

South Freeport Church

Congregational † United Church of Christ



2025 Lenten Journey

everything [in] between
meeting God in the midst of extremes

Order of Worship

First Sunday of Lent: March 9, 2025

**Please rise in body and/or spirit as you are able*

PRELUDE

WELCOME and PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Sean Patrick Coady

INTROIT

MEDITATION "Never Met a Stranger" by Rev. Sarah Speed Cole Tamminen

When we talk about God, we say she's never met a stranger.

She makes friends at the airport. She waves to babies in the check-out line.

When we talk about God, we say she'll leave the porch light on.

She'll have warm bread in the oven. She'll have all the time in the world.

When we talk about God, we say she'll look you in the eye.

She'll love you as you are. She'll call you by your name.

When we talk about God, we never have to talk about which side of the road she might walk down.

Wherever you are, that's where she'll be.

CALL TO WORSHIP *Congregation invited to read bold parts*

Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

Who is my neighbor? How can I help?

What do I have to learn? Where is God in it all?

Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

So may we listen. May we learn. May we stay curious, and may we look for God.

This is our invitation to lean in. Let us worship our holy God.

*OPENING HYMN "Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights" vv 1, 2, 4 #250

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Children and Youth may now head upstairs to Children's Church and Middle School Youth Group

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you have told us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we get tripped up on logistics. We want to know: who is our neighbor? Do we have to love the stranger? Must we have compassion for our enemy? Forgive our human tendency to create exceptions in the face of love. Rewire our hearts so that we might see the face of a neighbor in every stranger we pass. With hope we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Beloved: when we set limits on love, **God loves extravagantly.**
When we forget that we are neighbors, **God claims us as God's own.**
When we judge, hold back, or harm, **God surrounds us with grace.**
There is nothing we can do or leave undone that could separate us from the love of God.
This is the good news of the gospel. Thanks be to God! Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

RESPONSE SONG

“Take this Moment”

See back of bulletin

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Luke 10:25-37

Cole Tamminen

SERMON

“Who is my neighbor?”

Rev. Sean Patrick Coady

CHORAL ANTHEM

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and LORD'S PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

TIME OF OFFERING

Announcements and Invitation to Offering

Offertory

*Doxology *see back of bulletin*

Prayer of Dedication

*CLOSING HYMN

“I Saw a Stranger”

Insert

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Upcoming Meetings

Church Council: Tuesday, March 11, 6:30pm via Zoom
Called to Care: Sunday, March 16, 11am in the Ring Room
Christian Education: Tuesday, March 25, 6 pm via Zoom
Deacons: Monday, April 7, 6:30pm via Zoom
Events Team: Monday, March 10, 5:30 pm via Zoom
Green Team: Monday, March 17, 6pm via Zoom
Lenten Book Study: Wednesdays, March 12- April, 6:30pm via Zoom
Weekly Men's Breakfast: Wednesdays, 8:30am at Freeport Café
Weekly Women's Breakfast: Mondays, 8am at Magno Terra Café
Fourth Friday Ladies Lunch at the Foreside Tavern: Friday, March 28 at noon, Foreside Tavern, Falmouth.

Upcoming Opportunities:

St. Patrick's Day Irish Dinner and Entertainment

Saturday, March 15, 6-9pm in the Community Hall

All are welcome to join for this fun and festive gathering, featuring a traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner with dessert (BYOB). Tickets are \$25 per adult and \$10 per child, and can be purchased via Zeffy. See our website for the link.

Holy Week Schedule at South Freeport Church

Palm Sunday *April 13, 9:30am* Processional Worship

Maundy Thursday *April 17, 7pm* Tenebrae Service

Good Friday *April 18, 4-7pm, in the Community Hall* Deacon-led experience

Easter Sunday *April 20*

6am Sunrise Service at the Freeport Town Dock

7am Breakfast in the Community Hall

9am Resurrection Worship with Children's Skit

10:15am Egg Hunt and Coffee Hour

11am Resurrection Worship

Prayer List and Called to Care

Please keep the following in your prayers: Jane Ewer, Dan Bunting, Judy Deaver, Kathy McKinney, Vaughndella Curtis, Mary Bolton, Laney Pitt, Eric Kinney, Mary Eliza Wengren, Ruthie M., Abbie.

Our Called to Care contact this week is Genie Field.

I Saw a Stranger

Words by Anna Strickland, arr. Ralph Vaughn Williams



I saw a stran - ger on the road in need of help and
I laid there des - perate by the road in need of help and
In our em - brace the mem - o - ry re - turned from E - den's



care No clues to their i - den - ti - ty, just hu - man
care As one by one they passed me by, too bu - sy
dust Bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh, my kin whom



flesh laid bare A thought had flut - tered through my
or too scared Then one ap - proached and my first
I can trust The ar - ti - fi - cial walls we



mind: "Is this one of my own?" My tri - bal mind
thought was "Do they mean me harm?" To my sur - prise
build a - round the tribes we claim Make us for - get



made me for - get that they're bone of my bone
they met my eyes and held me in their arms
the gos - pel truth: "Be - lo - ved" is your name

Take This Moment

Words by John Bell and Graham Mule; music by John Bell



- | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------|-------|---------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Take this | mo - ment, | sign — | and — | space, | take my | friends a - |
| 2. Take the | time to | call — | my — | name, | take the | time to |
| 3. Take the | tired - ness | of — | my — | days, | take my | past re - |
| 5. Take my | tal - ents, | take — | my — | skills, | take what's | yet to |



-round; _____	Here	a	mong —	us —	make —	the —
mend _____	who	I	am —	and —	what —	I've —
gret, _____	let -	ting	Your —	for -	give -	ness —
be; _____	Let	my	life —	be —	Yours,	and —



place	where	Your	love	is	found. _____
been,	all	I've	failed	to	tend. _____
touch	all	I	can't	for -	get. _____
yet,	let	it	still	be	me. _____

The 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.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father/Mother/God/Creator, 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.

Lenten Benediction

As you leave this place, may you find God in every messy middle. May you know that the world is bigger than two sides. May you trust that you are made in the image of God, and therefore, you contain multitudes. So may you move through this world with an open heart, with a curious mind, and with the confidence that you do not go alone. God is with you in the mountains, in the valleys, and everywhere in between. Believe that good news, and go in peace.



everything [in] between

Meeting God in the midst of extremes

The ministry of Jesus was rooted in relationships that disrupted the established social, political, and religious divides of his time. Our Lenten journey this year follows the Gospel of Luke through several familiar stories that explore supposed binaries, like “faith & works” or “rest & growth” or “grief & hope.” We often consider these ideas to be opposing. However, as we explore these concepts within the scriptures, we may find nuance and complexity. We might begin to see a full spectrum instead of black and white. We may find wisdom in navigating the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention, and openness to be transformed. This Lent, we're trusting that God shows up in shades of gray, rainbow hues, and *everywhere in between*. This theme comes from *A Sanctified Art LLC*, with words for worship written by Rev. Sarah Speed; learn more at sanctifiedart.org. All music and words are reprinted by permission under OneLicense.net, License #A-732223, and by CCLI, License #11429994.



South Freeport Church

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of the United Church of Christ*

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