

# 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

**MAY 5, 2024**

*Service to be conducted In Person at 9:30 am and online via Zoom*

## COMMUNION



### **First Congregational Church of Camden, United Church of Christ**

*Growing in Faith, Centered in Christ, Committed to Community*

We are an Open and Affirming Congregation embracing diversity  
and affirming the worth and dignity of every person.

We welcome everyone to share in all aspects of our church life.

55 Elm Street, Camden, Maine 04843 207.236.4821 phone 207.236.4822 fax

www.camdenucc.org [churchoffice@camdenucc.org](mailto:churchoffice@camdenucc.org)

*Home of Boy Scout Troop & Pack 200*

If you are joining on Zoom during the service please use speaker view instead of gallery view  
and keep your mics muted during the service.

THIS AVOIDS THE SERVICE BEING INTERRUPTED WHENEVER YOU MOVE OR SPEAK AT HOME.

**PLEASE DON'T CLICK THE GREEN SHARE SCREEN ICON, THAT'S FOR THE HOST!**

## THE SERVICE OF WELCOME

(\* indicates congregation stands, if comfortable doing so)

PRELUDE

*Something Beautiful ~ Something Good ~ Heaven Came Down*  
♪ Mike Fletcher, saxophone

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ute Molitor

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Bob Garcia

One: Sing to God a new song,  
**All: For Yahweh is God of all.**  
One: Break into joyous songs of praise,  
**All: Let all the earth celebrate and rejoice.**  
One: For our God comes in victory,  
**All: With righteousness and justice for all.**

— adapted from the Lectionary Sermons Archive page.

\* HYMN #420

*I Come With Joy*

(All joining us on Zoom receive a PDF link to words & music for all today's hymns. In the sanctuary, we use the hymnals.)

\* UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Bob Garcia

**We, who so often take the wonders of creation for granted, welcome the opportunity to make a joyful noise before you, O God. Yet, joyful noises are not easy for everyone to make, as we come from differing situations and lifestyles. Some are burdened with the stresses of daily living and all that involves; some wearied from tasks of serving others; some worried over the state of the world and where that is all leading. Speak to us all, O God, in the stillness of this time and remind us of Jesus' willingness to take our burdens upon himself. May we learn from him. May we experience his gentleness, steadfast love and gift of joy. Confident in these promises, we offer this time of worship to you, O God, praying that it may reflect our praise and thanksgiving for the gifts of creation, and for all that Jesus has done for us. Amen.**

— by Moira Laidlaw (adapted)

\* GLORIA

**Glory to our Creator  
and to the Christ  
and to their gift of love,  
who is Spirit now among us,  
and throughout all creation:  
world without end,  
Amen, amen.**

\* THE PASSING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

Ute Molitor

Leader: The Peace of Christ be always with you.  
**People: And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S TALK

Elizabeth Lally

## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

GOSPEL

John 15:9-17 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Bob Garcia

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

SERMON

*I Chose You!*

Patty Fox

Video from Middle Collegiate Church

## THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*If you are joining us in the sanctuary, we will be sharing gluten free bread and juice. The elements will be brought to you, and you may be asked to serve your neighbor. We all hold the piece of bread and later the cup until we are all ready to partake together.*

The Holy One be with you

And also with you

Open your hearts to the One who is Love

We open our hearts to you, O God

Let us give thanks to God, who gathers us together

To the One who welcomes us to the table, we give thanks and praise

God, your invitation to come and feast in your presence is but a taste of the love you extend to us every day. By your very nature, you are always seeking us out – searching for ways to connect us and connect with us. You meet us in the most ordinary of places and you make them sacred. By your grace, we come to recognize the holiness that dwells in the world around us, in our neighbors, in our own internal depths. Therefore, we join our voices with your people on earth and all the company of the heavens, singing praise to you,

Holy, Holy, Holy One

God of justice and love

Heaven and earth are full of your wonder

Hosanna, among us.

**All: Christ was birthed among us.**

**Christ was killed among us.**

**Christ rises again among us.**

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts, O God. Make these ordinary elements into the Sacred gift of your presence with us once again. May they awaken us anew to your everlasting invitation into a life of resurrection. Aliven us in our pursuit of a world where all needs are met, power is balanced, and the worth of every creature and creation is celebrated.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Sharing the Elements:

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ. **(We pause to eat the bread together).**

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives. **(We pause to drink from the cup together).**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Bob Garcia

**God, by the bread of heaven and the cup of life, you make us one body. Bind us together by your spirit that we might live into your hopes for us, a community centered in Christ and rich in compassion, commitment, courage, and care. May it be so.**

~ from enfleshed.com

## THE SERVICE OF GRATITUDE

*Please write prayer requests on the slips of paper found at the entry doors and in the pews.*

*Place completed prayer request slips in the offering plate.*

\* HYMN #487

*Help Us Accept Each Other*

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Ute Molitor

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Stranger of Galilee*

♪ Mike Fletcher, saxophone

\* DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise God, all creatures high and low.*

*Praise God in Jesus fully known.*

*Creator, Christ and Spirit one. Amen.*

\* UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bob Garcia

Loving God, we have so many reasons to say “thank You”. Your generosity, grace, and mercy are astounding, and we pray that the gifts we offer in worship and throughout the week might be used in Your name. Help us to be generous with our money, but also with our talents and time. Strengthen us to recognize Your blessings, to be grateful, and to respond accordingly. Amen.

OUR TIME OF PRAYER

Ute Molitor

THE LORD’S PRAYER (traditional)

**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.**

## THE SERVICE OF BLESSING

\* HYMN

*Bind Us Together* Hymn at end

\* BENEDICTION

Patty Fox

POSTLUDE *We are seated for the postlude.*

*My Savior's Love*

♪ Mike Fletcher, saxophone

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### OUR THANKS TO TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS!

Altar Flowers: **Brought by Bob Garcia in honor of Ute Molitor, who brought us Terra Divina.**

Liturgist: Bob Garcia

Greeters: Pam Brown, Owen Thomas, Elaine Davis and Jane Babbitt

Ushers: Melvin Achorn, Scott Achorn

IT & Tech Support: Lou Finston-Fox, Nathan Scott

Quilted "Prayers for Ukraine" behind Altar: *Designed, pieced and quilted by Jan Kelsey.*

Coffee Team I: "I Love Coffee" Becky Brace, Natalie & Larry Ward, Pat Root, Essie Sexton, Ann McClellan

Tablescapes: Nan Haid



### TODAY IN THE PILGRIM ROOM AFTER COFFEE HOUR

Bal-A-Vis-X stands for -Balance-Auditory-Visual Exercises. These are a set of 200+ exercises, each rooted deeply in rhythm, using racquetballs and beanbags. They are practiced individually and with partners. Bal-A-Vis-X can be used with someone of any age who needs better balance, focus, and rhythm. These exercises improve math, spelling, reading fluency and comprehension. Bal-A-Vis-X also helps those with balance disorders and diagnoses such as Stroke, Traumatic Brain Injury, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and Dementia.

**NEXT WEEK** Outdoor Mindfulness Meditation with Ute at Laite Beach, Camden  
8-8:45 am Thursday, May 8 (Bring a chair)



### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING WILL BE CELEBRATED ON SUNDAY, MAY 12 DURING WORSHIP

In May, envelopes will be in the pews and elsewhere in church. Your donations are most welcome; put OGHS on your checks, and you can donate directly on our



website by choosing One Great Hour of Sharing. Thanks to you, our church gives generous support to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering each year. This UCC ministry sends resources worldwide to fund health, education and agricultural development, give emergency relief, support refugee ministries and bring aid and relief to communities torn by war or ravaged by national disaster.

<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Lectio Divina Meditation ~ call office for Zoom invite</b>	
<b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Staff Meeting</b>	
<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>Noon-1 pm</b>	<b>Prayer Shawls~Knit &amp; Crochet ~ call office for Zoom invite</b>	
<b>Sun. May 5</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Worship &amp; Communion</b>	<b>Hybrid</b>
<b>Sun. May 5</b>	<b>10: 45 am</b>	<b>Bal-A-Vis-X ~ Demonstration and Practice, all welcome</b>	<b>Pilgrim Room</b>
<b>Mon. May 6</b>	<b>5 pm</b>	<b>Choral Bells Rehearsal</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
<b>Mon. May 6</b>	<b>6 pm</b>	<b>Justice &amp; Witness Event with Rev. Jodi Hayashida, from the Poor People's Campaign. All are welcome.</b>	<b>Pilgrim Room</b>
<b>Tues. May 7</b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Combined CCE/AFEC</b>	
<b>Wed. May 8</b>	<b>8 am</b>	<b>Outdoor Mindfulness Meditation with Ute</b>	<b>Laite Beach</b>
<b>Wed. May 8</b>	<b>All day 9-5</b>	<b>RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE</b>	<b>Pilgrim Room</b>
<b>Wed. May 8</b>	<b>2:30-3:30</b>	<b>Ping Pong, Scout Room</b>	
<b>Thur. May 9</b>	<b>9 am</b>	<b>Outreach ~ in person</b>	<b>Conference Rm</b>
<b>Thur. May 9</b>	<b>1 pm</b>	<b>Shields</b>	
<b>Sun. May 12</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Worship ~ One Great Hour of Sharing</b>	<b>Hybrid</b>
<b>Tues. May 14</b>	<b>4:30 pm</b>	<b>Communications</b>	<b>Conference Rm</b>
<b>Tues. May 14</b>	<b>6 pm</b>	<b>Justice &amp; Witness Event with Rev. Jodi Hayashida, from the Poor People's Campaign. All are welcome.</b>	<b>Pilgrim Room</b>
<b>Wed. May 15</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Membership</b>	
<b>Wed. May 15</b>	<b>3 pm</b>	<b>Care Team</b>	
<b>Wed. May 15</b>	<b>5 pm</b>	<b>Trustees</b>	
<b>Thu. May 16</b>	<b>5:30-7:30 pm</b>	<b>Women's Potluck Supper</b>	<b>Pilgrim Room</b>
<b>Fri. May 17</b>	<b>7-9 pm</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Camden Poetry Festival – Open Mic</b>	
<b>Sat. May 18</b>	<b>1-5:15 pm</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Camden Poetry Festival To register on website: <a href="http://thepoetscorner.org/festival">thepoetscorner.org/festival</a></b>	
<b>Sun. May 19</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>Hybrid</b>
<b>Sun. May 19</b>	<b>4 pm</b>	<b>Friends of Music Concert ~ Jessica Deskin</b>	
<b>Mon. May 20</b>	<b>5 pm</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b>	
<b>Wed. May 22</b>	<b>8 am</b>	<b>Outdoor Mindfulness Meditation with Ute</b>	<b>Laite Beach</b>
<b>Thu. May 23</b>	<b>3 pm</b>	<b>Care Team</b>	
<b>Fri. May 24</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	<b>JUNE Beacon</b>	
<b>Sat. May 25</b>	<b>9-11 am</b>	<b>Men's Breakfast</b>	<b>Pilgrim Room</b>
<b>Sat. May 25</b>	<b>4 pm</b>	<b>Church of the Wild – Gather at Fernald's Neck</b>	<b>All welcome</b>
<b>Sun. May 26</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>Hybrid</b>
<b>Mon. May 27</b>	<b>Holiday</b>	<b>Memorial Day – Church closed</b>	

#### OUR CHURCH OFFICERS

Tim Sheehy, Moderator

Jane Babbitt, Clerk

Fred Bucklin, Treasurer

#### OUR CHURCH MINISTERS & STAFF

Rev. Dr. Ute S. Molitor, Senior Minister

Rev. Patty Fox, Associate Minister

Matthew Mainster, Minister of Music

Jeanne Denny, Shields Fund Administrator

Elizabeth Lally, Faith Connections Program Director

Lara Webb, Nursery Caregiver

Amy Smith, Full Charge Bookkeeper

Becky Brace, Office Manager

Ryan Berry, Custodian of Buildings & Grounds

# 26 Bind us together, Lord

x      D A7

*Refrain* Bind us to- geth- er, Lord, bind us to- geth- er with cords that

D

can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to- geth- er, Lord,

A7      D *Fine*

bind us to- geth- er, Lord, bind us to- geth- er in love.

G      D

1. There is on - ly one God, there is

A7      D      G

on - ly one King. There is on - ly one

D      E7      A7      D D.C.

Bo - dy, that is why we sing: