



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

February 18, 2024

First Sunday in Lent

President's Day Weekend on the Secular Calendar

Day of the Annual Meeting

THOUGHTS FOR MEDITATION — “For centuries, Christianity has presented itself as an ‘organized religion’— a change-averse institution... that protects and promotes a timeless system of beliefs that were handed down fully formed in the past. Yet Christianity’s actual history is a story of change and adaptation. We Christians have repeatedly adapted our message, methods, and mission to the contours of our time.” — Richard Rhor, OFM (b. 1943)

“Western churches continue to think about ‘going to heaven’ or ‘going to hell’ as the framework of the Gospel however the Bible story is not about us going somewhere. It’s about the creator God coming to live with us.” — Rev. N. T. Wright (b. 1948)

“Stop thinking about saving your face. Think of our lives and tell us your particularized world. Make up a story. Narrative is radical, creating us at the very moment it is being created. We will not blame you if your reach exceeds your grasp; if love so ignites your words they go down in flames and nothing is left but their scald.” — Toni Morrison (1931-2019), *Nobel Prize Lecture*, 1993

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace...

* Call to Worship

ONE: We have entered the days of Lent. We welcome this time of covenant renewal.

MANY: The God of the Universe greets us here. We are reminded of God’s promises to us. We are reminded of the promises we have made to be faithful.

ONE: When we listen attentively, we can hear God calling the name of each of us. We can hear God calling us as a congregation to be a part of the story told in God’s work and God’s will.

MANY: Let us see the rainbows in the sky and look with wonder at the steadfast love God has for humanity. And let us come together, knowing that God has still more to teach us.

* **HYMN** — *The Baptist Shouts on Jordan’s Shore* 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 *TORAH* —
Genesis 9:8-17 — from a translation by Everett Fox

[8] Then God said to Noah and to Noah's family, [9] "As for me— here— I am about to establish my covenant with you and your descendants after you, [10] and with all living creatures that are with you: the fowl, the herd animals, and the wildlife of the earth with you; all those that came out of the ark, all the living things of the earth. [11] I hereby establish this, my covenant, with you: all living things shall never again be cut off by the waters of a deluge, and never again shall there be a deluge to bring the earth to ruin."

[12] God said, "Here is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for ageless generations: [13] I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. [14] This shall be: when I bring clouds over the earth and my bow is seen in the clouds, [15] I will call to mind my covenant that is between me and you and all living beings— all flesh; never again shall the waters become a deluge to bring all flesh to ruin. [16] When my bow is in the clouds, I will look at it and call to mind the everlasting covenant between God and all living beings— all flesh that is on the earth." [17] God then said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth."

SPECIAL MUSIC —

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS — Mark 1:1-15 [ILV]

[1] Here begins the Gospel, the good news of Jesus, the Christ, Child of God. [2] As it is written in the prophet Isaiah:

"See, I am sending my messenger
ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

[3] a herald's voice in the desert,
the voice of one
crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare, make ready
the way of our God,
Clear a straight path.'"

[4] And so, John, the Baptizer, appeared in the desert, in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. [5] And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to John, and were baptized in the river Jordan, as they confessed their sins. [6] Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around the waist and ate nothing but grasshoppers and wild honey.

[7] In the course of preaching John proclaimed, "One more powerful than I is coming after me, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. [8] I have baptized with water; but that one will baptize with the Holy Spirit."

[9] And in those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. [10] Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, the heavens opened up, were torn apart. The Spirit descended to Jesus like a dove. [11] Then a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Beloved, my Own. On you my favor rests."

[12] The Spirit immediately drove Jesus out into the wilderness. [13] Jesus was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, was with the wild beasts and was looked after, tended to, by angels.

[14] Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God [15] saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the dominion of God has come near, the reign of God is at hand. Change your minds and believe this good news."

* **HYMN** — *Forty Days and Forty Nights* INSERT

SERMON — *In the Beginning?*

Piano Meditation —

Prayers of the People - PETITIONS AND SILENCES

* **HYMN** — *What a Covenant* INSERT, v. 1, 2, 3

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE — *What a Covenant* INSERT, v. 4

Postlude

Harpswell Community Radio – WHPW 97.3 FM

Harpswell Community Television – Channel 14

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

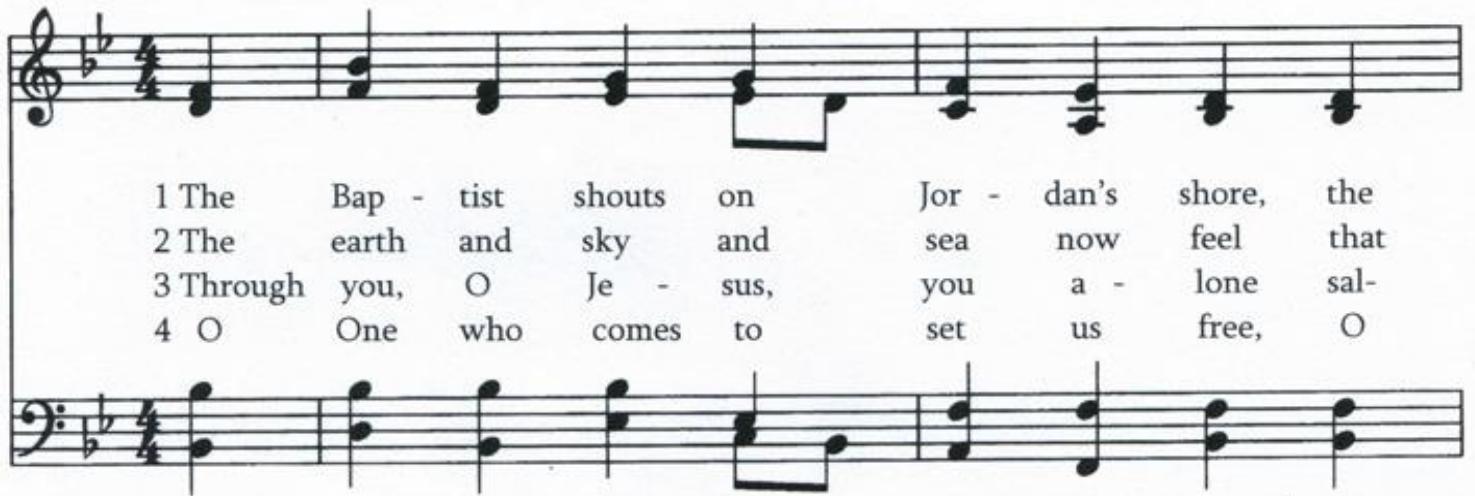
Serving you this morning:	
Interim Minister	Rev. Mr. Joseph Connolly
Pianist	Elizabeth Cromwell
Reader	Denise Perry
Ushers	Carol Coultas & Ken Chutchian
Coffee Hour	Annual Meeting & Luncheon

The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore

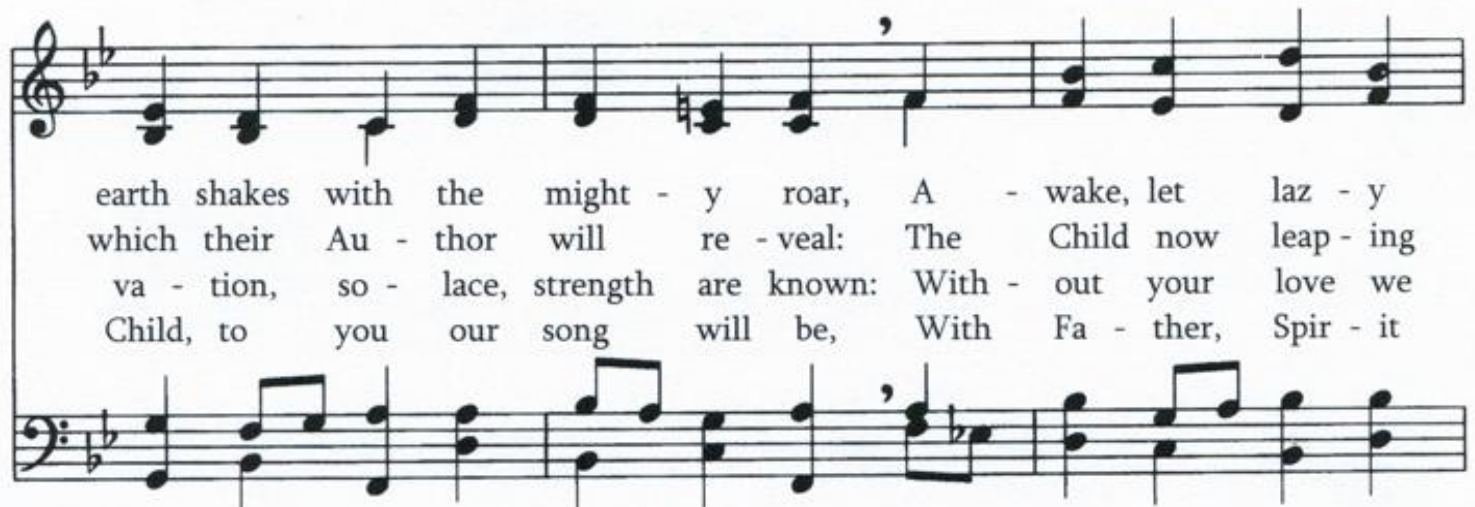
Charles Coffin, 1736

Transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1993

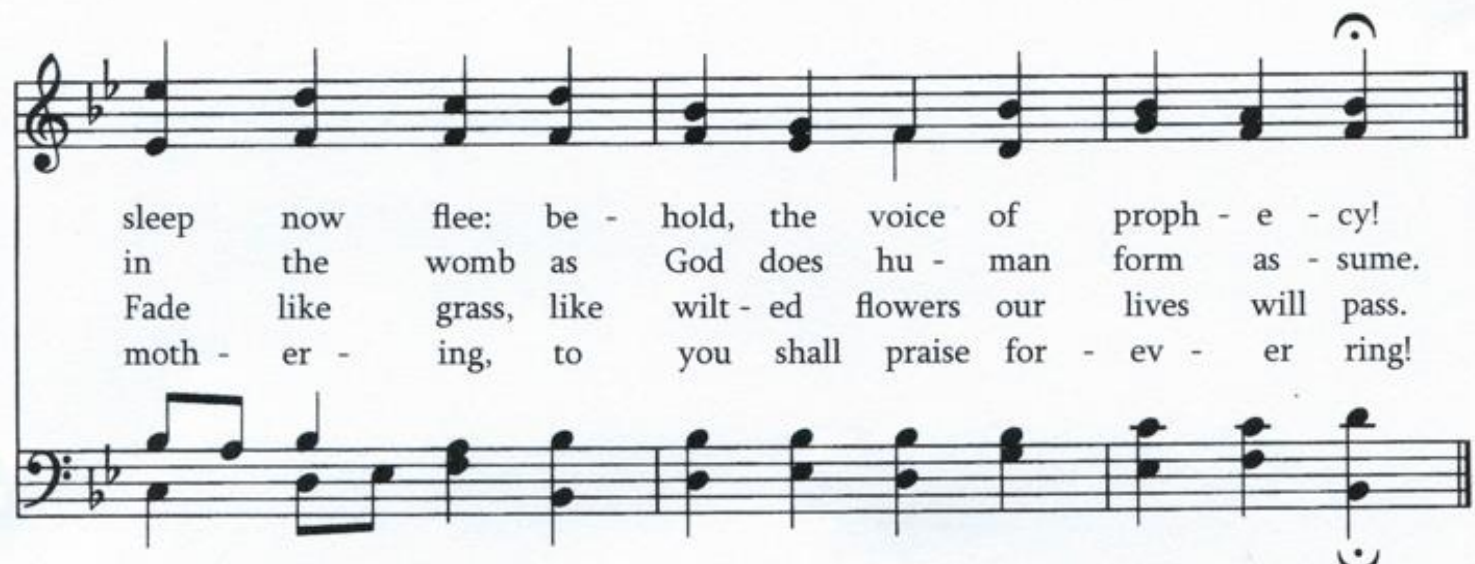
John 1:6-8, 19-28; Mark 1:1-8;
Luke 3:2-6, 15-18; Matt. 3:1-6, 11-12



1 The Bap - tist shouts on Jor - dan's shore, the
2 The earth and sky and sea now feel that
3 Through you, O Je - sus, you a - lone sal -
4 O One who comes to set us free, O



earth shakes with the might - y roar, A - wake, let laz - y
which their Au - thor will re - veal: The Child now leap - ing
va - tion, so - lace, strength are known: With - out your love we
Child, to you our song will be, With Fa - ther, Spir - it



sleep now flee: be - hold, the voice of proph - e - cy!
in the womb as God does hu - man form as - sume.
Fade like grass, like wilt - ed flowers our lives will pass.
moth - er - ing, to you shall praise for - ev - er ring!

Pastor Joe's office hours for the week of February 19th

Monday, February 19th, 9am – 11am

The Bible Study passage for Monday, February 19th at 11:00 a.m. is:

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-17, 19b



The flowers today are from Kathy Goodrich and Dave Luce in loving memory of Sue Luce and in honor of Hubby Goodrich, who shared Sue's love of music and the same birthday.

Forty Days and Forty Nights

George Hunt Smyttan, 1856; alt.

Matt. 4:1-11; Heb. 2:18



1 For - ty days and for - ty nights you were fast - ing in the wild;
2 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;
3 Keep, O keep us, Sav - ior dear, ev - er con - stant by your side;



For - ty days and for - ty nights tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.
'Round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as served you faith - ful - ly.
That with you we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.



The son of a doctor in Bombay, George Hunt Smyttan became a priest in the Church of England. He published several collections of verse. This hymn was one of three Lenten hymns that appeared in The Penny Post (1856).

Tune: HEINLEIN 7.7.7.7.
Attrib. to Martin Herbst, 1676

What a Covenant

Deut. 33:27

Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; alt.

1 What a *cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -
4 God's own cov - e - nant: love's e - ter - nal sign -- sa - cred love for - ev - er,

last - ing arms. What a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing
last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing
last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing
ev - ' ry - where! Reach - ing out to us with true love di - vine We are

Refrain

on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from
on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
held by God's em - brac - ing arms.

all a - larms; lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Prayer Requests for February 18, 2024

At home...

Hope Tanguay
Pat Moody

Connie Henry

Bill Menz

In nursing homes...

Sam Wright
David Ferris

In assisted living...

Ernestine Machesney
Tom Jones

Joan Phillips

Away...

Richard Haley

C V Noyes

Sick, in the hospital or rehabilitation...

Recovering from illness or surgery...

Dana Porter Carson

George Perkins

Grieving...

Family of Jim Smith

Family of Gary Anderson

Family of Paul Standridge

Family of George Patterson

Family of Wendell Davidson

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.

****Annual Meeting ****

Today at 11:15 in Fellowship Hall

NOTICE ** OFFICE & BUILDING CLOSED

As part of the mold clean-up, TC Hafford will be working in the basement on **Thursday, February 22nd**. They will be spraying the area therefore **no one will be permitted to enter the building at any point** on the 22nd, which also means Stephanie will not have office hours that day.

Meetings scheduled for the week of February 19th:

Trustees - Monday, February 19th @ 7:00 pm

A Message from your Board of Missions

On Friday, February 13th, your Missions Board disbursed the following donations:

The Oasis Free Clinic	\$400
Town of Harpswell Food Pantry	\$400
Teen Center at People Plus	\$400
The Gathering Place	<u>\$400</u>
FOR A TOTAL OF:	\$1600



SOUPER BOWL RESULTS

A TOTAL OF 102 LBS. OF SOUP WAS COLLECTED BY 2/11/24!

THE KANSAS CITY CHIEFS WON WITH 65 LBS.

THE SAN FRANCISCO 49'ERS CAME IN 2ND WITH 37 LBS.

THIS WAS DOWN FROM LAST YEAR'S DONATIONS OF 140 LBS.

HOWEVER.....\$217.00 WAS DONATED THRU PLATE DONATIONS! THAT WILL BUY A LOT OF SOUP!

THANKS TO ALL THOSE FANS WHO SO GENEROUSLY DONATED



Save the date!

ELIJAH KELLOGG CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

CORNERED BEEF SUPPER

— **March 9, 2024** —



MENU:

CORNERED BEEF, PARSLEY POTATOES, CABBAGE, CARROTS, AND
FRESH DINNER ROLLS WITH BUTTER

DRINKS: GREEN PUNCH, WATER, COFFEE, TEA

DESSERT: SHAMROCK PUDDING

PRICE: \$14 FOR INDIVIDUAL, \$7 FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OLD
\$25 FOR FAMILY OF 4 OR LESS (INSIDE SEATING ONLY)

PAY BY CREDIT, CASH, OR CHECK

DOORS OPEN
5PM - 7PM

LOCATION: ELIJAH KELLOGG CHURCH
917 HARPSWELL NECK ROAD
HARPSWELL, ME
FMI: 207-833-6026