



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 7, 2024 - First Sunday after the Epiphany
Know in Some Traditions as the First Sunday in Ordinary Time
Known in Some Traditions as the Baptism of the Christ

Thoughts for Meditation — “Doubt is as crucial to faith as darkness is to light... faith is, by definition, uncertainty.” — Rev. Carter Heywood, Episcopal priest.

“Ring the bells that still can ring, / forget your perfect offering. / There’s a hole in everything, / That’s how the light comes thru.” — Leonard Cohen

“Faith is a decision, a judgment that is fully and deliberately taken in the light of a truth that cannot be proven — it is not merely the acceptance of a decision that has been made by somebody else.” — Thomas Merton.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace...

Call to Worship —

ONE: The voice of God can be heard throughout the universe.

ALL: Let that same voice call us to worship. Let us ascribe to our God glory and graciousness. Let us praise God for the goodness of creation. Let us praise God for the gifts we have received. Let us come before God’s glorious majesty.

ONE: Let us come together to remember our Baptism.

ALL: Let us gather to celebrate the gifts of the Spirit. Surely God’s wish is that we be whole. Let us rejoice as we praise God.

*** INVOCATION**

* **HYMN** — *Hear the Voice of God So Tender* INSERT

An Order for the Sacrament of Communion

{*Note: in the Protestant Tradition we celebrate two sacraments. Baptism is one. The sharing of bread and cup is known by several names: Eucharist, Communion and the Lord’s Supper. All are welcome at the table, including children who may partake of the Sacrament at the discretion of parents, care-givers or guardians.*}

CALL FOR OFFERING

OFFERTORY

***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**

Owning Our Church Covenant

We covenant with one another to seek and respond to the Word and the Will of God. We purpose to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our community, the nation and all the world, while worshiping God and striving for truth, justice and peace. As did our forebears, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the Kingdom of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.

CONFESSION

Let us humbly confess our sins in silence to God. (Silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We now rest assured of God's forgiveness through Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

ONE: Please join with me in the responsive Communion Prayers found in the bulletin.

RESPONSIVE COMMUNION PRAYERS

ONE: God be with you.

MANY: **And also with you.**

ONE: Be free with your hearts.

MANY: **We give them freely to God.**

ONE: Let us give thanks to God.

MANY: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

CONSECRATION

Holy God, we praise You for Your creation, remember Your covenant, made with Your people, shown in fullness with the birth of Jesus and completed in the resurrection of the Christ. We remember too, that on the night of betrayal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus took the cup, saying: "This is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of me."

Consecrate, therefore, by Your Holy Spirit, O God, these gifts, and bless us that, as we receive them, we may be united with Christ and one another, and continue to be faithful in all things. Amen.

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ. And through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us now pray, as the saints who have witnessed to us and preceded us throughout the ages have prayed by reciting *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 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

(Note: when the elements are distributed it is suggested you partake of the bread when it is received. This is a symbol of our freedom. It is suggested we partake the cup together as a symbol of our unity.)

These are the gifts of God for the people of God; take them in remembrance that Christ died and was raised for you.

As we receive the bread take and eat for the body of Christ is present with you.

And together let us take of the cup for the blood of Christ is present with you.

THANKSGIVING

Please pray with me.

We thank you God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth Your presence in our lives. We pray these things in the name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

A READING FROM THE *TANAKH* IN THE SECTION KNOWN AS THE *TORAH*—
Genesis 1:1-5 [Adapted from a Translation by Everett Fox]

[1] At the beginning of God's creating of heaven and the earth— [2] when the earth was unformed and void, wild and waste, with darkness over the surface of the deep, a wind from God, the rushing Spirit of God swept over the face of the waters. [3] And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. [4] And God saw the light: that it was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. [5] God called the light: "Day!" and the darkness God called: "Night!" And there was setting and there was dawning: one day.

* HYMN — *All People That on Earth Do Dwell* INSERT

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS — Mark 1:4, 9-11 [ILV]

[4] John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

[9] It was then that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan River by John. [10] Jesus was coming up out of the water and saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending like a dove. [11] Then a voice came from heaven: “You are My Child, My Own, the Beloved; with You I am well pleased; on You My favor rests.”

SPECIAL MUSIC —

MEDITATION — *The Light*

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

SILENCE

* **HYMN** — *Crashing Waters at Creation* INSERT, v. 1, 2, 3, 4

BENEDICTION

Let us listen to the voice of God when it calls. Let us glorify God’s name in our work, in our worship and in all that we do. And may the peace of the God, which surpasses all understanding, and the presence of the Christ, which is real and available, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge, love and companionship of the Holy Spirit, this day and forever more, for this is the One Triune God whom we worship.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE — *Crashing Waters at Creation* INSERT, v. 5

Postlude

Harpswell Community Radio – WHPW 97.3 FM

Harpswell Community Television – Channel 14

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



Serving you this morning:	
Interim Minister	Rev. Mr. Joseph Connolly
Pianist	Elizabeth Cromwell
Ushers	Becky Gallery & Harry Arnold
Reader	Wendy Van Damme
Coffee Hour	Hospitality



Pastor Joe’s office hours for the week of January 8th

Monday, January 8th – 9am – 11am

The Bible Study passage for Monday 01/08 at 11:00 a.m. is:

1 Samuel 3:1-10.

Hear the Voice of God, So Tender

Tune: Beach Spring

1 Hear the voice of God, so ten - der, whis-p'ring like a soft ca - ress,
2 Lis-tening to the Spir-it's guid - ing, breath be - yond the writ - ten code,
3 Shed the wine -skins of our war - fare for the fresh new ones of - peace,
4 Hear the voice of God, so ten - der, whis-p'ring like a soft ca - ress,

Giv - ing, as our sure de - fen - der, stead - fast love and faith - ful - ness.
We, in cov - e - nant a - bid - ing, seek to write our let - ters bold.
Know-ing God sus - tains our wel - fare with a love that will not cease.
We are claimed as God's own chil - dren, as we bap - tize, as we bless.

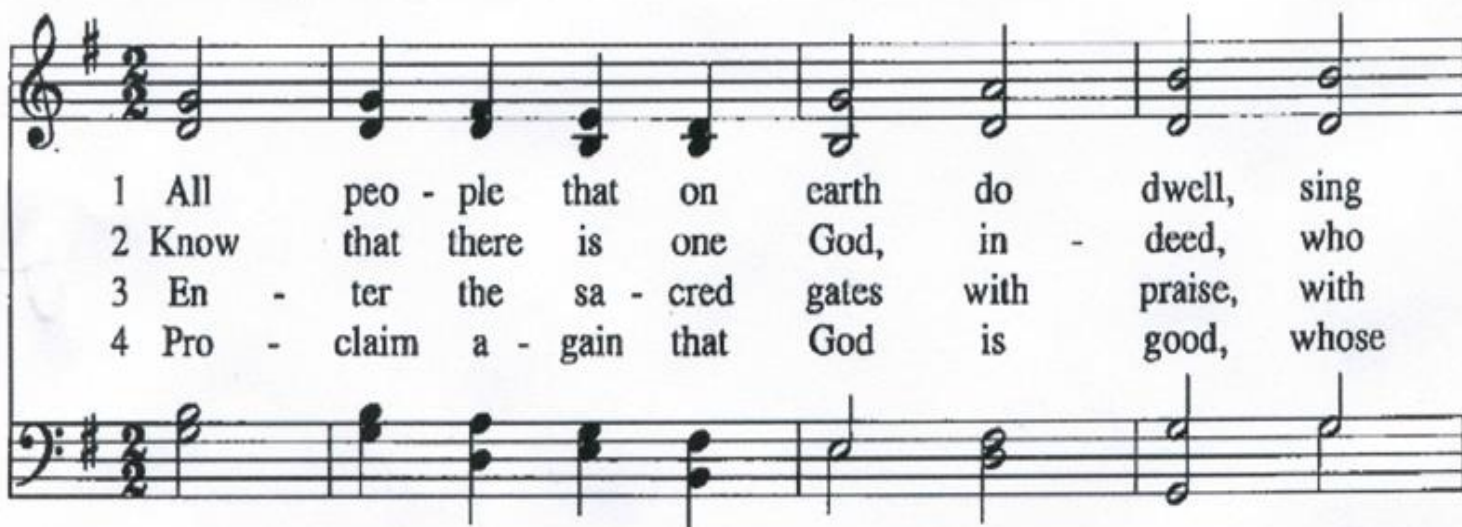
Bless God's ho - ly name to - geth - er, as the Spir - it brings new life.
Bless God's ho - ly name to - geth - er, as the Spir - it brings new life.
Bless God's ho - ly name to - geth - er, as the Spir - it brings new life.
God in - vites us: love each oth - er; fills our hearts with faith - ful - ness;

Giv - ing, as our sure de - fend - er, stead-fast love and faith-ful - ness.
We, in cov - e - nant a - bid - ing, seek to write our let - ters bold.
Know-ing God sus - tains our wel - fare with a love that will not cease.
We are claimed as God's own chil - dren, as we bap - tize, as we bless.

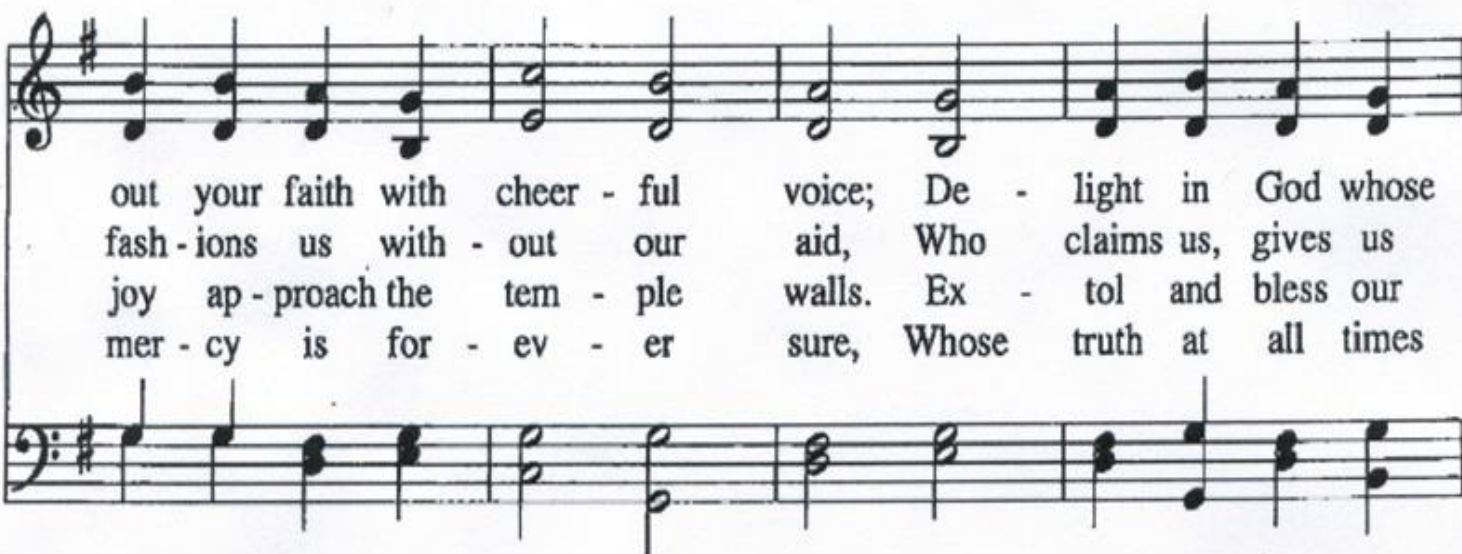
All People That on Earth Do Dwell

William Kethe, 1561

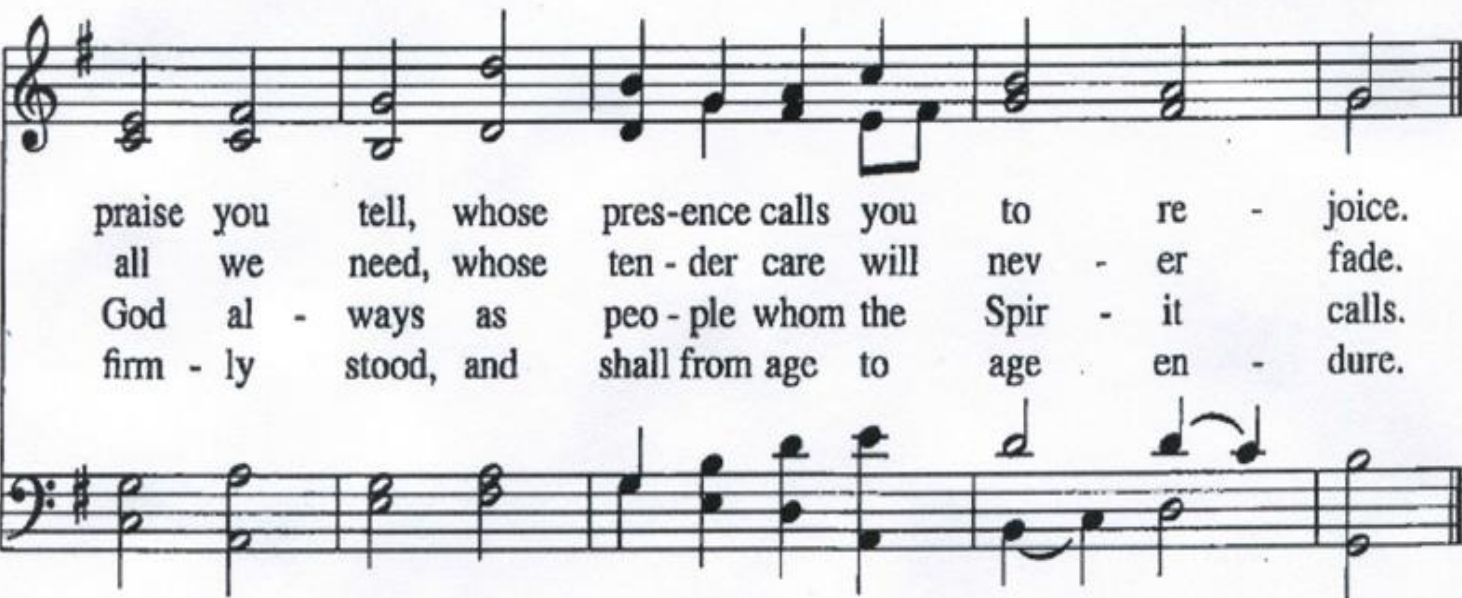
Adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1992



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing
2 Know that there is one God, in - deed, who
3 En - ter the sa - cred gates with praise, with
4 Pro - claim a - gain that God is good, whose



out your faith with cheer - ful voice; De - light in God whose
fash - ions us with - out our aid, Who claims us, gives us
joy ap - proach the tem - ple walls. Ex - tol and bless our
mer - cy is for - ev - er sure, Whose truth at all times



praise you tell, whose pres - ence calls you to re - joice.
all we need, whose ten - der care will nev - er fade.
God al - ways as peo - ple whom the Spir - it calls.
firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.



The flowers on the piano are given by Dave Luce
in loving memory of his wife Susan.

Crashing Waters at Creation

Tune: Stuttgart

1 Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion or - dered by the Spir - it's breath.
2 Liv - ing wa - ter, Christ a - mong us, quench the thirst and flood the soul
3 We are chil - dren of God's prom - ise bap - tized with the Spir - it's sign.
4 Christ, in Whom we see full mea - sure of God's love, hope, joy and peace -
5 Lov - ing par - ent, God who made us, Tri - une God who made each star,

First to wit - ness day's be - gin - ning from the bright - ness of night's death.
Well - spring, Source of life e - ter - nal, drench our dry - ness, 'till we're whole.
Jus - ti - fied by faith, Your prom - ise, Rec - on ciled by Your de - sign.
Help us know true love through Je - sus; Spi - rit Blest, our faith in - crease.
Help us grow and trust and wor - ship, let us learn Whose child we are.

Prayer Requests for January 7, 2024

At home...

Pat Moody
Connie Henry

Bill Menz

Mark Wilson

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...

Hope Tanguay

Recovering from illness or surgery...

Dana Porter Carson

George Perkins

Grieving...

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.

Thank You

Pulpit Committee Update

We have received several letters of interest and additional inquiries as a result of posting the notice of an open pulpit in June 2023. We have used the websites of national church associations, bulletin boards of seminaries and colleges, personal contacts and local ministers to identify candidates. We have placed ads in the periodical *Christian Century*. To date, only one candidate has met the basic qualifications, but that candidate has withdrawn the letter of interest and accepted another call.

Your committee is committed to continue the search, as God leads us to the right person. It will happen in God's time, not ours, we ask you to continue your prayers for wisdom and patience in our search.

Ashley Braley, Carrie Bubier, Becky Gallery, Bill Greenwood, Sharon Kirker, Ben Skinner, Wendy van Damme

Missions

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

THANK YOU!

We were able to deliver only 44 pounds of food stuffs in the month of December and that's attributed to all the other needs that were occurring during that busy time.

Lost & Found

Did you lose your tablecloths? Five off-white round tablecloths and 4 white long rectangular table cloths have appeared in fellowship hall. The questions are: "To whom do they belong?"; "Are they from a catered event?"; "Are they a gift to EKC?"; "Were they left here by mistake?". We have ruled out the Nursery School and Women's Fellowship. Thank you for your help and Happy New Year!

Ruth Smith
jandrsmith@myfairpoint.net

Pledge Envelopes

Pledge envelopes have arrived. They are on the desk in the office and ready for pick up.

Meetings Scheduled for the week of January 8th

Christian Education will meet on Monday, January 8th at 5:15 in the Parlor

Missions will meet on Friday, January 12th at 10:00 in the Parlor

SCHEDULE FOR 2023 ANNUAL REPORTS & 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, January 22 - 2023 annual reports from officers, boards and committees are due in Church office.

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

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@elijahkloggchurch.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.