



*Unraveling  
the Good News  
Lent 2026*

## Lent Week 5: On Robes and Crowns March 22, 2026

We are a progressive community of faith seeking to follow the teachings of Jesus, pursue justice and live God's love.

**No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.**



**A Note for Families / Folks of All Ages:** Today we begin worship together. After the Time for All God's Children, young people grades K-8 are invited to follow teachers upstairs to our one-room classroom.

There is yarn for God's Eyes, knitting, and clipboards with paper and coloring pages at the back of the sanctuary, for worshippers of any age to use during the service.

**PRELUDE**

*Prelude: Prelude in D minor*

Ottorino Respighi

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

**THRESHOLD MOMENT**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Today, we round the corner toward the cross.

**All: Today, we confront the power of kings.**

One: Today, we face the harm that power can inflict.

**All: Today, we declare that there are *other* kinds of power.**

One: Today, we meet Jesus in the throne room

**All: And bear witness to the power of love to overcome pain.**

One: Today, we recall what it means to follow

**All: The one who dons the robe of justice, and wears the crown of peace.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*Spirit of Love*

S-22

**PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

One: Liberating God, it is tempting to separate ourselves from the damage that is done in the world, to divide us from them, the well-intentioned from the ill-inflicting. Why get tangled up in the sins of others?

**All: But if we are all interconnected, then we carry responsibility for one another's burdens. Our lives are bound up with the lives of those who suffer *and* those who inflict suffering. We are the wounded and the wounding, captive and captor. So, forgive us, Holy One, for the world's brokenness. Help us to own our part in the tearing and in the mending. In the name of our shared liberation we ask it. Amen.**

**PRAYERFUL PAUSE**

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\*Please rise, on your feet or in your hearts.

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**All:** No matter how frayed the fabric of our lives or relationships  
God is ready to help repair what is torn.  
You are loved, forgiven, and set free  
to love, forgive and start again.

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**     One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All:** **And also with you.**

## \*SUNG RESPONSE

*There Is More Love*

Black Spiritual ☰

**There is more love somewhere. There is more love somewhere.  
And I'm gonna keep on, 'til I find it.  
There is more love somewhere.  
There is more peace somewhere...**

## TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

AnnElissa Leveque

One: Holy One, the story of Jesus' life is complicated: a tangle of love and betrayal,  
hope and violence, pain and mystery.

**All:** **Help us to unravel the Good News in this sacred text, to pull at the threads  
of love and justice, until we can knit together a liberating garment of  
healing and hope.**

### SCRIPTURE READING

John 19:1-16a

### SERMON

*On Robes and Crowns*

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

### MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

### ANTHEM

*We Shall Walk Through The Valley in Peace*

Undine Smith Moore

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father-Mother in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kin-dom come; Your  
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 Yours is the kin-dom and the power and the glory  
forever. Amen.**

## SUNG RESPONSE

*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

Ken Medema

**Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your Spirit in this place.**

**Lord, listen to your children praying. Send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

## OFFERING INVITATION

Help us to live God's love and justice. You can make a secure gift by using the QR code, going to [fccucc.org/donate](https://fccucc.org/donate), or by adding your contribution to the box at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you!



## MUSICAL INTERLUDE

## BLESSING THE OFFERING

### \*CLOSING HYMN

*What Does the Lord Require for Praise*

#509

*Choir to sing first verse; congregation 2 and 3*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

*Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

Thomas Ken,  
Arr. Gary Norian

\* \* \* \* \*

## WORSHIP NOTES

**Thank you** to this morning's ushers: Team C, Bill Campbell, captain.

**Livestream:** Thank you to Alex Ratta for managing our worship livestream!

**Cover Design** is by our Community Engagement Coordinator, Kat Roderick.

**The flowers on the pedestal** today are In Loving Memory of Lou Allen Nichols and Laurence S. Allen, Sr. From their daughter, Donna Allen.

☰ **Royalty for Spirituals:** Historically, the composers of African American Spirituals were neither known nor compensated for use of their songs. The FCC UCC music department has committed to paying forward a 'royalty' each time we include a Spiritual in worship. Funds are donated to the Indigo Arts Alliance: <https://indigoartsalliance.me/>. You are invited to contribute, as well. Mark your contribution as "Royalty for Spirituals." *Thank you.*

## **WEEKLY @ FCC UCC**

**Bible Study every Tuesday, 12:30 - 1:30 pm in Davidson Lounge:** Explore the scripture from the past Sunday, led by Pastor Steve.

**Meetinghouse Choir rehearses on Wednesdays, 6:15 – 8 pm.** All singers are welcome. We meet in the Choir Room on the lower level of the church. Questions? Contact choir director Deirdre McClure at [dmclure@fccucc.org](mailto:dmclure@fccucc.org).

**Handbell Choir rehearses every Wednesday, 4:45 pm in Wright Pavilion.** To ring or learn more about the choir, please contact bell choir director Sharon Potter: [handbells@fccucc.org](mailto:handbells@fccucc.org).

## **COMING UP @ FCC UCC**

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS** are available on our website ([www.fccucc.org](http://www.fccucc.org)) under the GROW heading, or by calling the church office at 799-3361. Completed applications need to be returned to the church office by March 29. Direct questions to [steve@fccucc.org](mailto:steve@fccucc.org). Scholarship Sunday is scheduled for May 17.

**Fellowship Club, Tuesday, April 7 at 6:15 pm:** We will be joined by Scott “Smoking Bear” Edwards. Mr. Edwards’ performances at Pow Wows and other events features a variety of flutes. Dinner Reservations are required and can be made by emailing Carolyn Clark at [carolyn.clark353@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn.clark353@gmail.com) no later than noon on Sunday, April 5.

**Handbell Concert, Saturday, April 11, 4 pm at Greely Middle School, 351 Tuttle Road, Cumberland:** Ring for Joy, FCCUCC’s handbell choir will be joining other ringers from the state of Maine for the Handbell Musicians of America’s Area 1 Spring Ring. The day will end with a concert which is open to the public. We hope to see you there.

**Earth Day Lunch & Learn, Sunday, April 19, 11:30 am -1:00 pm in Wright Pavilion** with guest speaker Molly Schen, Ed.D., co-facilitator of Third Act Maine. FMI: <https://thirdact.org/our-work/>. No need to pre-register. Hosted by FCCUCC Environmental issues Working Group.

**SAVE THE DATE for our Mission Trip Fundraising Dinner and Auction:** Saturday evening, May 30.

## MISSION AND SOCIAL WITNESS

**Clynk Bags** are in the narthex (inside main entrance). Collect your returnable cans and bottles and return them to a Clynk collection site at Hannaford or other participating grocery stores. Scan the code on the bags and the refunds will automatically be donated to our FCC mission team. *Thank you!*

**Volunteer for Preble Street Food Hub:** On the last Friday of each month, we prepare meals at the Food Hub, 75 Darling Avenue, South Portland, for delivery to Preble Street satellite sites. Please join us! To learn more about how to volunteer, see the Weekly Word or contact Danna Wiggins at [dannawig2@gmail.com](mailto:dannawig2@gmail.com)

## THE WIDER COMMUNITY

**Weekly Multi-Faith Vigil on Hiatus.** Following the Vigil on March 11, the Multifaith Prayer Vigil Organizing Committee has decided to pause weekly vigils for a period of discernment around what is called for to meet the moment we face in this country and in the world. To receive updates from the planning team, please sign up for this email list: <https://tinyurl.com/ud2tcj97>. Updates by mid-April.

**BTS Center Lenten Book Study: *Speak with the Earth and It Will Teach You: A Field Guide to the Bible* by Daniel Cooperrider - 5 Tuesdays online, February 24 - March 31, 4-5:30 pm.** offered by the BTS Center. Details at: <https://thebtscenter.org/bookstudy-lent2026/>

**TODAY: FIELD TRIP to see *The Malaga Ship* at the Maine Maritime Museum, Bath, ME, Sunday, March 22, 3:30 pm.** Beginning at 2:30 pm, guests are invited to enjoy free admission to Maine Maritime Museum's exhibits, including Re|Sounding, a powerful new exhibition centering Indigenous and Black perspectives on Maine's maritime past. Live performance of *The Malaga Ship* begins at 3:30 pm.

1:30 pm carpool (for those who want to see the exhibit). Return about 6:30 pm. Contact Marvin Ellison at [mellison122@gmail.com](mailto:mellison122@gmail.com) to join the carpool.

**Roots and Resilience: A Gathering in Song to Ground, Connect and Rise, Friday, March 27, 6:30 pm gather; 7 pm Community Sing, Saint Luke's Cathedral, 143 State Street, Portland:** Neighbors are invited to gather and sing together in preparation for the No Kings Protest on Saturday. If you like singing with a big group, mark your calendars! Led by Singing Resistance Portland.

# Holy Week Schedule *~~~~~*

Maundy Thursday,  
April 2

**5:30 - 7 pm in Guptill Hall:** Gather for a shared meal, communion, and hand or foot washing.

Good Friday,  
April 3

**6 am Good Friday Hunger Walk:** Meet in Wright Pavilion to walk up to 8 miles to mitigate hunger.

**7 pm in the Sanctuary:** Mark the final hours of Jesus' life with scripture readings, prayer and music by the Meetinghouse Choir.

Lenten Vigil  
Through Easter

**8 pm Fri - 6 am Sun in the Chapel:** Sign up for two-hour shifts to pray, meditate, read, or reflect.

Easter, April 5  
Sunrise Service

**6 am at Fort Williams Park:** Gather on the hill by the flagpole, to welcome the rising Son.

Festival Worship

**10 am in the Sanctuary:** Come make a joyful noise as we celebrate the resurrection! Easter Egg Hunt to follow worship.

Maundy Thursday  
Dinner Sign-up

Good Friday Hunger  
Walk Sign-up

Lenten Vigil  
Sign-up

tinyurl.com  
/bdfyv7nv



Email: blockwood@  
portlandresearch.com

Email:  
debgregw@gmail.com

## WHAT'S UP?

**Want to stay in the loop?** Make sure you are on our email list! To UPDATE or ADD your contact info, go to: [fccucc.org](http://fccucc.org) and select "Contact Us" then select "Contact Info Update Form."

**Your positive reviews on social media help others to find us.**

**Write a review on Google (Thanks!). Like and follow us:**





**First Stitches:  
Stating our Faith in Urgent Times**

**Three Sundays: March 15, 22 and 29,  
11:45 am – 1 pm, Davidson Lounge**

What do you believe – about God or justice or love? What do you trust about Jesus or the Holy Spirit? How might our statements of faith tether or guide us as we respond to the unsettled world around us?

Join Pastor Alison for a three-part conversation informed by the collection, *Stating Our Faith in Urgent Times*, by the UCC Still Speaking Writers.

Curiosity encouraged. All welcome.