

6th Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2026



Pietà by Michelangelo

He produced this sculpture in 1498-99 and it was the only piece the artist ever signed. It is now located in St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City.



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**

6th Sunday of Easter

(* indicates congregation stands, if comfortable doing so)

Prelude *Peace is Flowing Like a River*
*John Smedley, guitar

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 [Adapted from Hosea 11, Psalm 131, & 1 Peter 1] Sarah Reynolds

God is as a mother comforting her child,
God is to us like the mother
 who lifts an infant to her cheek.

**Come let us Worship the One who
grants us a new birth into a living hope.**

* **Hymn** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

1. For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

2. For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

3. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

4. For thyself, best Gift Divine,
to the world so freely given,
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth, and joy in heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

* **Prayer of Invocation**

Sarah Reynolds

Gracious God,
like a mother, you brought all things into being.
Through trial and truth-telling, touch, and tenderness,
you nurture your people and lead us in the ways of justice and peace.

**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. 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

*Peace is flowing like a river,
Flowing out of you and me;
Flowing out into the desert,
Setting all the captives free.*

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

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Genesis 18: 1-5, 9-15

Sarah Reynolds

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground.

He said, 'My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.' So they said, 'Do as you have said.'

They said to him, 'Where is your wife Sarah?' And he said, 'There, in the tent.' Then one said, 'I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.' And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him.

Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, 'After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?'

The Lord said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh, and say, "Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?" Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.' But Sarah denied, saying, 'I did not laugh'; for she was afraid. He said, 'Oh yes, you did laugh.'

Luke 1: 46-56

And Mary said,
'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’

And Mary remained with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned
to her home.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon “Revisiting Mother’s Day and Motherhood” Rev. David J. Wood

Song of Response #677 *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

(Please remain seated for this hymn)

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be.

With God our Creator,
Children all are we.
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me,
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take,
May this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment
In peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me.

THE SERVICE OF GRATITUDE

Joys & Concerns ~ Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

(all are invited to pray the Lord's Prayer using "debts and debtors")

Offertory Invitation

We continue our worship in the giving of our offering.

Offertory Anthem

I Am Still With You (from Psalm 139)

*John Smedley, guitar

* 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

Sarah Reynolds

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 #490

Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant

* Benediction

David Wood

* 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.)

American the Beautiful (arr. John Smedley)

*John Smedley, guitar



GRATITUDE FOR TODAY'S VOLUNTEER PARTICIPANTS

Altar Flowers: Elizabeth Gardner
Liturgist: Sarah Reynolds
Greeters: Zella Walker, Jean & Tim Sheehy, Rich Stuart
Ushers: Melvin Achorn, Scott Achorn

Coffee Team A, "Awesome Angels": Bette McFarland, Amy Rollins,
Elaine Davis, Cathy Eagleson, Sarah Shepherd

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

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

A Bible Study on the book of Philippians ~ Final Session

Facilitated by David J. Wood

Tuesday, May 12 @ 4:00 - 5:15 in the Pilgrim Room

All are invited to join the conversation on the New Testament Epistle of Paul to the Philippians. In this final session, we will take up the final chapter, chapter 4, and briefly share our impressions of the Epistle as a whole.



Update on raising funds for our Liturgical Panels Project:

Our overall goal was \$15,000. We have, so far, received \$10,775 leaving \$4,225 left to be raised.

If you would like to make a gift towards the completion of this project, please send a check to the church office, payable to First Congregational church of Camden. In the "memo" line of the check, write, "Liturgical Panels Project." Contribution of any amount are welcome!

If you would like more information, feel free to speak with any one of the following members of the group who have been working on this project: Rich Anderson, Tony & Betty Bates, John & Jinx Hufnagel, or Claudia & Michael Griffiths.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Mondays	beg 6/15	SUMMER HRS Office Closed Mondays	
Tuesdays	8:30-9:30am	Lectio Divina Meditation~ call office for	Zoom link
Tuesdays	5am-noon	VOLUNTEER at SOS	
Tue-Wed-Thurs	3 days	VOLUNTEER at Heavenly Threads	
Wednesdays	9:30 am	Staff Meeting	
Thursdays	Noon-1 pm	Prayer Shawls, Knit & Crochet ~ in person and Zoom All yarn supplied.	Call for link
Sun. May 10	9:30 am	Sunday Worship	Sanctuary
Tues. May 12	4-5:15 pm	Bible Study #4-Philippians	Pilgrim Rm
Wed. May 13	5-6:30 pm	Anti-Poverty Group	Pilgrim Rm
Thur. May 14	5:30 pm	Women's Potluck Supper	Pilgrim Rm
Sun. May 17	9:30 am	Sunday Worship	Sanctuary
Wed. May 20	5 pm	Trustees	
Thur. May 21	1 pm	Shields	
Thur. May 21	6 pm	Film: Life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer	Pilgrim Rm
Sun. May 24	9:30 am	Sunday Worship	Sanctuary
Mon. May 25	HOLIDAY	Memorial Day ~ Church Closed	
Mon. May 25	4 pm	DownEast Singers Bach Mass in B minor	Sanctuary
Thurs. May 28	6 pm	Book Discussion on Dietrich Bonhoeffer	Pilgrim Rm
Sun. May 31	9:30 am	Sunday Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. May 31	4 pm	Handbells for Hope ~ Benefit Concert for Shields Fund ~ Penobscot Bay Ringers	Sanctuary
Mon. June 1	6 pm	Baccalaureate – CHRHS Senior Class	Sanctuary
Wed. June 3	7 pm	Public Lecture~ Dr. Andrew Root, "Bearing Witness in a Time of Christian Nationalism"	Sanctuary
Thurs. June 4	8:30 am	Stewardship	
Sat. June 6	9-11 am	Men's Breakfast ~ all men welcome	Pilgrim Rm
Sun. June 7	9:30 am	Sunday Worship & Communion	Sanctuary
Thurs. June 11	6-8 pm	Book Discussion "Here Comes the Sun" Bill McKibben	Pilgrim Rm
Sat. June 13	1 pm	U. Maine Jazz Ensemble – free concert	Sanctuary
Sun. June 14	9:30 am	Sunday Worship	Sanctuary
Mon. June 15	Closed	Begin Summer Hrs ~ Office Closed Mondays	
Tues. June 16	4-6 pm	PRIDE EVENT: Youth Craft Workshop	Pilgrim Rm
Wed. June 17	5 pm	Trustees	
Wed. June 17	7 pm	Penobscot Bay Singers Concert: Sierra Lary	Sanctuary
Thurs. June 18	9 am	Outreach	Conf. Rm.
Thurs. June 18	7 pm	Public Lecture: Bill McKibben, NY Times	Sanctuary
Fri. June 19	Juneteenth	HOLIDAY ~ Church Closed	
Sun. June 21	9:30 am	Sunday Worship	Sanctuary

NOT TO BE MISSED ~ PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

MOZART MENTORS ORCHESTRA
ANTHONY ANTOLINI, CONDUCTOR
present

J.S. BACH'S
MASS IN B MINOR

Part I (The Kyrie-Gloria Mass of 1733)

MEMORIAL DAY
MONDAY, MAY 25, 2026, AT 4:00 PM
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
55 ELM STREET, CAMDEN
Dessert reception to follow

\$25 ADMISSION
18 & under by donation

SOLOISTS:
Jennifer Bates, soprano
Erin Chenard, soprano

Tickets available at
downeastingers.org



Wed. June 17 at 7 pm,
in our Sanctuary
Sierra Lary, Conductor

Sierra is well known to us for her solos during worship. The Penobscot Bay Singers will present a concert celebrating America's 250th anniversary with a selection of music by American composers. Light reception to follow here in the Pilgrim Room.

Public Lecture
by acclaimed
environmentalist and author

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

Bill McKibben **Thurs, June 18**

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

7:00pm

Public Lecture
by acclaimed
MIT humanities professor,
physicist and author

**“The Miraculous
from the
Material”**

Alan Lightman **Wed., July 8**

Author of the bestselling book,
*Einstein's Dreams, Searching for Stars on an Island in
Maine and The Miraculous from the Material.*

7:00pm