



# FORESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Connecting to God

Nurturing Community

Discovering our Callings

April 21, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*Ah, Holy Jesus*  
Towne Lyne Ringers

arr. Mazzatenta

### CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 32, Psalms for Praying by Nan Merrill)

**Sung response: I surrender my life into your hands.  
Create in me a clean heart.**

### \* HYMN

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* #23 (Black Hymnal)

**There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.  
There's no place where earthly sorrows are more felt than in God's heaven;  
there's no place where earthly failings have such kindly judgement given.**

**For the love of God is broader than the measures of our minds;  
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's work;  
and our lives would show thanksgiving for the goodness of our God.**

### \* UNISON PRAYER OF APPROACH

**God of outstretched arms, you welcome us to this place. You invite us to experience forgiveness, community, welcome and an overwhelming sense of the love that you pour out upon all your children. We come, acknowledging our limited capacity to forgive ourselves and others; our failures to reach out to others in welcome and hospitality toward those with whom we disagree, and our inability to love others as you love us. May we feel your forgiveness and love in this time of worship, may we share it with one another, and may we leave this place committed to sharing your extravagant welcome and acceptance in our world. Amen.**

## \* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### A TIME FOR ALL AGES

#### ANTHEM

*Meditation on Beautiful Savior*  
Towne Lyne Ringers

arr. Moglebust

#### SCRIPTURE

*Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32*

#### SERMON

*The Prodigal Father*

The Rev. Cheryl Anderson

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: God, in your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

#### 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.**

### 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

**\* 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**

**\* HYMN**

*When, like the Woman at the Well*

Black Hymnal, #196

When, like the woman at the well, I lived with broken dreams,  
Christ came to me, good news to tell, of ever living streams.

Christ knew my heart, my wayward ways, yet gave me hope, not fear.  
The God I once thought far away, I could approach, draw near.

I learned I could forever live and worship God aright,  
Could Trust the power the Spirit gives to guide me in truth's light.

Each day I lift my cup above, and I again receive  
The living water of God's love, revealed for my belief.

Since now I am in grace immersed, set free, forgiven, whole.  
I share with those who are a-thirst the well-springs of my soul!

**\*COMMISSION**

Leader: Let us go from here to share the wisdom and grace of God.

**All: We will go with courage; holding fast to what is good; rendering to no one evil for evil. We will strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, and help the afflicted. Honoring all beings, we will serve God; rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Today's Ministers of Worship:  
Deborah Gray and Carrie Penrose

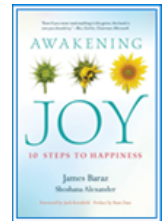
Today's Altar Arrangement:  
Is offered up by Debra Coyman,  
*"In gratitude for 30 years of Maine living."*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note that there will be **NO** nursery care or Sunday School classes today, April 21.

*Tuesday "Mindful" Class still welcoming new participants!*


Led by Pastor Cheryl, you will learn mindfulness practices to help you cultivate a sense of well-being and even happiness in the midst of all the troubling personal, local, national and world events. Each session will include a talk, discussion, a guided meditation, and additional mindfulness exercises to practice during the week. There is no required reading, but the class will be loosely based on the book Awakening Joy by James Baraz and Shoshona Alexander so you may be inspired to read it. This class is open to anyone interested and will continue to build to accommodate new attendees as awareness spreads. **FMI The Rev. Cheryl Anderson 207-560-7052 or 781-5880 [canderson@foresidechurch.org](mailto:canderson@foresidechurch.org).**



*Sunday April 21 In celebration of Earth Day* the Green Team invites you to come to Falmouth Town Landing **at 1:00 p.m.** to experience high tide and learn about the health of Casco Bay. Led by Susan Gilpin and sponsored by the Falmouth Land Trust.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont.)

A purple poster with a green outline of the state of Maine. The text "2024 Maine Spring Ring" is written in yellow. There are several purple pansy flowers scattered around the state outline. In the bottom left corner of the state outline, there is a purple heart containing a yellow handbell. To the right of the state outline, the text "HANDBELL CONCERT" is written in yellow, followed by "Saturday, April 27 at 4:00 pm" in white. Below that, in white italicized text, it says "featuring more than 100 ringers from Maine and New England". Further down, in yellow, it says "Auburn Middle School, 38 Falcon Drive". Below that, in white italicized text, it says "Open to the public - free will offering to support Handbell Musicians of America and The City of Lewiston Fund". At the bottom left, it says "Sponsored by" followed by the logo for Handbell Musicians of America, which consists of a stylized handbell and the text "Handbell Musicians OF AMERICA". To the right of the logo, it says "Area 1".

**2024  
Maine  
Spring Ring**

**HANDBELL CONCERT**  
Saturday, April 27 at 4:00 pm

*featuring more than 100 ringers  
from Maine and New England*

**Auburn Middle School, 38 Falcon Drive**  
*Open to the public - free will offering to support  
Handbell Musicians of America and The City of Lewiston Fund*

Sponsored by  **Handbell Musicians  
OF AMERICA** | Area 1

Please join **FCC's Towne Lyne Ringers** who will be performing at the 2024 Maine Spring Ring Handbell Concert **Saturday, April 27 at 4:00 p.m., Auburn Middle School, 38 Falcon Drive, Auburn**, and show your support not only for our own, but The City of Lewiston Fund in memory of the October tragedy.

## THIS WEEK AT FORESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

- Sunday, April 21:** **9:30 a.m.** Sunday Worship  
(sanctuary and online)  
**1:00 p.m.** Green Team @ Town Landing event  
See “**Announcements**” for further details.
- Tuesday, April 23:** **9:00 a.m.** Mindfulness Class(parlor)  
See “**Announcements**” for further details.  
**12:00 p.m.** Prayer Shawl Knitters (large classroom)  
**6:15 p.m.** Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary)  
**6:45 p.m.** AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)  
**7:15 p.m.** Bell Rehearsal (sanctuary)
- Wednesday, April 24:** **6:30 p.m.** Green Team Committee Meeting (classroom)
- Thursday, April 25:** **9:00 a.m.** Bells of Casco Bay (sanctuary)  
**2:30 p.m.** J&O Ministry Monthly Meeting (parlor)
- Saturday, April 27:** **4:00 p.m.** 2023 Maine Spring Ring  
See “**Announcements**” for further details.
- Sunday, April 28:** **9:30 a.m.** Sunday Worship  
(sanctuary and online)

## **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. **SEE BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR ANY UPDATES ON SCHEDULE.**

**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. **SEE BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR ANY UPDATES ON SCHEDULE.**

**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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The Rev. Geoff Parker, Pastor  
Trevor Lavenbein, Choir Director  
David Bartoletti, Organist/Accompanist  
Christina Sklarz, Office Manager

### **General Office Hours:**

Monday through Friday  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
unless otherwise posted

### **Sabbatical Co-Pastors**

**Pastor Cheryl ~ [canderson@foresidechurch.org](mailto:canderson@foresidechurch.org)**

**Pastor Sarah ~ [swhitfield@foresidechurch.org](mailto:swhitfield@foresidechurch.org)**

**781-5880 to leave message**

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST