



*Unraveling
the Good News
Lent 2026*

Lent Week 3: When Things Fall Apart March 8, 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 are clipboards with paper and coloring pages at the back of the sanctuary, for worshippers of any age to use during the service.

PRELUDE

Träumerei Op. 15 No. 7

Robert Schumann

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

THRESHOLD MOMENT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Let us share our voices and our intentions as we open this time of worship, of prayer, and of praise together

One: When you hear the stories of Christ's life and teachings...

All: We will come together to wonder at the story of our God made flesh!

One: When you hear the songs of praise begin...

All: We will join our voices in singing love for all to hear!

One: When you hear of the pain, fear, and injustice faced by all creation...

All: We will pray as one for God's justice, mercy, and grace for all the world!

One: Then as one people, let us worship God!

***OPENING HYMN**

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

#403

RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

One: God of the imperfect, forgive us. When discomfort or inconvenience dictates our path, or moves us off course...

All: Forgive us!

One: When fear hijacks our tongue, or kidnaps our hearts...

All: Forgive us!

One: When anger shuts us down, or blinds us to the truth...

All: Forgive us!

One: When hunger and need seem to close off options and limit choices...

All: Forgive us!

One: Whenever we fail to speak your truth or live your love, for whatever reason...

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

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM

*Wondrous Love,
William Walker's Southern Harmony*

arr. George Emlen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father-Mother in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kin-dom 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 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, or by adding your contribution to the box at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you!



MUSICAL INTERLUDE

BLESSING THE OFFERING

*CLOSING HYMN

In the Bulb There is a Flower

#493

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Voluntary No. 9 in F Major

John Bennett

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WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team A, Terry Dellaire, captain.

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

Cover Design by our Community Engagement Coordinator, Kat Roderick.

The mission globe is lit by Peggy Murray, in Loving remembrance of her mother, Patricia Harmon, for her March 12 birthday.

☰ **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.

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.

COMING UP @ FCC UCC

Lunch and Learn with Martha Stein of Hope Acts, Sunday, March 8, 11:30 am, Wright Pavilion: Hope Acts runs Hope House in Portland. Martha will give an overview of the organization's work with asylum seekers, focusing on their work with people who have been arrested and detained by ICE, and on the impact of ongoing attacks on immigrants on families and individuals. Hosted by the Mission and Social Witness Team.

Women's Rights Vigil: Poster Making Session: Sunday, March 8, Vigil: Sunday, March 15, 11:15 am Join us on the front steps to advocate for all women (Cis and LGBTQ) as well as the victims of Jeffrey Epstein and other high-profile figures. Jamien Jacob and Laura Chritten will sing with us as we stand together for this important cause. Questions: Cindy Doucette at cbdoucette@gmail.com.

Women's Spirit Circle, Tuesday, March 10, 7 pm, Community Room: Come just as you are to this welcoming, sacred space where we can connect with one another. All women, including LGBTQIA+, are welcome. Info: Nancy Brajtbord: nancy.brajtbord@gmail.com or Pat Thatcher: pat.thatcher123@gmail.com

Parents of Adult Children group, Sunday, March 15, 6:00 - 7:30 pm All parents of adult children (over 18 years old) are welcome to join us. For more info contact FCC UCC member Jill Saxby at revjillsaxby@gmail.com.

Game Night - March 17 Join us for Game Night on **March 17 at 7:00 PM** in Wright pavilion. The rumor is that cookies are now served and you can still play whatever game you prefer. We would love to have you play games with us.

MISSION AND SOCIAL WITNESS

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS are available on our website (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 22. Direct questions to steve@fccucc.org. Scholarship Sunday is scheduled for May 17.

THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Multi-Faith Vigil at Congress Square Park, Wednesday, March 11, 2:45 - 3:15 pm: Gather at the corner of Congress and High Streets. We will sing, pray and hold silence to honor the worth of all people caught up in the detention system. This will be our last vigil for the season. Sign up to receive updates about future vigils here: <https://tinyurl.com/5fpa68b4>

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/>

Women in Harmony Benefit Concert, Saturday, March 21, 3:00 p.m., St. Albans Episcopal Church, 885 Shore Rd., Cape Elizabeth. To support community partner organization, Maine Needs, <https://www.maineneeds.org> Details at <https://wihmaine.org> or ask Jill Saxby (WIH member) revjillsaxby@gmail.com

FIELD TRIP to see *The Malaga Ship* at the Maine Maritime Museum, Bath, ME, Sunday, March 22: A creative team has joined forces with Antonio Rocha to create a documentary film about the Malaga Ship. They will launch this project on March 22, with a special live performance of the play at 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.

A carpool will leave at 1:30 pm (for those who want to see the exhibit). The group will return at about 6:30 pm. Contact Marvin Ellison at mellison122@gmail.com if you are interested in carpooling.

Holy Week Schedule

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| 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 | 7 pm in the Sanctuary: Mark the final hours of Jesus' life with scripture readings, prayer and music by the Meetinghouse Choir. |
| April 5 | |
| Easter Sunrise Service | 6 am at Fort Williams Park: Gather on the hill by the flagpole, to welcome the rising Son. |
| Easter Festival Worship | 10 am in the Sanctuary: Come make a joyful noise as we celebrate the resurrection! Easter Egg Hunt to follow worship. |

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 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.