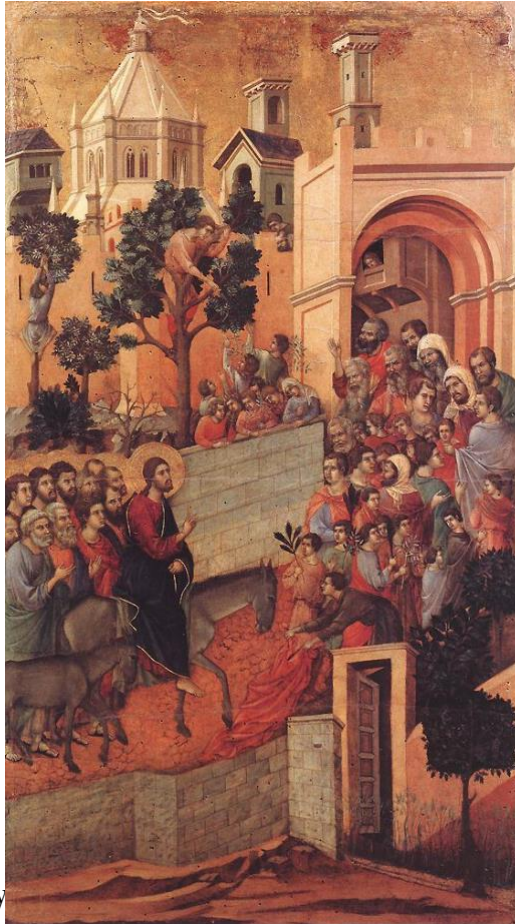


South Freeport Church

Congregational † United Church of Christ



“Entry

, 1311

Thanksgiving Sunday Worship
November 19, 2023, 9:30am

Welcome to worship at South Freeport Church! We are glad you are with us.

As an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ, it is our mission to be a source of worship, service, education, and healing for all. We welcome all people of any race, gender, nationality, ethnic origin, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression. We support full participation of everyone in the life and programs of this church. We recognize the rights of all persons, just as Christ accepted all people he encountered. We believe that in meeting each other in Christian love, God's Spirit frees us all to give, to grow, and to be ourselves. So whoever you are, and wherever you are on the journeys of faith and life, know that you are welcome here!

Welcome to all visitors! We are delighted that you have joined us today. Please make yourself at home here. We would love for you to fill out a Welcome Card in the back of the pew in front of you, which you can place in the Offering Plate later in the service.

OPPORTUNITIES

For a complete listing and more information please go to our website or check the weekly Enews. To be added to the weekly Enews, please contact Beth Dunfee at beth@southfreeportchurch.org.

New Mainer Coat Drive - First Winter in Maine!

Most of the 36 families who moved to Freeport this fall took the harrowing route from Angola through South and Central America to arrive in Maine. 134 children and adults need a coat for their first Maine Winter. Please bring new or gently used coats and drop them off in the bin in our church lobby. Boots, snow pants, and mittens are also needed.

Advent Contest - We're dreaming of a Green Christmas!"

How might we give gifts that don't use all that disposable wrapping paper, extra boxing and plastic wrapping? What alternative gifts or acts of service can we give? Send your ideas to green@southfreeportchurch.org by Fri, Dec. 8. If you have a creative alternative wrapping or gift you have made, bring it to church for Sun., Dec. 10. We will have a table for all the ideas and examples for folks to vote on. The prize will be awarded Sun., Dec. 17 - an LL Bean gift card and Jennie Gwilym's legendary chocolate chip cookies!

Heifer International - Ending hunger and poverty while caring for the Earth

This Advent, you can help provide livestock and sustainable agricultural training to struggling communities worldwide. Visit our Heifer table in Coffee Hour, where your donation will grant you an "Honor Card" - give a goat, or a flock of chickens, to anyone on your Christmas shopping list, while supporting this amazing organization!

All: Holy One, we confess that we are not always your thankful people. Sometimes we are ensnared by greed, taking more than we need, forgetting to share. Our precious planet groans from our overconsumption and waste. Forgive us when turn away from you and from each other; forgive us when we are complacent with injustice and inequity; forgive us when we lose touch with gratitude, O God, and recenter us in the abundance of your love. In Christ's name, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

One: Friends, rejoice, for there is good news! Very good news. The love of our God is unconditional, irrevocable, and unstoppable; nothing can ever separate us from it. By the Grace of our God, whenever we fall short, we are always forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: The peace of Christ be with you! **All:** And also with you.

RESPONSE SONG

"Sanctuary"

1. Lord pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and
 2. God em - pow'r me to be a wit - ness for you, act - ing
 ho - ly, tried and true; with thanks -
 bold - ly, in your name; seek - ing
 -giv - ing, I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu -
 jus - tice, where there is hurt - ing off - 'ring

SCRIPTURE - ar - y for you. hope where there is pain. Matthew 25:14-29

Fran Philip

HOMILY

"Talents"

Rev. Sean Patrick Coady

ANTHEM

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Rutter

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and 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.

CHORAL RESPONSE “I Will Give You Thanks Forever”

Drobinski

OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

*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.

*Prayer of Dedication

HONORING LONG-TERM MEMBERS

*CLOSING HYMN “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

#496

BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE “Go Now in Peace”

Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast strong, and true. Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others, so all the world can see.

God will be there, watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen.

POSTLUDE “Sarabande and Allemande from French Suite VI”

Bach

Thank you to this morning’s WORSHIP LEADERS. We are grateful for our ushers, Janie Iverson and Sue Ann Randall; and for Laura and Sarah Gozmán for sharing the arrangement on the altar. Just us after worship for a Pot Luck Brunch – all are welcome!

“Come, O Thankful People, Come”

Composite by Henry Alford, 1844 and Anna Laetitia Aiken Barbauld, 1772

Arr. George J. Elvey, 1858; descant arr. H.A. Chambers, 1931

Descant

3 These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all bless-ings flow;

1 Come, O thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;
 2 All the bless-ings of the field, all the stores the gar-dens yield,
 3 These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all bless-ings flow;

(Continued, on page 7)

and for these our songs we raise, grate - ful vows and sol - emn praise.

all is safe - ly gath - ered in as the win - ter storms be - gin;
 all the fruits in full sup - ply, rip - ened 'neath the sum - mer sky,
 and for these our songs we raise, grate - ful vows and sol - emn praise.

Come, then, thank - ful peo - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home;

God our Mak - er does pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied;
 All that spring with boun - teous hand scat - ters o'er the smil - ing land,
 Come, then, thank - ful peo - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home;

come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.

come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
 all that lib - eral au - tumn pours from its rich o'er - flow - ing stores,
 come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.

We Welcome These New Members into our Covenant Today

Nathaniel “Nat” Bessey	Atwood “Woody” Dunham
Jennifer “Jen” Bessey	Brian Houseal
Andrew Dodge	Katherine Houseal
Heather Dodge	

We Celebrate Our Long-Term Members*

**list may be incomplete – please let us know if we left your name out!*

50+ Year Members

Vaughndella Curtis	Henry Thomas
Martha Nichols	Ingrid Thomas

40+ Year Members

Judy Brown	Cam Grant	Chris Pinkham
Steve Brown	Holly Horne	Deb Pinkham
Beverly Curry	Janie Iverson	Mary Rial
Mark Curry	Jennifer Kimball	Mary Eliza Wengren
Genie Field	PJ Kimball	Linda Wood-McCullough
Joe Field	Anne Ordway	

30+ Year Members

Dan Bunting	Priscilla Eames	Geri Rose
Sheri Bunting	Sandy Grant	Judy Staples
Margaret Davis	Peter Haskell	Marliss Sweet
Dave Dickison	SueAnn Randall	Robert Sweet
Sandra Dickison	Peter Rice	
Ed Eames	Bob Rose	

+ + +

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following in your prayers: Laney Pitt, Gretchen Link, The Searle Family, The Curtis Family, The O’Leary Dafoe Family, Eric Kinney, Allan Wilson, Mary Eliza Wengren, Ruthie M., Abbie.

Our **Called to Care** contact this week is Cheryl Worchester.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Bible Study: Monday, Nov 20, 5:30 pm via Zoom

Church Council: Tuesday, Dec. 12, 6:30 pm via Zoom
Christian Education: Tuesday, Nov. 28, 6:45 pm via Zoom
Confirmation: Wednesday, Nov 29, 7-8:30 pm in the Youth Room
Deacons: Monday, Nov. 20, 6:30pm via Zoom
Events Team: Wednesday, Dec. 13, 5 pm via Zoom
Green Team: Monday, Dec. 11, 6:45pm via Zoom

ADVENT WORSHIP AND COFFEE HOUR HAPPENINGS

- I. “Hope” Sun., Dec. 3: Gingerbread House Decorating
- II. “Peace” Sun., Dec. 10: Cookie Walk, Christmas Sale, Green Xmas Contest voting
- III. “Joy” Sun., Dec. 17: Christmas Pageant **and** Green Christmas Contest drawing
- IV. “Love” Sun., Dec. 24: Simple service of Christmas Carols in the morning

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES *Silent Night, Holy Night!*

Join us for 7pm and 9pm Candlelit Services of Lessons and Carols



South Freeport Church

*An Open and Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ*

Rev. Sean Patrick Coady, Minister
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Bethany Dunfee, Admin. & Education Director
beth@southfreeportchurch.org

Denis Drobinski, Music Director
denis@southfreeportchurch.org

Ella Brown & Chloe Bibula,
Nursery Care Providers

Will Bristol, Organist Today

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Kessa Benner, Livestream Technician



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