



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

October 15, 2023

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

THOUGHTS FOR MEDITATION — “*Not* thinking critically, I assumed ‘successful’ prayers were proof that God answers prayer while the failures were proof that there was something wrong with me.” — Dan Barker, musician (b. 1949)

“Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one’s weakness. It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart.” — Mahatma Gandhi

“The function of prayer is not to influence God but rather to change the nature of the one who prays.” — Søren Kierkegaard

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace...

* Call to Worship —

ONE: God hears our prayers and answers us.

MANY: God equips us to be the hands, feet, eyes and ears of the work of the dominion.

ONE: We have come asking that God empowers us to walk in God’s will and do God’s work.

MANY: Our hope is in God, the one who made the universe. Let us seek God’s will. Let us be about God’s work.

Prayer of Invocation

* HYMN — *Rejoice, You Pure in Heart* 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 *TANAKH* IN THE SECTION KNOWN AS THE WRITINGS
IN THE PORTION COMMONLY CALLED AS THE PSALMS — Psalm 19 [ILV]

To the leader. A Psalm of David.

The heavens are heralds of the glory of God;
the heavens tell of God's eternal glory;
and the firmament, the skies proclaim
the handiwork, that which God has made.
[2] Day after day these tell me the story,
these pour forth words of God's glory,
and night after night these reveal
the depth of their understanding and knowledge.
[3] Without speech, without words;
without even an audible voice
their cries echo through all the world
[4] their voice goes out through all the earth,
their message reaches to the ends of the world.

In the heavens the sun has pitched a tent.
[5] It comes forth with the grandeur
of a wedding procession,
with the eagerness of an athlete ready to race
it runs its course with joy.
[6] Its rising is from one end of the sky,
one end of the heavens,
and it circuits to the other end of the heavens;
and nothing escapes its warmth.

[7] Your law, O *Yahweh*, God, is perfect,
Your law, O *Yahweh*, God,
refreshes the soul;
Your law, Your decrees O *Yahweh*, God,
are sure, and are to be trusted.
They make the wise the simple;
they give wisdom to the naïve.

[8] Your purposes, O God, are right;
they gladden the heart;
Your commands are clear,
giving light to the eyes;
[9] to hold You in awe,
O *Yahweh*, God, is pure
and endures forever;
Your decrees O *Yahweh*, God,
are true and steadfast.
and righteous, just.
[10] They are more precious than gold,
even the purest gold;
sweeter than honey,
than drippings of honey
fresh from the comb.

[11] Moreover in them Your people find instruction;
there is great reward in keeping them.
[12] But who can detect one's own failings?
So, forgive me from my faults, my misdeeds
about which I do not even know.
[13] Keep back Your faithful one
from being insolent, from presumption,
so that my faults never control me.
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of a grave error.

[14] And, indeed, may the words of my mouth
and the thoughts, the meditations, of my heart
be acceptable, pleasing in Your sight,
O *Yahweh*, God, my rock and my redeemer!

* **HYMN** — *I Would Be True* INSERT

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS — Matthew 22:1-14 [ILV]

[1] Once more Jesus spoke to them [that is: the Chief Priests and the Pharisees] in parables, saying: [2] “The Dominion of Heaven is like this: it may be compared to a ruler who gave a wedding banquet for an heir. [3] This ruler sent out workers, telling them to summon the invited guests to the wedding banquet; but they would not come. [4] Again, other workers were sent out to say to those invited, ‘A feast has been prepared for you. The oxen and fattened calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ [5] But they made light of it, took no notice and went away; one went to farm, another to business, [6] while the rest seized those who had been sent— the workers— attacked them brutally and killed them. [7] The ruler was enraged, furious and dispatched troops, destroyed those murderers and burned their town.

[8] The ruler then said to the workers, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy; they did not deserve the honor. [9] Go, therefore, into the streets and the crossroads and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ [10] They went out into the streets, the crossroads and gathered everyone they met, good and bad alike, until the wedding hall was filled with guests.”

[11] “Now, the ruler then came into the banquet hall, saw the guests at the tables and noticed one guest who was not wearing a wedding robe. [12] ‘My friend,’ said the ruler, ‘how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ But the guest was speechless, silent. [13] Then the ruler said to the attendants, ‘Let this guest be bound hand and foot, and throw this individual out into the outer regions, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ [14] Many are called, but few are chosen.”

SPECIAL MUSIC — *Change My Heart, O Lord* (arr. Eddie Espinoza)

SERMON — *Prayer*

Piano Meditation —

Prayers of the People -

SILENCE

* **HYMN** — *Not My Brother, Nor My Sister*
(*Standing in the Need of Prayer*) INSERT, v. 1, 2, 3

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE — *Not My Brother, Nor My Sister*
(*Standing in the Need of Prayer*) INSERT, v. 4

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
Reader	Carmen Fortin
Ushers	Bill & Kay Hunter
Coffee Hour	Jane Faulkner

Please join us for coffee hour following today’s service in Fellowship Hall.



This flowers today are in loving memory of Jane and Gerry Gott

Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

Edward H. Plumptre, 1865; alt.

Ps. 20:5; Phil. 4:4



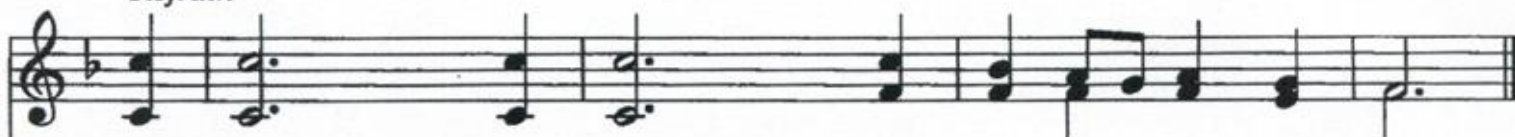
1 Re - joice, you pure in heart; lift prais - es to the sky;
2 Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as you go,
3 Praise God who rules all worlds, the ris - en Christ a - dore,



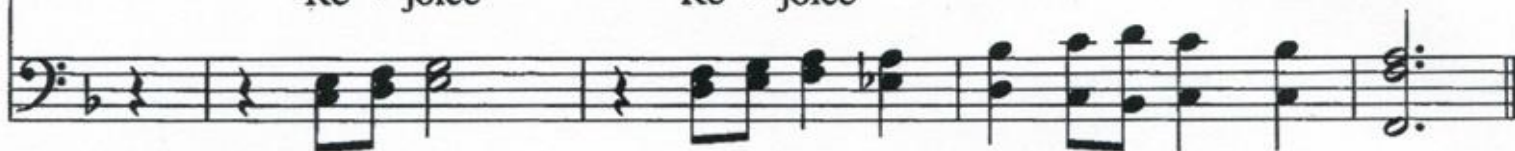
Your fes - tal ban - ner wave with joy, the cross of Christ raise high!
From youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe:
Praise God the Spir - it, Ho - ly Fire, one God for ev - er - more!



Refrain



Re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, give thanks and sing.
Re - joice Re - joice



I Would Be True

Howard A. Walter, 1883-1918

PEEK 11.10.11.10.10.
Joseph Y. Peek, 1843-1911

1 I would be true, for there are those who trust me;
2 I would be friend of all, the foe, the friend - less;

I would be pure, for there are those who care;
I would be giv - ing, and for - get the gift;

I would be strong, for there is much to suf - fer;
I would be hum - ble, for I know my weak - ness;

I would be brave, for there is much to dare,
I would look up, and laugh, and love, and lift,

I would be brave, for there is much to dare.
I would look up, and laugh, and love, and lift. A - men.

Prayer Requests for October 15, 2023

At home...

Pat Moody
Connie Henry

Clara Braley

Mark Wilson

In nursing homes...

Sam Wright
David Ferris

In assisted living...

Trina
Tom Jones

Joan Phillips
Ernestine Machesney

Away...

Richard Haley

C V Noyes

Ellie and George Patterson

Sick, in the hospital or rehabilitation...

Recovering from illness or surgery...

George Perkins

Grieving...

Family of Devon Arnett
Family of Jane Collins

Thanksgivings...

The Pastoral Search Committee

Special concerns...

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

Office Hours for the week of October 16th

Pastor Joe's office hours:

Pastor Joe's office hours for the week of 10/16 is Monday, 10/16 from 9am – 11am

The Bible Study passage for Monday 10/16 at 11:00 a.m. is Matthew 22:15-22.

Moment for Missions

In keeping with our 4-part program of supplying needed items for the current Tedford Shelters, October will be the month we have selected to contribute: **TOILETRIES AND PERSONAL ITEMS**. Among the list are:

Razors and Shaving Cream
Shampoos
Body Washes and Soaps
Deodorants

Mouthwash
Toothbrushes
Kleenex and Toilet Tissue

(Items should be Full Size, not the sample or travel size)

This should be a fun and quick request to fill, although the housewares was so very rewarding to see EKC's creativity and generosity in action.

Thank you,

Your Board of Missions

*****ATTENTION - Mold Remediation Update*****

Mold Bros. are scheduled to perform the cleaning and sanitization of the entire basement to kill all mold spores present. In the limited time we have left, please focus on the areas where certain boards and committees may still have WANTED items to be stored in plastic containers. Empty containers can be found in the barn.

This last concerted effort to organize all wanted items that may STILL be left is only beneficial financially for the church. Any items left unaccounted for and not in plastic containers will be considered unwanted. A few exceptions will be considered.

Some of us have worked VERY HARD on clearing out unwanted items this past year, which have been discarded, or moved to the barn, or somewhere else.

Thank you for your understanding,

Dave Fitzgerald

Five-Year Strategic Plan

The Congregational Council thanks everyone who took the time to think about how they would like to see the Church function over the next five years, our priorities and how we allocate our resources; and conveyed their ideas to us over the past two weeks. Originally, we had planned to discuss those ideas in small groups on Sunday, October 15. However, in reviewing the input received, we have decided to hit the PAUSE button and review the input received at our Council meeting on October 17 before proceeding with the group discussions. Based on the discussion and decisions made on the 17th there may be one or more additional steps added to the process before we schedule the group discussions. We will keep you posted on our progress and a revised schedule following our meeting on Tuesday.

Your Congregational Council

Fellowship Hour

Fellowship Hour is a great way to get to visit with people. Hospitality needs your help hosting this time. Boards, Committees and individuals are welcome to sign up for Sundays in November and December.

Holiday Fair

Luncheon

Lobster Shelling ~ Helpers are needed to shell lobsters for the Holiday Fair Luncheon. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the hallway if you can join us in the church kitchen on **Wednesday, November 1 at 9:30 a.m.**

Pies Needed ~ Pies are also needed for the luncheon on Saturday, November 4, 2023. Please sign the list in the hallway if you are willing to provide one or more pies. Pies may be left in the kitchen on the afternoon of **Friday, November 3 or before 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 4.**

Thank you for your help with pies and shelling!

Online Auction

Curious about the Holiday Fair's online auction? The auction site will open for viewing at midnight on Thursday, the 12th. Please have a look at the wonderful items available this year. Bids cannot be placed until 5 pm on October 20 through 8 pm on November 1. **We are aiming for more bidders this year, so please help by spreading the word about the auction to your friends and family members.** Here is the link to the auction site both for browsing beginning October 12 and for actual bidding beginning 5 pm on October 20:

<https://auctria.events/2023EKCHolidayFair>. You can also find the link at <http://www.elijahkelloggchurch.org> (click on News and Events at the top of the home page).

We are still looking for additional items to list in the auction. Does your gift drawer need thinning out? Do you have an item you ordered on Amazon that isn't quite right? Do you have something that you thought was too special for the barn sale? Are you sorting through old or new treasures? We would be grateful for any last minute donations.

Thank you,

Patty O'Brien Carrier, Pat Myer, Rob Porter, and Allen Tucker

Calling all Bakers, Preservers and Candy Makers!

Our annual Christmas by the Sea Fair is swiftly approaching (November 4). Your help is needed to stock our Country Goods section. Have you been canning your garden's bounty? Making jams and jellies?

We are looking for preserves and more. Baked goods of all kinds: breads, muffins, cakes, pies, cookies and brownies. Fudge! Toffee!

A basket will be outside the church office to collect the labeled jars of preserves and jellies. Baked goods will be accepted in the days just before the big event.

Contact Becky Gallery (833-6159) or Krista Hinman (860-670-3467) for more information.

Thank you for helping support our fair!

Christmas by the Sea
Holiday Fair

at Elijah Kellogg Church

**Saturday, November 4
9 am - 2 pm**

Handmade Crafts
Treasures

Country Store & Baked Goods

**Luncheon 11am – 1pm
Lobster Rolls, Fish Chowder, Egg
Salad Sandwiches & Pie!**

Credit Cards Accepted!



Online Auction

October 20 - November 1

The link for the auction is:

auctria.events/2023EKCHolidayFair

Location: 917 Harpswell Neck Rd., Harpswell **FMI:** 833-6026