornings or during the week at the church office by Sunday, Oct. 26

Thank you for your support!

Annual Pumpkin Party!

Our annual Sunday School Pumpkin Party will be on Sunday, October 26th. Please send a pumpkin with your kid(s) to Sunday School:

- Pie size for younger kids.
- Carving size for older kids.

Please let Sandy know if you need her to provide a pumpkin for your child.

If you would like to donate a pumpkin, please contact Sandy. We like to have a few on hand.

Lake Region Wood Bank Needs!

The cool temps are upon us and things are heating up at the Wood Bank! We have some short term needs and opportunities to help, as well as some ongoing tasks.

Outreach to local firewood companies to solicit donations of seasoned firewood. While we're processing a lot of firewood right now, it is all unseasoned and won't be suitable to burn until next winter. We need a couple volunteers who would be excited to contact local firewood producers to see if they have extra seasoned firewood to donate.

Please see the weekly email, our website, or the Loon Echo Land Trust's website, for a full list of ways to help!

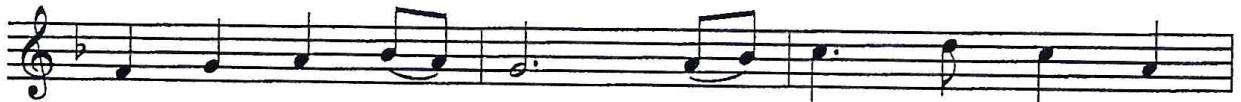
Jeanette's Closet Donation Need

Jeanette's Closet is in need of warm children's clothing for the fall and winter. Sizes 5-14 are most in need, but all are welcome.

All Are Welcome



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell And
 2. Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, And
 3. Let us build a house where love is found In
 4. Let us build a house where hands will reach Be -
 5. Let us build a house where all are named, Their



all can safe - ly live, A place where saints and
 words are strong and true, Where all God's chil - dren
 wa - ter, wine and wheat: A ban - quet hall on
 yond the wood and stone To heal and strength - en,
 songs and vi - sions heard And loved and treas - ured,



chil - dren tell How hearts learn to for -
 dare to seek To dream God's reign a -
 ho - ly ground, Where peace and jus - tice
 serve and teach, And live the Word they've
 taught and claimed As words with - in the



give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions,
 new. Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness
 meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus,
 known. Here the out - cast and the stran - ger
 Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter,



Rock of faith and vault of grace; Here the
 And as sym - bol of God's grace; Here as
 Is re - vealed in time and space; As we
 Bear the im - age of God's face; Let us
 Prayers of faith and songs of grace, Let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions;
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro - claim from floor to raft - er:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.