



Elijah Kellogg Church, Congregational

917 Harpswell Neck Rd., Harpswell ME 04079 • 207-833-6026 • www.elijahkelloggchurch.org

Rev. Mr. Joseph Connolly, Interim Pastor

ELIJAH KELLOGG CHURCH WORSHIP

January 28, 2024

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

THOUGHTS FOR MEDITATION — “Because the ultimate goal of human life is a community of love in the embrace of the Triune God any action or institution that seeks to eliminate, assimilate and dominate or simply abandon the other— any exclusionary practice— is sinful....” Miroslav Volf, Yale Divinity School.

“One of the principle rules of religion is to lose no occasion of serving God. And since God is invisible to our eyes, we are to serve God in our neighbor; which God receives as if done to God’s own self, in person, standing visibly before us.” — John Wesley

“The artist’s response to the irrationality of the world is to paint or sing or write, not to impose restrictive rules but to rejoice in pattern and meaning, for there is something in all artists which rejects coincidence and accident.... We must meet the precariousness of the universe without self-pity, and with dignity and courage.” — Madeleine L'Engle

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace...

* Call to Worship

ONE: Great are the works of God, and greatly to be praised. God’s righteousness endures forever.

MANY: We come together as a congregation of believers. We give thanks to God with fullness of hearts.

ONE: God is gracious and merciful and trustworthy.

MANY: Holy and awesome is the Name of God. At all times God is mindful of the covenant. We call on God to empower us.

* **HYMN** — *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* INSERT

A Time for All Ages —

Lord’s Prayer (debts and debtors)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY INVITATION

*OFFERING RESPONSE (DOXOLOGY)

Old One-hundredth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

A READING FROM THE EPISTLES — 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 [ILV]

[1] Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we all possess knowledge. But knowledge puffs up, whereas love builds up. [2] You may think you know something but you still won't know it the way you should merely with knowledge. [3] But anyone who loves God is known completely by God.

[4] Hence, as to eating food which was sacrificed to idols, we know that idols have no real existence and that there is no God but the One, true God. [5] Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth as well— where there seems to be many gods and many sovereigns— [6] yet for us there is only one God, *Abba*, from whom all things come and for whom we live; and there is one Sovereign, Jesus, the Christ, through whom everything was made and through whom we live.

[7] It is not everyone, however, who has knowledge. Some people, accustomed to idol worship until recently, are consumed with guilt every time they eat the meat they buy in the market, since they think of this food as having been sacrificed to an idol; their conscience, being weak, is defiled every time they eat. [8] But food cannot bring us close to God. We are no worse off if we refuse to eat. We are no better off if we choose to eat.

[9] But take care, be on your guard that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block, a pitfall for the weak. [10] You see, if someone, who has this knowledge, sees you eating in the temple of some idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to eat the food sacrificed to idols? [11] So, realize that your knowledge— that idols are nothing and it is, thus, all right to eat this meat freely, might be the ruination of those who are weak believers but those for whom Christ, also died and by that they are destroyed. [12] When you thus sin against your sisters and brothers, members of your family, in this way and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. [13] Therefore, if food— meat— is a cause of my brother or sister stumbling, I will never eat meat again, so that I may not be an occasion for any one of them to fall.

SPECIAL MUSIC —

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

A READING FROM GOSPELS — Mark 1:21-28 [ILV]

[21] They, the disciples Jesus had summoned, went to Capernaum; and on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. [22] They were astounded, spellbound by the teaching, because Jesus taught them as one having authority, not like any of the scholars of religion.

[23] Just then there was in the synagogue a person with an unclean spirit [24] who cried out, who shrieked, “What have you to do with us, what do you want from us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are— the Holy One of God.” [25] But Jesus rebuked the spirit sharply: “Be silent! Be quiet! Come out of that person!” [26] At that the unclean spirit convulsed the possessed person violently and, crying with a loud voice, came out. [27] All who looked on were amazed. They kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching— and with such authority! This person even commands, gives orders to unclean spirits, and they obey.” [28] At once the fame of Jesus began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

* **HYMN** — *Hear, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face* INSERT

SERMON — *No Real Existence*

Piano Meditation —

Prayers of the People -

SILENCE

* **HYMN** — *O My Soul, Bless Your Creator* INSERT, v. 1, 2, 3, 4

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE —
O My Soul, Bless Your Creator INSERT, v. 5

Postlude

Harpwell Community Radio – WHPW 97.3 FM

Harpwell Community Television – Channel 14

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/7960701>

Serving you this morning:	
Interim Minister	Rev. Mr. Joseph Connolly
Pianist	Elizabeth Cromwell
Reader	Wendy Van Damme
Ushers	Carol Coultas & Ken Chutchian
Coffee Hour	Hospitality

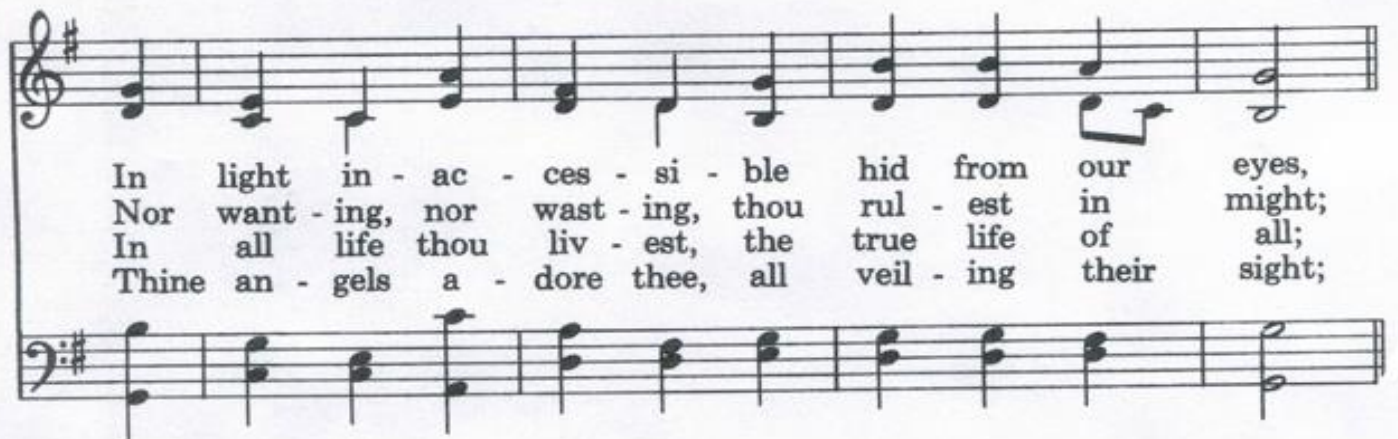
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Walter C. Smith, 1824-1908, alt.

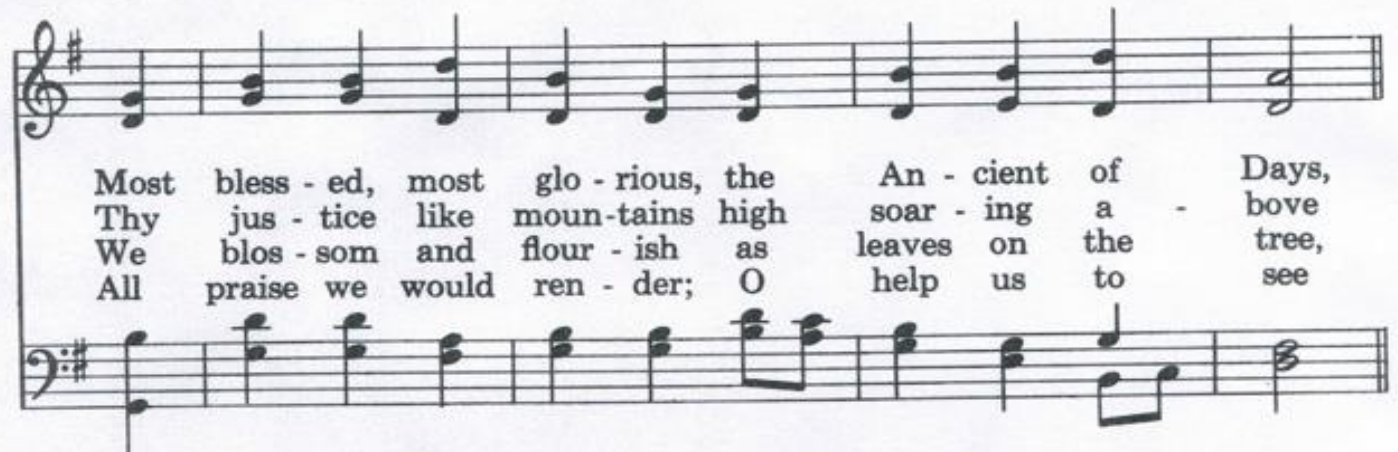
ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.
Welsh Hymn Melody



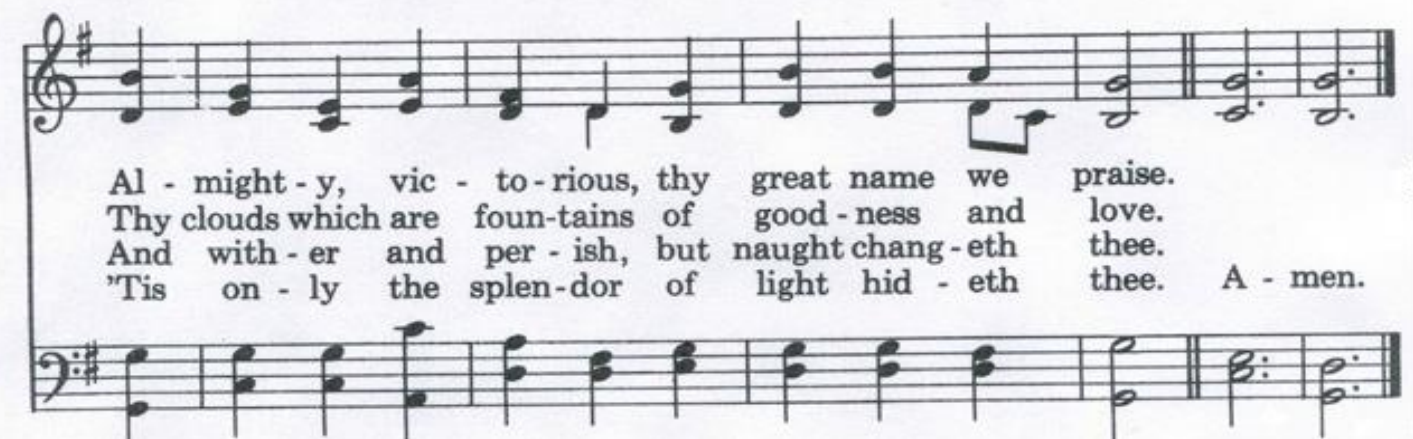
1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all, life thou giv - est to both great and small;
4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,



In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



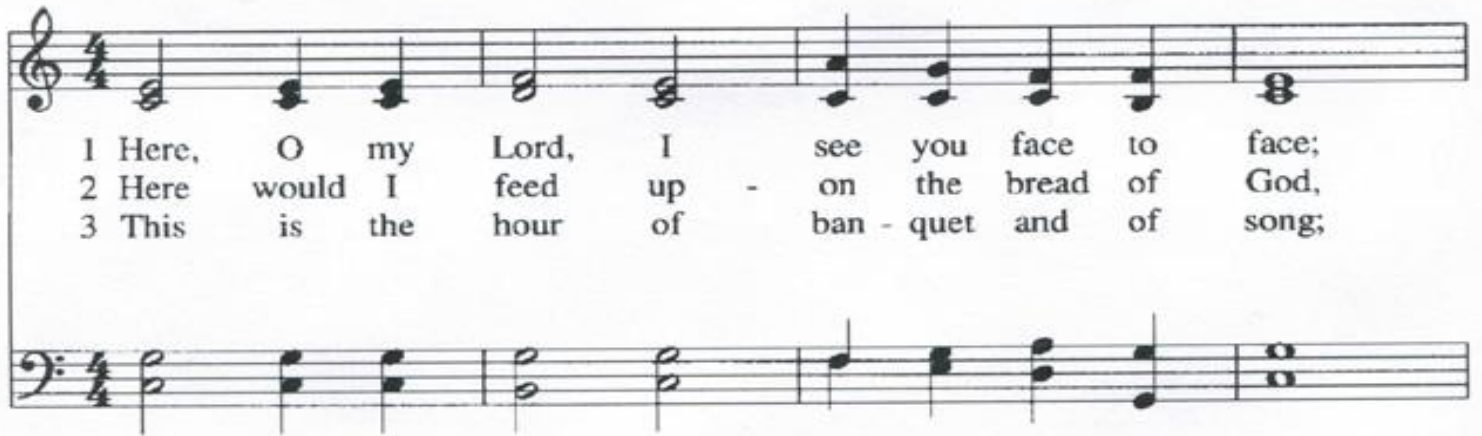
Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,
All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see



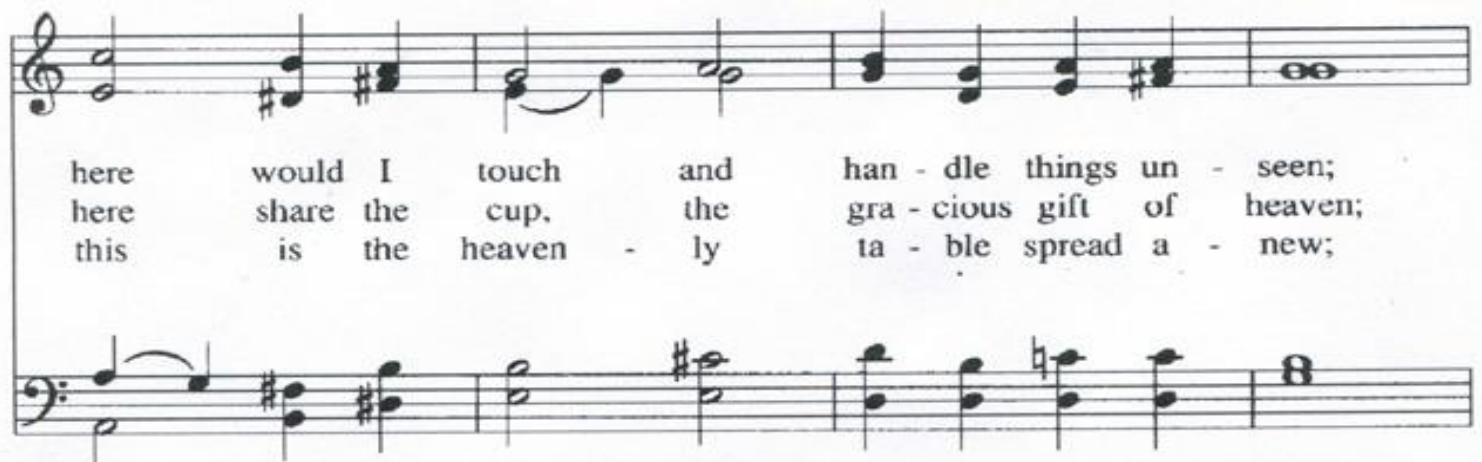
Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
And with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee. A - men.

Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face

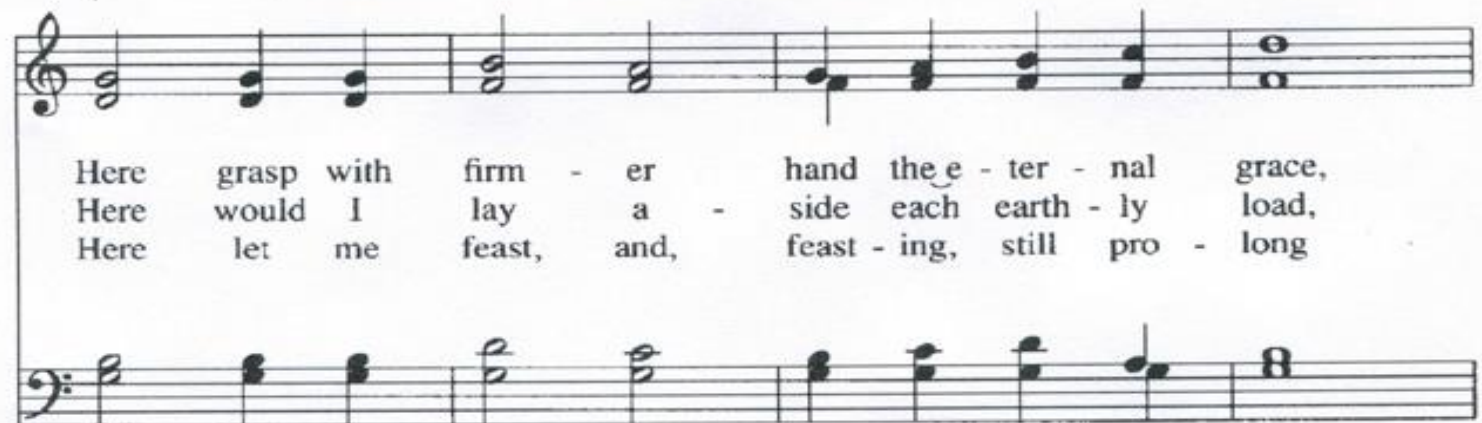
Horatius Bonar, 1855; alt.



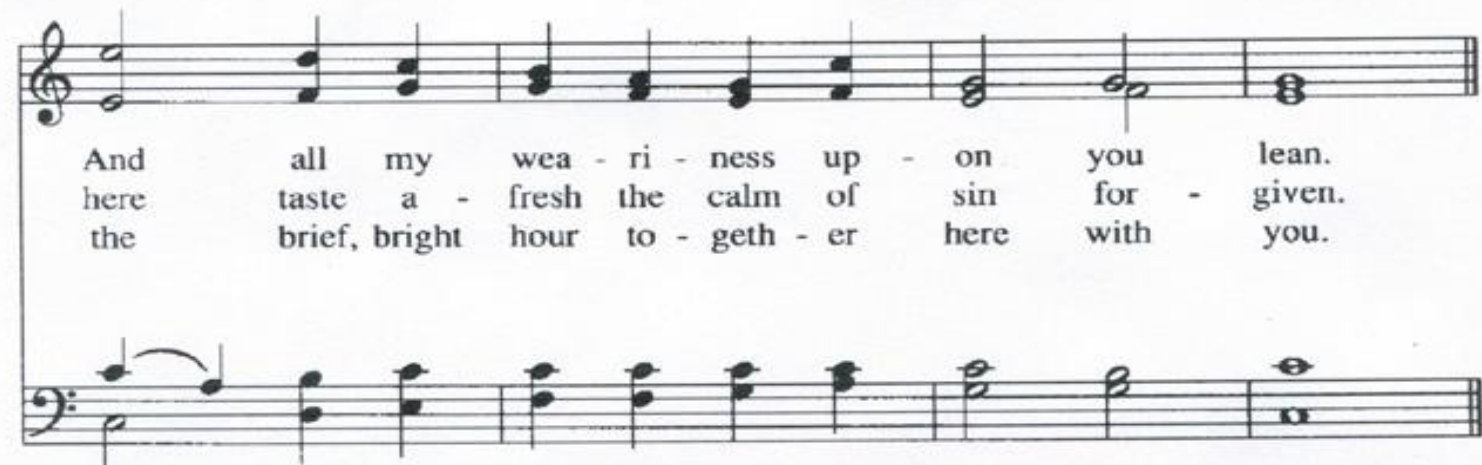
1 Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;
2 Here would I feed up - on the bread of God,
3 This is the hour of ban - quet and of song;



here would I touch and han - dle things un - seen;
here share the cup, the gra - cious gift of heaven;
this is the heaven - ly ta - ble spread a - new;



Here grasp with firm - er hand the e - ter - nal grace,
Here would I lay a - side each earth - ly load,
Here let me feast, and, feast - ing, still pro - long

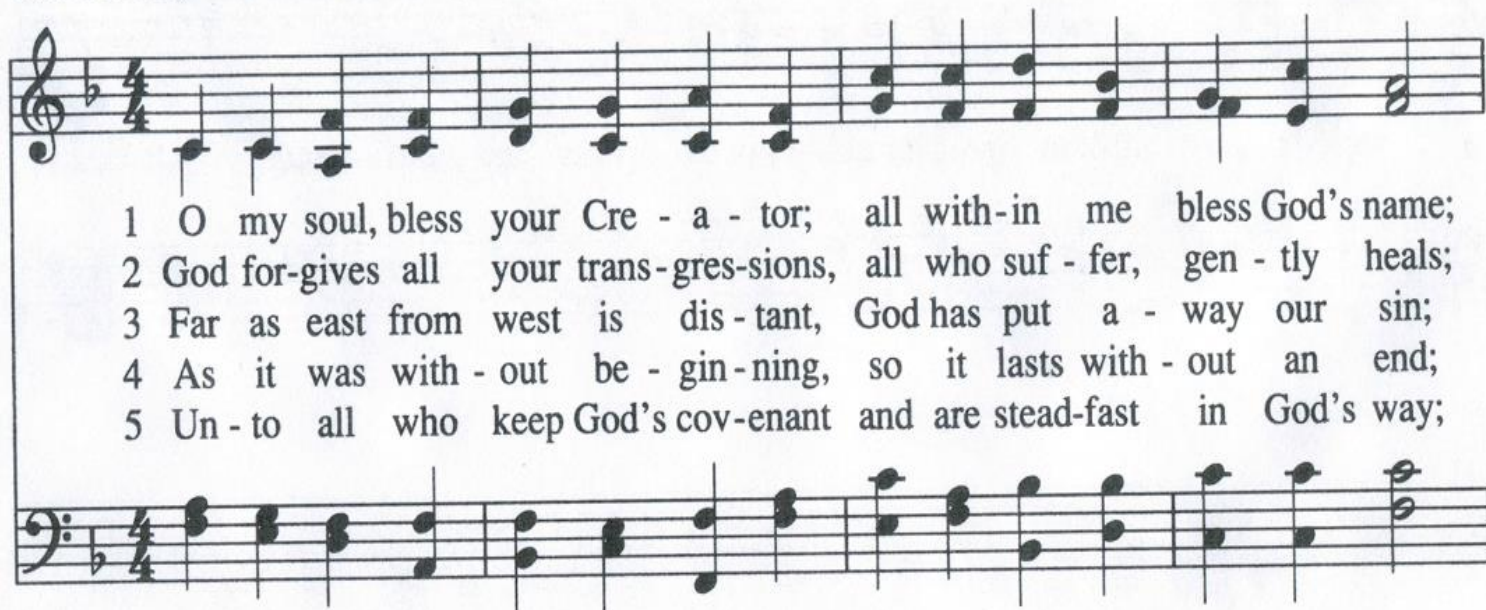


And all my wea - ri - ness up - on you lean.
here taste a - fresh the calm of sin for - given.
the brief, bright hour to - geth - er here with you.

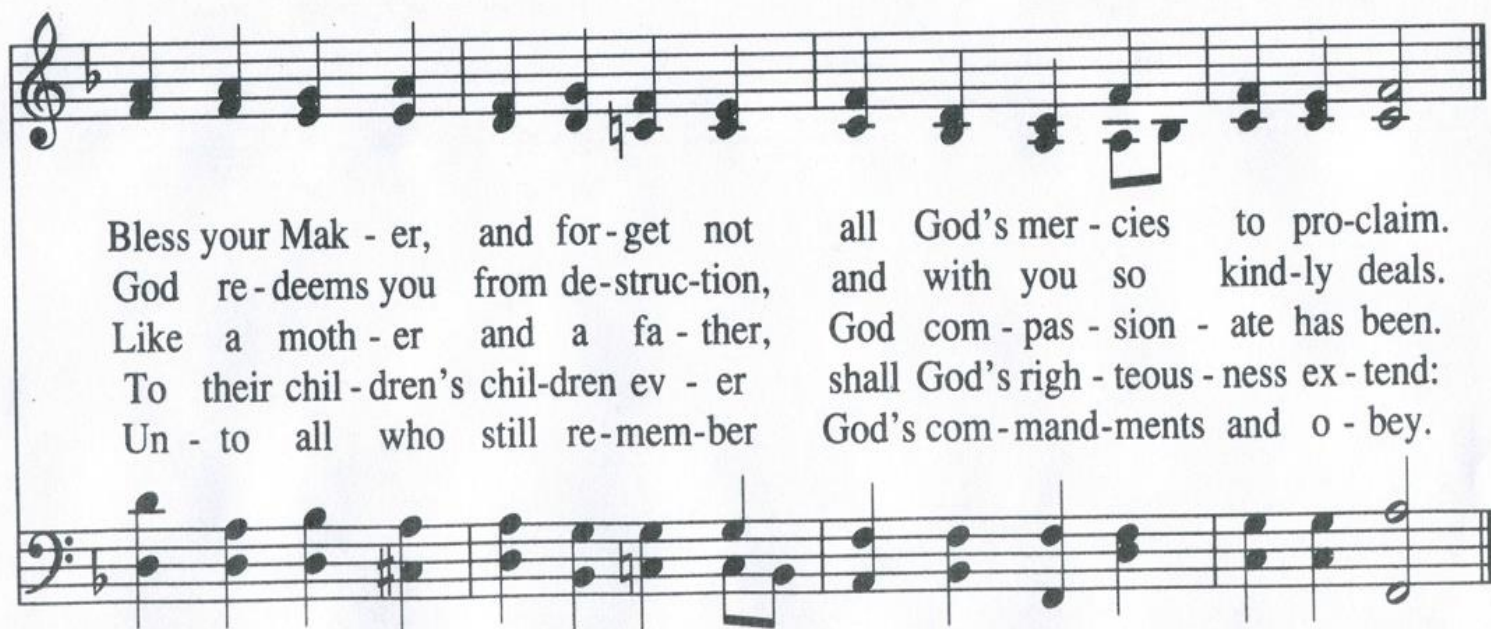
O My Soul, Bless Your Creator

Anon.

United Presbyterian Book of Psalms, 1871; alt.



1 O my soul, bless your Cre - a - tor; all with-in me bless God's name;
2 God for-gives all your trans-gres-sions, all who suf - fer, gen - tly heals;
3 Far as east from west is dis - tant, God has put a - way our sin;
4 As it was with - out be - gin-ning, so it lasts with - out an end;
5 Un - to all who keep God's cov-enant and are stead-fast in God's way;



Bless your Mak - er, and for-get not all God's mer - cies to pro-claim.
God re - deems you from de-struc-tion, and with you so kind-ly deals.
Like a moth - er and a fa - ther, God com - pas - sion - ate has been.
To their chil - dren's chil-dren ev - er shall God's righ - teous - ness ex - tend:
Un - to all who still re-mem-ber God's com-mand-ments and o - bey.



The flowers today are from Becky Gallery
in loving memory of her brother-in-law, Rick Palmer.

Prayer Requests for January 28, 2024

At home...

Hope Tanguay
Mark Wilson

Pat Moody
Connie Henry

Bill Menz

In nursing homes...

Sam Wright
David Ferris

In assisted living...

Gary Anderson
Ernestine Machesney

Tom Jones
Joan Phillips

Away...

Richard Haley

C V Noyes

George Patterson

Sick, in the hospital or rehabilitation...

Recovering from illness or surgery...

Dana Porter Carson

George Perkins

Grieving...

Family of Wendell Davidson

Family of Ellie Patterson

Thanksgivings...

The Pastoral Search Committee

Special concerns...

The School House 1913 fire victims Joseph Arena & Caroline Daniel

For the people in the paths of storms and fires

Emergency responders / Health care workers / Essential workers...

Praise God for our partnership with WHPW and Channel 14!

Please keep those named above in your prayers. If you have any questions, or would like others to be prayed for, please contact Susan Ferris, Chairperson of our Prayer Circle. Susan can be reached at 666-3247 or sueherb@myfairpoint.net.

Pastor Joe's office hours for the week of January 29th

Monday, January 29th, 9am – 11am

The Bible Study passage for Monday January 29th at 11:00 a.m. is:

Isaiah 40:21-31

No Board of Committee meetings scheduled for next week.

Missions

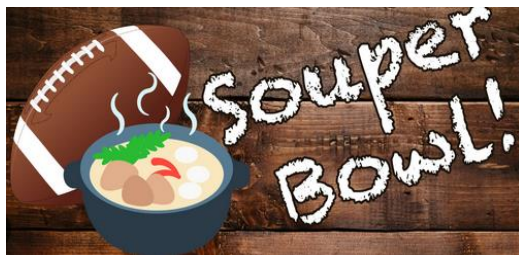
With our long, cold January, don't forget to look at the Food Bank Requests for January and bring in those calorie filled items that provide warmth and nourishment.

Food Bank (MCHHP) requests for the month of January are:

- *Canned Tuna or other canned fish (Salmon, Sardines, etc.)
- *Pasta Sauce
- *Canned Stews or other pasta meals
- *Low sugar breakfast cereals (not easy to find)
- *Toilet Paper

Also, a big "THANK YOU" for the warm reception for our speaker Mary Malia, of the College Guild. She left here quite taken by your enthusiastic response and interest in this unique, but vital program.

******* NOW, ON TO THE COMPETITION... THE SOUPER BOWL! *******



For the next two Sundays in February, there will be baskets in Fellowship Hall denoting the Souper Bowl team names in the game.

As of now, we know that the Kansas City Chiefs will be one team.

You "VOTE" for your favorite team by donating your cans of soup to the team basket. The soups will be taken to the Food Bank and weighed. The winner will be announced February 18th. There are no losers, but the winning team supporters have great "BRAGGING RIGHTS"!

This was a fun, successful competition last year, let's make it a tradition!

**Thank you,
Your Board of Missions**

Women's Fellowship Meeting Tuesday, February 6th

The next meeting of the Women's Fellowship will be on Tuesday, February 6th at 11:00 am in Fellowship Hall. The program will be presented by Elly and Charlie Cary. They have a slide show of their trip and it's called "Classical Greece and The Islands." All are invited (men and women) to come to the program which will start at 11:00. Please bring a bag lunch of your choice and this will be followed by our business meeting. Dessert, coffee and tea will be provided.

Habitat for Humanity


If anyone has a piece of art that you would like to donate to the Habitat art auction, please let Karin Soderberg know, and she will give you the details.

It can be a painting, print, etching, sculpture, or mixed media. Habitat is accepting donations until January 31.



Habitat for Humanity
7 Rivers Maine

**3RD ANNUAL
LOVE TO BUILD
ART AUCTION**
LOVE IS A FOUNDATION WE CAN BUILD ON



ON DISPLAY AT THE RESTORE: 2/6/24 — 2/24/24
LIVE ONLINE BIDDING: 2/14/24 — 2/24/24 →

Featuring original works from local artists and volunteers, rare donated art, and other unique items. All proceeds help build and repair homes for local families with limited incomes.

Habitat for Humanity
7 Rivers Maine



2023

ANNUAL REPORT

Sunday, February 11 - 2023 EKC Annual Report and Annual Meeting
Agenda will be available for distribution.

2024

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 18 - 2024 Annual Meeting in Fellowship Hall (11:15 am)

Copies of the annual report and meeting agenda will also be available as a .pdf document and the annual meeting will be available on the Church Zoom platform for those unable to attend in person. Please notify Stephanie (adminassist@elijahkelloggchurch.org or 207-833-6026) in the Church office for a digital copy of the annual report and agenda and/or a link to the Zoom platform, if desired, no later than Wednesday, February 14.