



FORESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Connecting to God

Nurturing Community

Discovering our Callings

January 19, 2025

Second Sunday After Epiphany

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Alleluia! Amen!
Towne Lyne Ringers

Henry Rowley Bishop
arr. Karen Lakey Buckwalter

GATHERING IN WORSHIP

From Psalm 36:5-10

One: Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
Many: **your faithfulness to the clouds.**

Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,
your judgements are like the great deep;
you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
**They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.**

For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.

O continue your steadfast love to those who know you,
and your salvation to the upright of heart!

*** HYMN**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Red Hymnal, #404

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breath, O breath thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit, let us find thy promised rest;
take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never, never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*** PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

O God, may your love fill us.
O Christ, may your love inspire us.
O Spirit, may your love move us to act in the love of justice.
**May all our lives—those things ordinary,
And those things beyond all imagining—
Become signs of your great love which has no end:
Lost in wonder, love, and praise. Amen.**

ANTHEM

How Can I Keep from Singing
Town Lyne Ringers

Robert Lowry
arr. Sandra Eithun

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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

*Children are invited to go to church school at this time.
They are always welcome to remain in the sanctuary with their families as well.*

SCRIPTURE

John 2:1-11

SERMON

The First Signs

The Rev. Geoff Parker

PASTORAL PRAYER

May God be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray...

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO THE SERVICE OF GOD

*Electronic gifts may be shared here:
<https://www.foresidechurch.org/index.php/giving/> or by pointing your phone's
camera at the image to the right and clicking on the link displayed.*



Offertory Anthem

Love Goes On

Bernadette Farrell

*** Doxology**

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.***

*** Blessing of Gifts**

*** HYMN**

When Love Is Found

Red Hymnal, #390

When love is found and hope comes home, sing and be glad that two are one. When love explodes and fills the sky, praise God, and share our Maker's joy.

When love has flowered in trust and care, build both each day, that love may dare to reach beyond home's warmth and light, to serve and strive for truth and right.

When love is tried as loved-ones change, hold still to hope, though all seems strange, till ease returns and love grows wise through listening ears and opened eyes.

When love is torn, and trust betrayed, pray strength to love till torments fade, till lovers keep no score of wrong, but hear through pain love's Easter song.

Praise God for love, praise God for life, in age or youth, in calm or strife. Lift up your hearts! Let love be fed through death and life in broken bread.

*** BLESSING AND SENDING**

POSTLUDE

We Shall Overcome

Af. Am. Spiritual

Today's Ministers of Worship:

John Bischof, Bob Murray, and Joan Murray

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Tuesday Book Club has Started

Please join on Tuesday, January 21 @ 9:00 a.m. in the parlor, for the third gathering of the reading The Service Berry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World by Robin Wall Kimmerer, the author of Braiding Sweetgrass. Amazon says this new book is “a bold and inspiring vision for how to orient our lives around gratitude, reciprocity and community, based on the lessons of the natural world.” She focuses on serviceberries and how its relationship with the world is one of “reciprocity, interconnectedness, and gratitude.” She suggests that this might be the better model than what we practice today. Her quote is “*All flourishing is mutual.*” We have been reading The Service Berry slowly over several weeks and having discussions around what we have read. **The “assigned” reading in preparation for the 21st will be reading through pages 65.** I am expecting the discussions will be lively based upon the discussions we had around Braiding Sweetgrass. Please join us. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Liz Ventre at eventrel@maine.rr.com.

Historical Freedom Trail Walk Scheduled

Susan and Clifford Gilpin are leading a walking tour of the Freedom Trail in Portland today, January 19, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. in honor of *Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.* They begin at the Abyssinian Church at 75 Newbury Street, off India Street behind Amato's and will walk to 6 sites on the Underground Railroad east of Franklin Street, and end up at the Maine State Pier/Casco Bay Lines, warming up afterwards at Coffee by Design.

~ Travelogue January 22 at 6:30 p.m. ~ “The Land of a Thousand Hills” ~

Join us either by Zoom or in person in the upstairs classroom for a chance to hear about FCC member Autumn Stortebloom’s trip to Rwanda last August. Learn about the food (in person you may even get a sample), the landscape, the weather... maybe even pick up a few phrases in Kinyarwanda! A month in Rwanda lends itself to many topics including wedding customs, religious ceremonies, infrastructure, safari animals, reflections on the genocide and the scars remaining, and how the country is branding itself for the future.

The Hope Squad

Our first Mission Moment of the new year, facilitated by the Justice & Outreach Ministry, and scheduled for **Sunday, January 26** is from the “Hope Squad” which is a small, local, nonprofit agency that works with the unhoused population in Portland. FCC is currently accepting donations for the items listed below. There is a collection box in the narthex and all donations will be gratefully received. Thank you for your support: * **Soft granola bars** * **peanut butter crackers** * **Pop Tarts** * **hot cocoa canisters** * **oatmeal packets** *



NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

You are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of The Foreside Community Church, UCC will be held in the sanctuary at 340 Foreside Road, Falmouth, Maine on Sunday, January 26, 2025, *immediately following the 9:30 a.m. worship service* for the following purposes:

- Approval of Spring Meeting Minutes for May 19, 2024
- Review and approval of the 2024 Financial Report
- Review and approval of the 2025 Budget
- Brief Remarks by Pastor Geoff Parker and Moderator Laura Rodas
- To conduct any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Janette Gustafson, Clerk

THIS WEEK AT FORESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday, January 19: **9:30 a.m.** Sunday Worship (Sanctuary and online)
2:00 p.m. Freedom Trail Walk (Abyssinian Church)
see **“Announcements”** for details

Monday, January 20: *The church office will be closed in observation
of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.*

Tuesday, January 21: **9:00 a.m.** Tuesday Book Club (Parlor)
see **“Announcements”** for details
12:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Knitters (Classroom)
6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
6:45 p.m. AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
7:15 p.m. Bell Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, January 22: **10:00 a.m.** Centering Prayer (Parlor)
6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer (Sanctuary)
6:30 p.m. Travelogue
see **“Announcements”** for details

Thursday, January 23: *Church office will be opening at 10:30 a.m. this morning.*
9:00 a.m. Bells of Casco Bay (sanctuary)
6:00 p.m. Women’s AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

**Deadline to submit print ready copy (photographs encouraged where appropriate)
for the February *Steeplenotes* newsletter.**

Sunday, January 26: **9:30 a.m.** Sunday Worship (Sanctuary and online)
Mission Moment “Hope Squad”
see **“Announcements”** for details
After Worship Annual Meeting (Sanctuary)
see **“Announcements”** for details

Welcome to all who are visiting with us this morning!

We hope that you discover here what you have come seeking.

In the hymnal rack in front of you is a **welcome card** that you may fill out to let us know that you were here. It has a place to indicate how we might help you to learn more about us. Please check those boxes if that would be helpful. The card can be placed in the offering plate as it is passed. We are glad that you have come, and would be privileged to welcome you further.

Nursery care is always available during worship. The nursery is located through the side door at the front of the sanctuary, up the stairs, and down the hallway, third door on the right. Parents are welcome to walk their children to the nursery and then return to worship at any time. Alternately, the nursery is equipped with a sound system so that you may listen to the service even if you would like to remain with your child.

Children aged 3 through grade 6 are invited to attend Sunday school. Classes are scheduled to run through 10:40 a.m., at which time children can be picked up from the large Sunday school classroom at the end of the hall. If services conclude prior to 10:40 a.m. please feel free to enjoy refreshments and fellowship downstairs until pick-up time. Otherwise, children can be picked up immediately following the service.

Comfortable seating is available during Sunday service. An assortment of cushions is available at the back of the church. If you need assistance in retrieving one, please do not hesitate to ask a Minister of Worship usher.

Join us for coffee and conversation immediately following worship! We gather in our reception area downstairs which can be reached via the stairs, or the ADA accessible elevator, both located at the rear of the sanctuary. Please come and say hello!

Communion Sundays are usually held the first Sunday of each month.

The Foreside Community Church strives to be a **fragrance-free environment**. Please help us to accommodate our members and visitors who are chemically sensitive to fragrances and other scented products. Thank you for not wearing perfume, aftershave, scented hand lotion, fragranced hair products, and/or similar products.

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www.foresidechurch.org



An Open and Affirming Congregation



General Office Hours:

Monday through Friday

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

unless otherwise posted

The Rev. Geoff Parker, Pastor – gparker@foresidechurch.org
Trevor Lavenbein, Choir Director – tlavenbein@foresidechurch.org
David Bartoletti, Organist/Accompanist – dbartoletti@foresidechurch.org
Christina Sklarz, Office Manager – csklarz@foresidechurch.org

Alleluia! Amen! — Music: Henry Rawley Bishop Arr: Karen Lakey Buckwalter © 2013 Choristers Guild

How Can I Keep from Singing – Music: Robert Lowry arr. Sandra Eithun © 2024 Choristers Guild

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When Love Is Found — Text: Brian Wren © 1983 Hope Publishing Co.

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