



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

November 19, 2023

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

THOUGHTS FOR MEDITATION — “Life is not about knowing exactly what we are meant to do. It’s about doing what must be done that makes of our lives a song.” — Joan Chittister (B. 1936)

“Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe.” — H. G. Wells (1866-1946)

“Faith is the perspective which enables human beings to recognize God’s actions in human history. Other persons could have been aware of the exodus of a small band of Hebrews from Egypt and their subsequent entering into the land of Canaan... but only those with the faith of Israel would know that those liberative events were God’s self-revelation.” — James Cone (1938-2018)

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace...

* Call to Worship —

ONE: Let us open our eyes and seek to know the ways of God.

MANY: Let us attune ourselves to the Spirit.

ONE: The love of God can surround us here, today.

MANY: God calls us to be children of the light.

ONE: Let us live confidently in the hope of salvation.

MANY: Let us strive to be faithful, seeking to do God’s will. In so doing, let us be present to one another, embracing God’s love for all people.

Prayer of Invocation

* HYMN — *God of Grace and God of Glory* 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 Thessalonians 5:1-11 [ILV]

[1] Now concerning the times and the seasons, specific eras— brothers and sisters, you do not need me to tell you anything or to write anything to you. [2] For you yourselves know very well that the day of God will come like a thief in the night. [3] When people are saying, “At last we have peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them with the abruptness of labor pains and there will be no escape!

[4] But you, beloved sisters and brothers, are not in the night. The Day of God will not catch you like a thief— [5] no!— you are all children of light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or the shadows. [6] So then, let us not fall asleep as others do. Let us keep awake and be sober! [7] Those who sleep, do so at night, and those who get drunk do so at night. [8] But we belong to the day. So, let us be sober. Let us put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for our helmet, the hope of salvation.

[9] God has destined us not to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Savior Jesus, the Christ, [10] who died so that, whether awake or asleep we might live together with Christ. [11] Therefore, encourage one another and build up each other, as, indeed, you are already doing.

* **HYMN** — *We Who Would Valiant Be* INSERT

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS — Matthew 25:14-28 [ILV]

{Jesus said: “...the Dominion of Heaven} is as if a wealthy landowner, going on a journey, summoned in three workers and entrusted some property, some funds to them. [15] To the first one was given five talents, to another two talents, to another worker was given one talent, according to each one’s ability. Then the landowner went away. [16] Immediately, the worker who had received five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. [17] In a similar way, the one who had the two talents made two more. [18] But the one who had received one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried the money of the landowner.”

[19] “After a long time the landowner returned from traveling and settled accounts with the workers. [20] The one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing

the additional five saying, ‘Master, you entrusted me with five talents and see, I bring five more.’”

[21] “The landowner said, ‘Well done! You are a good and trustworthy worker. Since you are dependable in a small matter, I will put you in charge of larger affairs. Come! Share my joy.’”

[22] “And the one who had received two talents then stepped forward, saying, ‘You entrusted me with two talents; here are two more.’”

[23] “The landowner said to this one: ‘Cleverly done! You too are a good and faithful worker. Since you are dependable in a small matter, I will put you in charge of larger affairs. Come! Share my joy.’”

[24] “Finally, the worker who had received one talent also came forward and said to the landowner, ‘Knowing your ruthlessness— you reap where you did not sow and gather where you did not scatter seed— [25] and fearing your wrath, I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here have what is yours. Take back your talent.’”

[26] “But the landowner replied, ‘You worthless and lazy lout! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? [27] All the more reason to have deposited my money with the bankers so that on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So, take the talent away from this bum, and give it to the one with the ten talents.’”

SPECIAL MUSIC — “*Let All Things Now Living*” (Traditional Welsh Melody)

SERMON — *Claim the Heritage*

Piano Meditation —

Prayers of the People - PETITIONS AND SILENCES

* **HYMN** — *Community of Christ* INSERT - v. 1, 2, 3

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE — *Community of Christ* 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	Ned Pierce
Ushers	Becky Gallery & Harry Arnold
Coffee Hour	Stewardship Brunch in leu of Coffee Hour



The cornucopia on the communion table was arranged by the Flower Committee
with gratitude for our many blessings.

Pastor's Office Hours

Office hours for the week of November 20th – 24th
Monday, November 20th from 9:00 - 11:00.

The Bible Study passage for Monday November 20th at 11:00 a.m. is:
Ephesians 1:15-23.

Holiday Office Hours

The office will be closed on Wednesday, November 22nd and Thursday, November 23rd.
If you have anything you would like announced in the weekly email or bulletin,
please have it to Stephanie no later than 5pm on Tuesday, November 21st.

*****ATTENTION*****

Mold Bros. to start work on Monday, November 20th

Mold Bros. are scheduled to start the cleaning and sanitization of the entire basement
to kill all mold spores present. No one will be permitted to enter the basement for two
weeks, from November 20th – December 1st.

Thank you,
Dave Fitzgerald

An Update from the Pulpit Committee

We continue the search process. The pulpit committee continues to meet to review
application materials from prospective pastors, follow-up with interviews and reference
or background checks, as well as viewing the on-line sermons provided by applicants.

We have appointed Becky Gallery to represent us on the future Pastoral Relations
Committee, and both Carrie Bubier and Becky Gallery to join representatives from Board
of Finance to work on a Minister's Compensation sub-committee.

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

God of Grace and God of Glory

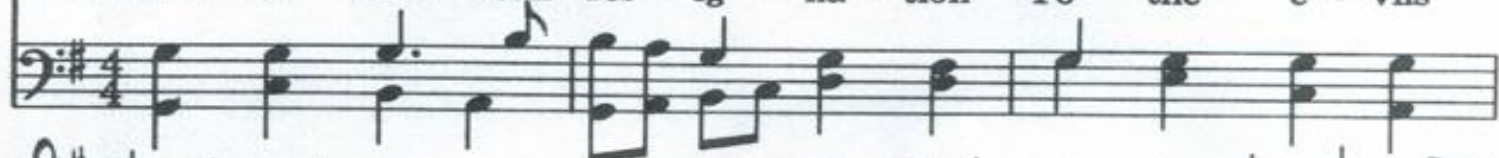
Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1878-

CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

John Hughes, 1873-1932



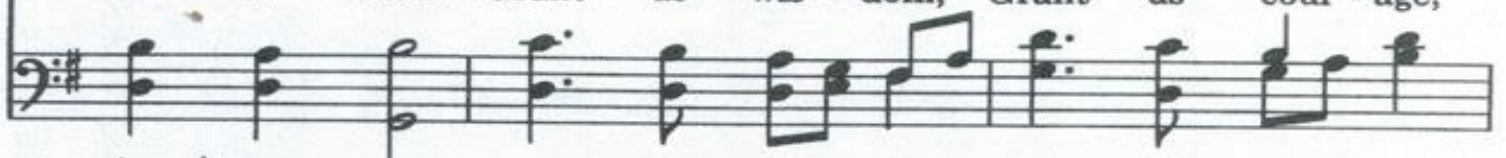
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, On thy pec - ple
2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn thy Christ, as -
3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; Bend our pride to
4 Set our feet on loft - y pla - ces; Gird our lives that
5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion To the e - vils



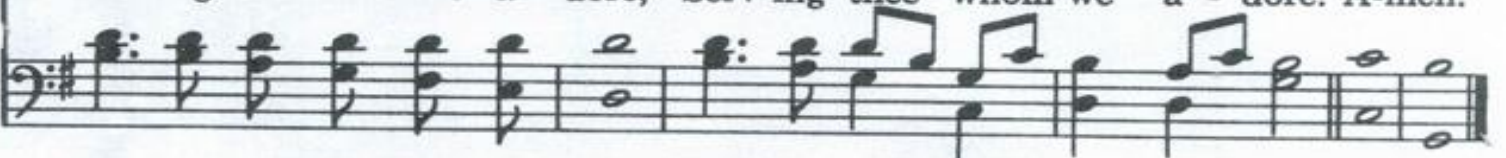
pour thy power; Crown thine an - cient church's sto - ry; Bring her bud to
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us, Free our hearts to
thy con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, Rich in things and
they may be Arm - ored with all Christ - like gra - ces In the fight to
we de - plore; Let the search for thy sal - va - tion Be our glo - ry



glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,
faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,
poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,
set men free. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,
ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,



For the fac - ing of this hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.
For the liv - ing of these days, For the liv - ing of these days.
Lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, Lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
That we fail not man nor thee, That we fail not man nor thee.
Serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, Serv - ing thee whom we a - dore. A - men.



We Who Would Valiant Be

John Bunyan, 1684; alt.

1 We who would val - iant be: let us not wa - ver,
2 Those who may us sur-round with dis - mal sto - ries,
3 Since, Sav - ior, you de - fend us with your Spir - it,

but in true con - stan - cy fol - low the Sav - ior.
on - ly them - selves con-found; our strength the more is.
we know we at the end shall life in - her - it.

There's no dis - cour - age-ment shall make us once re - lent
No foes shall give us fright, ours is the one true Light;
Cruel ru - mors, flee a - way! We'll fear not what they say;

our first a - vowed in - tent to live as pil - grims.
we will make good our right to live as pil - grims.
we'll la - bor night and day to live as pil - grims.

Let All Things Now Living

1 Let all things now liv-ing A song of thanks-giv-ing To God the Cre-
2 His law He en-forc-es; the stars in their cours-es, The sun in His

1 a-tor tri-umphant-ly raise, Who fash-ioned and made us, pro-
2 or-bit, o-be-dient-ly shine; The hills and the moun-tains, The

1 tect-ed and stayed us, Who guid-eth us on to the end of our
2 riv-ers and foun-tains, The deeps of the o-cean pro-claim Him di-

1 days. His ban-ners are o'er us, His light goes be-fore us, A pil-lar of
2 vine. We too, should be voic-ing our love and re-joic-ing, With glad ad-o-

1 fire shin-ing forth in the night, 'Til shad-ows have van-ish-ed And dark-ness is
2 ra-tion a song let us raise, 'Til all things now liv-ing u-nite in thanks-

1 ban-ish-ed, As for-ward we trav-el from light in-to light.
2 giv-ing To God in the high-est, ho-san-na and praise!

Community of Christ

Shirley Erena Murray, 1985

1 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, who make God's love your own,
2 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, look past the church's door
3 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, through whom the Word must sound---
4 When men-ace melts a - way, then shall God's will be done,

live out be - lief and risk your life for God a - lone:
and see the ref - u - gee, the hun - gry, and the poor.
cry out for jus - tice and for peace the whole world 'round:
the cli - mate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun;

The God of time and space to whom all worlds be - long,
Take hands with the o - pressed, the job - less in your street,
Dis - arm the powers that war and all that can de - stroy,
Our cur - ren - cy be love and kind - ness be our law,

whose chil - dren are of ev - ery race and ev - ery song.
take towel and wa - ter, and go wash your neigh - bor's feet.
turn bombs to bread, and tears of an - guish in - to joy.
our food and faith be shared as one for ev - er - more.

Prayer Requests for November 19, 2023

At home...

Bill Menz
Connie Henry

Pat Moody

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...

Recovering from illness or surgery...

Clara Braley

Nancy Simboli

George Perkins

Grieving...

Family of Ellie Patterson
The families of the Lewiston shootings

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

Dear Friends,

After worship service Sunday we will gather in Fellowship Hall to enjoy a delicious brunch, prepared in honor of the church's members and friends who support us through their financial gifts and volunteerism. Stewardship breakfast (this year a brunch) has always been a beloved recognition of the generosity that sustains all the good work of the church.

This year, at the behest of the Church Council, we are piggybacking that event with a brainstorming session to help the Council develop a five-year plan. These will be guided discussions whose purpose is to elicit ideas from everyone on where we'd like to see the church in 2028. We've had casual conversations with individual church members in the last couple of months; these small group discussions are the follow-up. Council members will take notes at the discussions and bring back the information to the Council to consider next steps.

Here are the questions we're using to frame the discussion. There are no right or wrong answers!

And if you can't make it Sunday, please feel free to give your answers to these questions to any member of the Council.

Thank you!

Five-year plan

Overarching idea: When you envision this church community in 2028, what do you see? What is different, the same? What would you emphasize, what would you minimize?

1. What do you think are the top three priorities for this church to attain by 2028? Why?
2. How do you see staffing over the next several years? We are pursuing a full-time, settled minister. We currently have a 20-hour per week administrative assistant, a part-time bookkeeper and an accompanist. Our Christian Ed and Music Director positions are vacant. Should we leave it at that? Is there a better way to align our staffing?
3. Several people said they want to see an increase in community outreach by the church. What does that look like? Extending ourselves to offer more companionship/services to Harpswell's aging population? Becoming more of a community hub by opening our facility to more organizations affordably? Inserting ourselves into community activities in an intentional way (EKC booths at Harpswell Days, Garden Club festival, Memorial Day parade tours, summer tours of the church in conjunction with Harpswell Historical Society hours?)
4. Where should we be from a technology perspective in five years? Live, streaming services; adequate internet speeds and service to Zoom meetings; a robust website that announces all our activities and serves as an ambassador to the world outside our Sunday services?
5. Finances: How do we stabilize/grow our financial foundation so we can do all that we propose? Currently, pledges make up about 65% of our budget with the remainder coming from events, endowment gains, rentals, etc. Are there untapped sources (making our kitchen/event assets – plates, silverware, coffee urns, tables, chairs, tents available to rent?) Can we commit to legacy giving as a congregation?
6. Other ideas?

Please join members of the Church Council on Sunday, Nov. 19, for small-group discussions about our five-year plan. The conversations will commence after a stewardship brunch to celebrate the on-going support of EKC members and friends. Please join us to enjoy a fabulous meal and then brainstorm about how we see EKC in 2028.

Wanted ** Advertising Person

After a couple of years of doing the advertising for church events, activities and suppers, I am ready to pass the baton to someone else. I have completed the ad for our upcoming Christmas Services with the Anchor, and will be ready to work with someone to start off the New Year! Please contact me if you are interested, and I have good notes to pass along to our new person.

Thank you,
Carrie Bubier

2024 Pledge Envelopes

It's hard to believe, but 2024 is right around the corner which means it's time to order pledge envelopes. If you would like to continue to receive pledge envelopes, you need to do nothing and the envelopes will be ordered for you. If you receive pledge envelopes but do not need them this year, please let Stephanie know by Friday December 1st. If you do not currently receive envelopes but would like to for the coming year, please let Stephanie know by Friday, December 1st. Envelopes will be ordered the first week of December to ensure they arrive by January 1st.

Thank you!

Please join us for a fun free movie event!

Drinks & snacks are provided. Please bring your own lunch or bring a dish to share if you would like.

The event starts at 11:30am on December 2nd.

The movie will begin at 12PM.

Thank you,
The Christian Education Board

ELIJAH KELLOGG CHURCH PRESENTS:

**FREE AFTERNOON
FAMILY MOVIE EVENT**

PLEASE
BRING OWN
LUNCH

CINEMA
CINEMA

FREE
ENTRY

MARY POPPINS

SATURDAY DECEMBER 2, 2023 | 11:30AM

THE ORIGINAL
MARY POPPINS

FREE ENTRY | FREE DRINKS PROVIDED

BRING YOUR FRIENDS, CHILDREN, OR GRANDCHILDREN AND JOIN US FOR A FUN MOVIE EVENT! PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH. DRINKS & SNACKS ARE PROVIDED. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BRING A DISH TO SHARE IF YOU WOULD LIKE.

ELIJAH KELLOGG CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
917 HARPSWELL NECK ROAD, HARPSWELL, ME 04079

Moment for Missions

Blanket Support - Envelopes will be in the pews this Sunday for your Blanket Support. Should you choose to give by check, please make it out to EKC with a notation of **CWS** in the memo line.

Angel Tree - Our Angels are on the tree and all gifts must be returned by December 3rd. **Please remember that they are to be unwrapped and your Angel tag needs to be included within your bag of gifts.** If you have any questions on procedures, please contact Carrie Bubier.

Missions Donations for the month of November - Your Board of Missions was able to disburse funds totaling \$1400 for the month of November, due to the generous pre-payment of Mission pledges.

Monies went to:

MCHPP (The Food Bank)	\$400
The Salvation Army (For gift cards and unfilled requests)	\$400
The Gathering Place (Serving many homeless needs)	\$300
Church World Service (1st time we've supplemented additional blankets)	\$300

Food Bank (MCCHP)

The food bank has notified us of the following needs to restock their shelves:

- Canned Stew or Canned Pastas, ie., Chef Boyardee, Spaghettios, etc.
- Hearty Canned Soups (like Progresso)
- Spaghetti or Pasta Sauces
- Toilet Tissue

(Might we suggest some additional foodstuffs in line with the Thanksgiving holiday? Cranberry juice boxes, cranberry sauce, canned sweet potatoes, canned green beans or peas.) Instant puddings or Jello could be festive.

Thank you,
Your busy Missions Board