

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

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

FEBRUARY 1, 2026 | ORDER OF WORSHIP



Prelude

Oren Varess (they/them)

Welcome

Deacon Carl Johnsen (he/him)

Call to Worship

Led by Deacon Carl Johnsen (he/him)

You are invited to follow along with the motions described in body or in spirit.

We gather as one body with many members,

We come to worship our God.

Lifting our hands in celebration,

We come to worship our God.

Stomping our feet in frustration,

We come to worship our God.

Turning around in wonder,

We come to worship our God.

With our hands, feet, hearts, minds, and bodies,

We come to worship our God.

• Hymn

Take my Life, God, Let it Be

No. 448 in the Black Hymnal

Centering Words

Read by Kylie Morel (she/her)

a blessing for when you're tired of broken systems by Kate Bowler

Oh God, I am done with broken systems

that break the very people

they are meant to serve.

Harness this anger.

Channel it into worthy action and show me

what is mine to fix and what boundaries to patrol

to keep goodness in and evil out.

Blessed are we who are appalled

that brute ignorance can so easily dominate

over decency, honesty, & integrity.

Blessed are we, who choose not to look away from systems that dehumanize, deceive, defame, and distort.

We who recognize that thoughts and prayers are not enough.

We who stand with truth over expediency,
principle over politics,
community over competition.

Oh God, how blessed are we who cry out to you:
empower us to see and name what is broken,
what is ours to restore,
guide us to find coherent and beautiful alternatives
that foster life, hope, and peace.
Help us use our gifts with one another in unity.

Blessed are we who choose to live in anticipation,
our eyes scanning the horizon,
for signs of your kingdom—
heaven-come-down—
as we wait in hope
and act with courage.

We Pass the Peace of Christ

Pastor Spencer Law (he/him)

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.

Please consider using a gratitude heart, located in the racks in the pews, if you choose to make a gratitude gift.

We Sound the Bell

Sharing Our Sacred Story

Read by Deacon Carl Johnsen (he/him)

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

- Matthew 5:1-12

Inclusive Bible Translation

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

All: Thanks be to God

Scripture Reflection from the Children of the Church

A Message for all Children of God

Pastor Spencer Law (he/him)

- Hymn

Peace Like a River
No. 478 in the Black Hymnal



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

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

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.

Offertory Music

Beatitudes |arr. R.H.

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 Music 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

Carl Johnsen (*he/him*)

Greeters-Hospitality

Mary Stinchfield & Martha Clark

C.E. Leaders

Edna & Jessica Engstrom

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

This Sunday, February 1

- Worship, 10 am, with Holy Communion
- Snack & Chat Potluck, after worship
- GAT Meeting, 12 pm

Tuesday, February 3

- Jeanette's Closet, 9-11 am
- Special Tiny Tots, Co-led by Cassie Cooper-Ricci & Rev. Emily, 9 - 10 am
- Staff Meeting, 10:30 am
- Prayer Group via Zoom, 1:30 pm

Wednesday, February 4

- Bible Study with Pastor Emily leading, parlor, 10 am

Thursday, February 5

- Senior Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm

Next Sunday, February 8

- Worship, 10 am, with Rev. Emily C. Goodnow preaching
- Snack & Chat, after worship
- Souper Bowl Sale!
- Trustees' 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

Youth Music Program Returns!

The Youth Music Program is starting again **today!** Cassie will meet youth who wish to participate in the CE wing from 11 - 11:45 am each week. Youth will be given a snack during this time. Youth of any age are welcome to participate.

The program will meet each week from February 1 to May 24 (excluding 4/26 and 5/10) with hopeful performance opportunities on Easter Sunday and Children's Sunday. For more information please see the weekly email

Souper Bowl Soup Sale!

Our annual Souper Bowl Soup Sale is approaching and will take place after worship on **February 8th!** We are looking for volunteers to make soup. If you are interested, please sign up on the sign-up sheet located on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Thank you!

Pilgrim Lodge Camp Day!

We will be hosting a Pilgrim Lodge Day for children to come and enjoy a day at "Summer Camp" on **February 19th** from 9 am to 4 pm. Please register your kiddo(s) through the online form in the weekly email by February 12th. If you would like to volunteer or donate supplies for this event, please contact Sandy.

Outdoor Worship Dream-a-thon

Last spring, we gathered to begin imagining what new outdoor worship and prayer spaces might look like. This March, you're invited to another imaginative gathering, the Outdoor Worship Dream-a-thon on **Sunday, March 1st** from 11:45am-12:45pm in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be provided! Reflecting on our big ideas and research from the last year, we'll make a plan to gather for outdoor worship and prayer in new ways in 2026 and beyond.