



The Power of Song

Music Sunday

September 14, 2025

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.

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST** 

A Note for Families / Folks of All Ages: We worship all together this morning. 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 *Sheep May Safely Graze* J. S. Bach
Piano/Organ Duet, David Vardeman and Terry Foster

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Rev. Alison Buttrick Patton and Rev. Stephen Savage

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *Psalm 100*

One: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth!

Two: *Serve our God with gladness*

All: Come into God's presence with singing!

One: Know that the Lord is God.

Two: *It is God who made us, and we belong to God.*

All: We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.

One: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and into God's courts with praise.

Two: *Give thanks to God; bless God's name.*

**All: For God is good! God's steadfast love endures forever
and God's faithfulness to all generations!**

***OPENING HYMN** *All Creatures of our God, Now Sing* #51

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS*

Source of Music, you taught the goldfinch his song and gave the laughing brook her voice. The stars and the creatures sing your praises! When we hesitate to join in, when we remain mute for fear of singing off key, remind us that you delight in *all* our exuberant praise. When we tune out the sounds of the world around us or suppress the voices of others, forgive us, we pray. Teach us again the rhythms of compassion and your love's cosmic melody, so that we can pass along the song.

PRAYERFUL PAUSE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

***SUNG RESPONSE**

Peace Like a River

African American Spiritual 𐄂

**I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul. [Repeat]**

**I've got joy like a fountain...
I've got love like an ocean...**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Betsy Wescott-Keiter

One: This is the sacred story of God's journey with God's people.

All: **Holy One, open our ears to hear, our hearts to receive and our lives to be expanded by your Word. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 96

MUSIC NOTES

Reflection #1	On Music that Tells our Story	Rev. Steve Savage
Hymn	<i>Once in Royal David's City</i>	#155

Reflection #2	On Music that Speaks to the Soul	Rev. Alison J. B. Patton
Hymn	<i>Be Still, My Soul</i>	#95

Reflection #3	On Music that Stirs up Joy	Rev. Steve Savage
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Congregational Medley:

**O when the saints, go marching in. O when the saints go marching in.
O how I want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in!**

**Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home.
Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home.**

**I'm gonna sing, sing, sing! I'm gonna shout, shout, shout.
I'm gonna sing! I'm gonna shout! Praise the Lord!
O when those gates are open wide I'll be sitting at Jesus' side.
I'm gonna sing! I'm gonna shout! Praise the Lord!**

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM

Meetinghouse Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

The 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.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

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

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Jason Krug

Handbell Choir

This hymn was played at Terry's ordination into Christian ministry.

GRATITUDES

CLOSING HYMN

When in our Music God is Glorified

#70-Songs of the Spirit

With the Handbell Choir

(Gray songbook)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

Martin Luther

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Join us for a festive reception in Wright Pavilion after worship.

WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team B, Peggy Murray, captain.

The flowers on the altar are given in loving memory of Lloyd and Marjorie Jordan and Isla Ifill by Stanley and Marie Jordan and family.

The flowers on the pillar are given in gratitude for Terry's musical ministry with us at FCC UCC.

Livestream: Thank you to Alex Ratta for managing our worship livestream, this week and every week!

☰ **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. We are now donating funds to the **Indigo Arts Alliance**. You are invited to contribute, as well. Donate by check or online, with "Royalty for Spirituals" in the memo. Thank you.

CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking for volunteers to help us relocate the **Children's Clothes Closet** from Guptill Hall to the 5th floor. Please contact Pastor Alison if you'd be willing to assist: revalisonpatton@fccucc.org Let her know if you are available weekdays and/or weekends. We will set a move date based on group availability. Thank you!

WEEKLY @ FCC UCC

Tuesday Bible Study meets from 12:30 - 1:30 pm in Davidson Lounge: whether you are a member of FCC UCC or you are simply interested in joining in the fun, you are invited to join our weekly bible study group, to enjoy fellowship and to discuss the worship and focal scripture from the past Sunday. Led by Rev. Steve Savage. All are welcome!

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 dmcclure@fccucc.org.

Handbells rehearse on Wednesdays, 4:45 pm in Wright Pavilion. If you are interested in ringing in the choir or would like more information, please contact bell choir director Sharon Potter: handbells@fccucc.org.

- There will be *no handbell rehearsal* on Wednesday, September 17. Our next rehearsal will be on Wednesday, September 24 from 4:45-5:45 PM.

SEPTEMBER@FCC UCC

TODAY: Music Sunday *and* Farewell Reception for Terry Foster, Sunday, September 14: Join us for after worship for a **special reception**, as we thank Terry Foster for his years as our Co-Director of Music and wish him well upon his retirement from this position.

Game Night, Tuesday, September 16, 7 pm in Wright Pavilion: Bring your favorite board game or learn to play one of the games we have on hand. All welcome! Questions: outreach@fccucc.org

Wabanaki-led Worship, Sunday, September 21: With Passamaquoddy citizens Lisa Sockabasin and Lauren Stevens; Second Hour conversation with Lisa and Lauren.

Financial Check-Up, Sunday, September 28, 11:15 am, sanctuary: Following worship, come and hear from Chris Keiter, Bruce Lockwood and Rich Armstrong, as they offer an overview of the current financial status of the church. They will discuss available revenues and projected expenses for the upcoming year, and implications for the 2026 budget. We encourage questions and suggestions from those gathered. This is an opportunity for all of us to better understand and play a part in how we raise and spend church funds.

To talk about money is to talk about ministry. How do we stay financially healthy, so we can continue to live God's love and justice? Please join us and share your creative input. Your thoughts and contributions are important!

MISSION AND SOCIAL WITNESS

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

Clynk Bags are available in the narthex (inside main entrance). Did you know that you can collect your returnable cans and bottles to support our mission and outreach efforts? Fill with returnable bottles and cans 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. It's easy!

THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Community Sing, TODAY, September 14 and every other Sunday, 3:30 pm at HopeGateway Church, 515 Woodford Street, Portland (2:45pm for anyone looking to get organized around singing at demonstrations and public events): A bi-weekly gathering of people from diverse congregations to find hope in singing together. Sign up to learn about future events or to opt-in to the Response Team to sing at resistance and change events: Register or ask questions: Emilia Dahlin at emilia@emiliadahlin.com

Maine Council of Churches presents: *Democracy in Crisis*, an evening with Pulitzer Prize nominee Colin Woodard, First Parish Church, Brunswick, Monday, September 22, 6:30 pm. Woodard will discuss how we got here and what we can do about it. Proceeds to benefit Maine Council of Churches (of which FCC UCC is a member). Tickets and info at www.maineCouncilofchurches.org

***What If We Get It Right? Visions of Climate Futures* – A Book Study with the BTS Center, 5 Tuesdays in October and November, beginning September 30, 4-6 pm:** Author Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson, marine biologist and advocate, interviews a host of people in diverse fields who are working toward a future of collective flourishing, focusing on what is possible even in the darkest times. Event includes discussion *with the author* on November 4. Details and registration at: <https://thebtscenter.org/event/what-if-we-get-it-right-book-study-2/>

BTS Center Convocation - *Flipping the Script: Claiming our Voices, Telling Our Stories*, October 16 (10 am) – October 17 (3:30 pm) 2025, Maple Hill Farm Inn and Conference Center, Hallowell, ME + Online Companions. Details and registration at <https://thebtscenter.org/convocation-2025/>

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."

Also, look for us on Facebook: facebook.com/fccucc

on Instagram: instagram.com/fccucc_s.portland

and on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/@FCCUCCSouthPortland



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Doodles, Notes and Reflections...

