

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026



*Road to Emmaus* by Michael Torevell

***Inclusive. Inspired. Involved.***

*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.*

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

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

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

**Welcoming Music**      *Morning Has Broken* – arr. Joel Raney  
\* Meg Thomas, piano

**Prelude**              *He is Risen, He is Risen!* — Cathy Moglebust  
\* Choral Bells with Meg Thomas, piano

**Welcome & Announcements** Rev. David J. Wood

\* **Song**              Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His Name.  
                         Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
                         Jesus has died and has risen.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His Name.

**Call to Worship** Esther Sexton

On the road to Emmaus, after his resurrection,  
Jesus came alongside two disciples:  
He listened, opened the scriptures to them,  
and brought them hope in the midst of their despair.

**Christ's Spirit is with us, here.  
Like them, may our hearts be awakened,  
and our eyes opened  
to the reality of his presence among us.**

Christ is Risen!  
**Christ is Risen! Alleluia!**

\* **Hymn #229**              *That Easter Day with Joy was Bright*

\* **Prayer of Invocation** (*congregation reads bold print*) Esther Sexton

Gracious God,  
in Jesus we see a light that shines into every darkness,  
a goodness that overcomes every evil,  
a love that keeps faith with us even when we are faithless,  
a life that makes a way for us even through death.

**Shape our lives so that others might see your light,  
your goodness, your love, and your life in us.  
This is our prayer in the name of Jesus, Risen from the dead,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
One God forever and ever. Amen.**

**\* 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**

David Wood

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

**THE SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**Luke 24:13-35**

Esther Sexton

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him."

Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”

That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

“One Road, Two Journeys”

Rev. James W. Nutter

**Song of Response #231** *Sing of One Who Walks Beside Me*

*(Please remain seated for this hymn)*

## **THE SERVICE OF GRATITUDE**

**Joys & Concerns ~ Pastoral Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer**

*(we use “...forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors...”)*

### **Offertory Invitation**

We continue our worship in the giving of our offering.

### **Offertory Anthem**

*Confidence, Opus 19, No. 4*

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

\* Meg Thomas, piano

### **\* Easter Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow*

*Praise God, all creatures here below.*

*Christ is risen, Alleluia!*

*Praise God in Jesus fully known*

*Creator, Christ, and Spirit one.*

*Christ is risen, Alleluia!*

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

### **\* Prayer of Dedication**

Esther Sexton

Gracious God, we give you thanks and praise

for the free and abundant gift of grace you have given us in Jesus Christ.

**We offer these gifts and our lives in thanksgiving**

**for your undying love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## THE SERVICE OF BLESSING & SENDING

\* **Hymn #595** *Be Thou My Vision*

\* **Benediction**

Rev. Nutter

\* **Sung Benediction**

*Go my children, with my blessing, never alone;  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own;  
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever,  
Go my children, with my blessing, you are my own.*

**Postlude** (Everyone is invited to be seated for the postlude.)

*"Lord of the Dance"* (Shaker Melody)

Adapted by Sydney Carter in 1963--Arranged by Joel Raney

The "Lord of the Dance" follows the idea of a traditional English carol, "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day," which tells the gospel story in the first person voice of Jesus of Nazareth with the device of portraying Jesus' life and mission as a dance.



### **We Welcome Father James W. Nutter to the Pulpit this morning:**

Fr. Nutter is an Ordained Episcopal Priest and has served as an Assistant Priest at the Cathedral Church of St. Luke in Portland, Rector of St. Peter's, in Rockland, and Rector of Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church in Houston, Texas. Most recently until September of 2025, Fr. Nutter served as the Priest of St. John's Episcopal Church in Bangor. He lives with his wife, Lucy, in Friendship...just a few miles down Friendship Road from David & Jennifer Wood.

### **GRATITUDE FOR TODAY'S VOLUNTEER PARTICIPANTS**

Flowers: *You are invited to bring an altar arrangement any Sunday. Please sign up on the chart in the Pilgrim Room or call the office to select a date.*

Liturgist: Esther Sexton

Greeters: Kathy & Dan Pease, Karen & David Giansiracusa

Ushers: Melvin Achorn, Scott Achorn

Coffee Team J: "Cuppa Joe"

Terri Mackenzie, Jean Forest, Georgia & John Brock, Rich Stuart,  
Rick Cowan, Dyane Mohr

### **OUR CHURCH OFFICERS**

Sarah Reynolds & Natalie Ward, Co-Moderators

Jane Babbitt, Clerk

Owen Thomas, Treasurer

## OUR CHURCH MINISTERS & STAFF

Rev. David J. Wood, Interim Senior Minister

[david@camdenucc.org](mailto:david@camdenucc.org)

Matthew Mainster, Minister of Music

Jeanne Denny, Shields Fund Administrator

James Cook, Heavenly Threads Manager

Ryan Berry, Custodian of Buildings & Grounds

Lee Bross, Full Charge Bookkeeper

Becky Brace, Office Administrator

### Beginning THIS Tuesday: A Bible Study on the book of Philippians

Facilitated by David J. Wood

Tuesdays, 4:00 - 5:15 in the Pilgrim Room

April 21 & 28 and May 5 & 12

All are invited to join the conversation on the New Testament Epistle of Paul to the Philippians. This Epistle has four chapters and we will discuss one chapter each week. No prior study or knowledge of the Bible is necessary! Come and join the conversation.

### Informational meetings for Everyone Interested in Becoming a Member of FCC:

**Sunday, 4/26 and again on Sunday, 5/3 @ 10:45 am.**

These meetings are for anyone who would like to know more about the life and ministries of FCC and what membership involves. We will conclude no later than 11:30. No need to RSVP. David will gather folks after everyone has had a chance to get a cup of coffee. Please join us! - David J. Wood

## OUR NEXT FREE FRIENDS OF MUSIC CONCERT



The Friends of Music Concert Series, an outreach program of First Congregational Church of Camden, is pleased to present guitarist [David Rogers](#) in concert on **Sunday, April 26 at 4 pm.**

“A modern master of classical guitar” (*20th Century Guitar*), David Rogers will present an eclectic program of baroque, classical, Spanish, and North African repertoire, as well as flashy arrangements of modern-day pop music—with humorous stories connecting it all.

Friends of Music concerts are free and open to the public. Donations are cheerfully accepted at the door.

## CHURCH CALENDAR

|                       |                    |  |                      |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--|----------------------|
| <b>Tuesdays</b>       | <b>8:30-9:30am</b> | <b>Lectio Divina Meditation~ call office for</b>   | <b>Zoom link</b>     |
| <b>Tuesdays</b>       | <b>5am-noon</b>    | <b>VOLUNTEER at SOS</b>  |                      |
| <b>Tue-Wed-Thurs</b>  | <b>3 days</b>      | <b>VOLUNTEER at Heavenly Threads</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 ~ in person and Zoom All yarn supplied.</b>             | <b>Call for link</b> |
| <b>Sun. April 19</b>  | <b>9:30 am</b>     | <b>Sunday Worship</b>  | <b>Sanctuary</b>     |
| <b>Tues. April 21</b> | <b>12 noon</b>     | <b>Membership</b>  | <b>Conf. Rm</b>      |
| <b>Tues. April 21</b> | <b>4-5:15 pm</b>   | <b>Bible Study #1-Philippians</b>  | <b>Pilgrim Rm</b>    |
| <b>Sun. April 26</b>  | <b>9:30 am</b>     | <b>Sunday Worship</b>  | <b>Sanctuary</b>     |
| <b>Sun. April 26</b>  | <b>10:45 am</b>    | <b>Informal Meeting on Joining our Church</b>  | <b>Mayflower</b>     |
| <b>Thur. April 28</b> | <b>4-5:15 pm</b>   | <b>Bible Study #2-Philippians</b>  | <b>Pilgrim Rm</b>    |
| <b>Thur. April 28</b> | <b>5:30 pm</b>     | <b>Cabinet</b>   |                      |
| <b>Sun. May 3</b>     | <b>9:30 am</b>     | <b>Sunday Worship &amp; Communion</b>  | <b>Sanctuary</b>     |
| <b>Sun. May 3</b>     | <b>10:45 am</b>    | <b>Informal Meeting on Joining our Church</b>  | <b>Mayflower</b>     |
| <b>Tues. May 5</b>    | <b>4-5:15 pm</b>   | <b>Bible Study #3-Philippians</b>  | <b>Pilgrim Rm</b>    |
| <b>Thur. May 7</b>    | <b>8:30 am</b>     | <b>Stewardship</b>   |                      |
| <b>Thur. May 7</b>    | <b>11 am</b>       | <b>Hearing Assist Meeting – open to all</b>  | <b>Sanctuary</b>     |
| <b>Thur. May 7</b>    | <b>5:30 pm</b>     | <b>Beacon Society Potluck</b>  | <b>Pilgrim Rm</b>    |
| <b>Sun. May 10</b>    | <b>9:30 am</b>     | <b>Sunday Worship</b>  | <b>Sanctuary</b>     |
| <b>Tues. May 12</b>   | <b>4-5:15 pm</b>   | <b>Bible Study #4-Philippians</b>  | <b>Pilgrim Rm</b>    |
| <b>Thur. May 14</b>   | <b>5:30 pm</b>     | <b>Women’s Potluck Supper</b>  | <b>Pilgrim Rm</b>    |
| <b>Sun. May 17</b>    | <b>9:30 am</b>     | <b>Sunday Worship</b>  | <b>Sanctuary</b>     |
| <b>Wed. May 20</b>    | <b>5 pm</b>        | <b>Trustees</b>  |                      |
| <b>Thur. May 21</b>   | <b>6 pm</b>        | <b>Film: Life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer</b>   | <b>Pilgrim Rm</b>    |
| <b>Sun. May 24</b>    | <b>9:30 am</b>     | <b>Sunday Worship</b>  | <b>Sanctuary</b>     |
| <b>Mon. May 25</b>    | <b>HOLIDAY</b>     | <b>Memorial Day ~ Church Closed</b>  |                      |
| <b>Mon. May 25</b>    | <b>4 pm</b>        | <b>DownEast Singers Bach Mass in B minor</b>   | <b>Sanctuary</b>     |
| <b>Thurs. May 28</b>  | <b>6 pm</b>        | <b>Book Discussion on Dietrich Bonhoeffer</b>  | <b>Pilgrim Rm</b>    |
| <b>Sun. May 31</b>    | <b>9:30 am</b>     | <b>Sunday Worship</b>  | <b>Sanctuary</b>     |
| <b>Sun. May 31</b>    | <b>4 pm</b>        | <b>Friends of Music ~ Penobscot Bay Ringers Benefit for Shields Fund</b>                     | <b>Sanctuary</b>     |
| <b>Mon. June 1</b>    | <b>5 pm</b>        | <b>Baccalaureate – CHRHS Senior Class</b>  | <b>Sanctuary</b>     |
| <b>Wed. June 3</b>    | <b>7 pm</b>        | <b>Public Lecture~ Dr. Andrew Root, “Bearing Witness in a Time of Christian Nationalism”</b> | <b>Sanctuary</b>     |
| <b>Sun. June 7</b>    | <b>9:30 am</b>     | <b>Sunday Worship &amp; Communion</b>  | <b>Sanctuary</b>     |
| <b>Thurs. June 11</b> | <b>6-8 pm</b>      | <b>Book Discussion “Here Comes the Sun” Bill McKibben</b>                                    | <b>Pilgrim Rm</b>    |
| <b>Sat. June 13</b>   | <b>1 pm</b>        | <b>U. Maine Jazz Ensemble – free concert</b>   | <b>Sanctuary</b>     |
| <b>Sun. June 14</b>   | <b>9:30 am</b>     | <b>Sunday Worship</b>  | <b>Sanctuary</b>     |
| <b>Tues. June 16</b>  | <b>4-6 pm</b>      | <b>PRIDE EVENT: Youth Craft Workshop</b>   | <b>Pilgrim Rm</b>    |
| <b>Wed. June 17</b>   | <b>5 pm</b>        | <b>Trustees</b>  |                      |
| <b>Wed. June 17</b>   | <b>7 pm</b>        | <b>Concert Penobscot Bay Singers: Sierra Lary</b>  | <b>Sanctuary</b>     |

## Hearing Assist Follow Up Meeting

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to announce a follow up session with Dr. Angela Loavenbruck. The purpose of this session will be to get your input on Auracast as the hearing assist solution for the sanctuary. During this session, we will have a demonstration of Auracast technology and will be able to test several sample hearing aids.

We will also be joined by Geoff Parker, our local audiovisual expert, and John Beaudette from the Henderson Company, who will be providing the sample hearing aids and assisting with the equipment demonstration.

### Meeting Details

Date: Thursday, May 7

Time: 11:00 a.m.

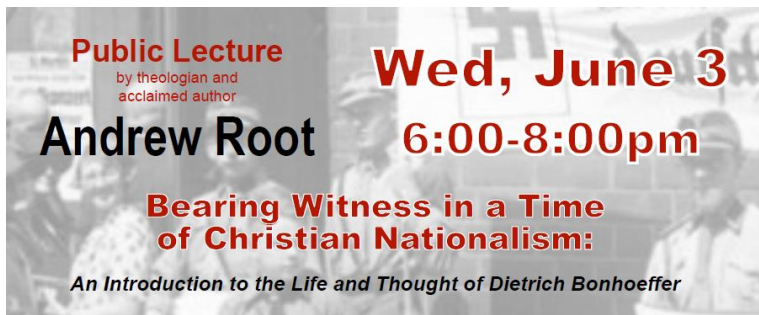
Location: Church Sanctuary

Please feel free to reach out with any questions by emailing me at [robertedmonds945@msn.com](mailto:robertedmonds945@msn.com) or calling 612 987 3229.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Warm regards,

Rob Edmonds

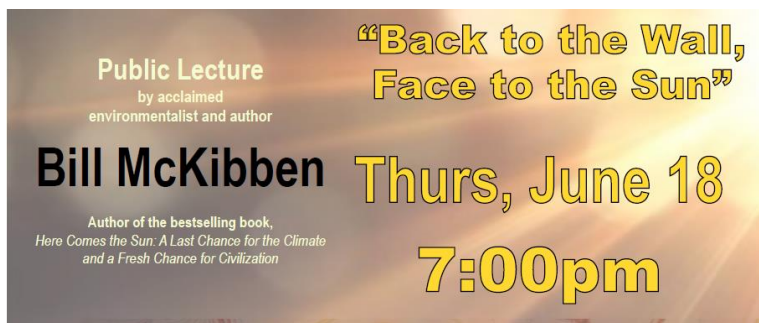


**Public Lecture**  
by theologian and  
acclaimed author

**Andrew Root**

**Wed, June 3**  
**6:00-8:00pm**

**Bearing Witness in a Time  
of Christian Nationalism:**  
*An Introduction to the Life and Thought of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*



**Public Lecture**  
by acclaimed  
environmentalist and author

**Bill McKibben**

**“Back to the Wall,  
Face to the Sun”**

**Thurs, June 18**  
**7:00pm**

*Author of the bestselling book,  
Here Comes the Sun: A Last Chance for the Climate  
and a Fresh Chance for Civilization*