



# Falmouth Congregational Church United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

267 Falmouth Road

Falmouth, Maine 04105

207.781.3413

*Do not discourage the good that is done by those outside the church. Much good is accomplished in this world by those who claim no allegiance to Jesus Christ.*



*Serving Christ and Community since  
1754 Third Parish Church;  
1833 The Brick Church*

Reverend Michael H. Richards  
Pastor and Teacher

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

**LIFE OF THE CHURCH**

**HONORING OUR CALL TO BE PEACEMAKERS**

**\*Passing the Peace of Christ**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

*(As a sign of our reconciliation with God and one another, we invite you to turn and greet those around you sharing the peace of Christ saying: "The Peace of Christ be with you." "And also with you.")*

**PRELUDE**

**"Change My Heart, O God"**

**Eddie Espinosa/Mark Hayes**

**BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: You call us to worship, O God; You call us to prayer.

**All: As we express our thanks, as we pray for the troubled, as we confess our shortcomings, You hear us.**

One: You call us to worship, O God; You inspire us to praise.

**All: As we sing the hymns, as we respond in the psalms, You join with us.**

One: You call us to worship, O God; You call us to hear the Word.

**ALL: As we listen to the scriptures, as we are touched by the Word proclaimed, You speak to us.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

**"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"**

**No.6 vs.1,3,4**

**OUR LORD'S PRAYER (Debtors)**

**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.**

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

**Pastor Michael**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

One: If God is with us,

**All: we will be able to bring our thanksgivings to church, but also our worries.**

One: If God is with us,

**All: we will be able to enjoy the laughter of children, but also hear the concerns of older folk.**

One: If God is with us,

**All: we will be able to consider the needs of this faith community, but also the needs of the oppressed far from here.**

One: If God is with us,

**All: the impact of Jesus' teaching will come home to us, but His cross-death will face us with new realities.**

One: *If God is with us?*

**All: God is with us! Amen.**

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: What is gained for God is worth the sacrifice.

**All: Acts of compassion and deeds of caring are worth the time taken from free-time and leisure.**

One: What is gained for God is worth the sacrifice.

**All: Words that speak of justice, letters that call for freedom are worth the opposition and the anger aroused.**

One: What is gained for God is worth the sacrifice.

**All: Work as a part of the faith community; teamwork to help the young, the challenged, and the infirm is worth more than going it alone.**

One: What is gained for God is worth the sacrifice.

**All: Following the Way of Christ, giving priority to prayer and praise is worth the ridicule, is worth comparison with the world's values.**

## ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

One: We follow Jesus Christ, who sacrificed His life so that evil would be exposed, and God's love would triumph.

**All: The testing of Jesus, the fickleness of His friends, and His death on the cross reveal the small scale of our sacrifice.**

One: Are you ready to renew your faithfulness? Are you ready to walk the tough and costly path?

**All: We are ready!**

One: Peace is yours. Find joy in a fresh start.

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### THE WORD OF GOD

**Old Testament Lesson**      **Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22**      **(NRSV p.413; RSV p.438<sup>†</sup>)**

One: This is the Word of the Lord      **All: Thanks be to God**

**New Testament Lesson**      **Mark 9:38-50**      **(NRSV p.39; RSV p.43<sup>†</sup>)**

One: This is the Word of the Lord      **All: Thanks be to God**

### SERMON

**"Encountering the Religious Other"**

**Pastor Michael**

### \*HYMN

**"Make Me a Channel of your Peace"**

**back cover**

## WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

### SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

#### PASTORAL PRAYER

**Pastor Michael**

#### PRAYER RESPONSE

***"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"***

**George Welpton**

### OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

**The Invitation**

**The Offertory**

***"How I Love My Savior"***

**Chancel Choir**

**Virginia Eddy, guitar**

**Early American**

**Wayne Hooper**

#### \*Doxology

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

#### \*Prayer of Dedication

One: As You increase our wisdom, loving God, so You increase our vision of need.

**All: We see the loneliness of some congregational members; we hear the call of youngsters for a safe and fun place to hang out; we respond to the appeal of those who are sick or housebound for someone to listen to them; we recognize the desperation of refugees and the plight of the homeless.**

One: Your gifts will be blessed by God, as they go to work to bring change.

**All: Praise be to God! Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

**“O Jesus, I Have Promised”**

**No.612, vs.1,3,4**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**Pastor Michael**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

**Carrying the Light of Christ into the World**

***Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day. Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always. Celebrate and share the joy! Celebrate new Life! Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.***

**POSTLUDE**

**“Sing to the Lord”**

**Early American/Lani Smith**

(During the postlude, you may be seated to listen, or you may leave.)

**(\*) Please rise in body or spirit.**

Throughout the order of worship, if print is in **bold**, words may be spoken together in unison.

† NRSV Bibles are on the pulpit side of the sanctuary and the RSV Bibles are on the lectern side of the sanctuary.



*The flowers that grace the chancel this morning are given in celebration of: Pastor Michael's birthday on October 2nd, from his grateful congregation.*

### **Worship Participants**

**Greeters:** Tom and Judy Crosby

**Liturgist** Mark Horton

**Ushers:** Mark and Peggy Horton, John Boothby

### **PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS**

**Maureen Grubb  
Robbie Coleman  
George Sanborn  
Bee O'Brien  
Maytha Southard  
Joyce Harmon  
Ruth Ann Doty**



**Mary Eileen Anderson  
Missy Gage  
Kerry Golding  
Myron Krueger  
Priscilla Hobart  
Arthur Westcott**

**Jack Horton (who is serving in Iraq)**

*Names will be removed after 30 days if the office does not receive an update. Please let the church office know if we have missed someone, if any information changes or you will like to add someone to the prayer list. Thank you!*



### **Next Sunday's Lectionary**

Job 1:1; 2:1-10; Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

We **WELCOME** you to worship and invite you to join us after the service in Fellowship Hall for refreshments and friendly fellowship. Are you visiting us today? Please be sure to pick up a “**Welcome Bag**” in Fellowship Hall or in the Narthex and sign our guest book.

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**Holly Days Fair** is our biggest fund raiser and we need YOU! There are lots of opportunities to join the effort and the fun! For more information, please contact: Kathie Sinnett/Coordinator of Volunteers at [kathie.sinnett@gmail.com](mailto:kathie.sinnett@gmail.com).

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**Mark your calendars!** The series on Hospice, *what it is and what it is not*, begins on Tuesday, September 25 at 3 p.m. in Beinema Hall. Details about the series are in the September Congregator. Let Carol Kauffman know if you wish to attend. She can be reached at [bearlover12@maine.rr.com](mailto:bearlover12@maine.rr.com).

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**Special Congregation Information Meeting** September 30<sup>th</sup>, after Worship. Updates will be provided on several matters being considered by the Council of Ministries.

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**Harvest Community Supper:** FREE roast turkey dinner with all the fixings, October 18, 4:30-7:00 PM in Beinema Hall. Volunteer sign up sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Free will donations accepted in support of the Falmouth Food Pantry. For more information contact Nancy Lightbody.

### **This Week’s Schedule**

#### **Sunday September 30**

- 9:00 AM** Choir Practice
- 10:00 AM** Worship Service
- 11:15 AM** Coffee Fellowship ~ featuring “Coffee by Design” coffee

#### **Monday October 1**

- 6:00 PM** Fiddle-icious (Beinema Hall)
- 7:00 PM** Ministry of Worship & Covenant (Grant Room)

#### **Tuesday October 2**

- 9:00 AM** Aerobics (Beinema Hall)
- 10:00 AM** Bible Study at Ocean View
- 3:00 PM** Hospice Series II – The What and the How (Grant Room)

#### **Wednesday October 3**

- 8:30 AM** Aerobics (Beinema Hall)
- 5:30 PM** Pastoral Search Committee (Grant Room)
- 7:30 PM** Choir Rehearsal & Pot Luck (Beinema Hall)

#### **Thursday October 4**

- 8:30 AM** Ecumenical Clergy Meeting (Location varies)
- 6:30 PM** Ministry of Missions (Grant Room)
- 7:00 PM** Boy Scout Troop 93 (Beinema Hall)

#### **Friday October 5**

- 9:00 AM** Aerobics (Beinema Hall)

#### **Sunday October 7** ***Communion Sunday** ~ Neighbors in Need Offering Due*

- 9:00 AM** Choir Practice
- 10:00 AM** Worship Service & Kids’ Church
- 11:15 AM** Coffee Fellowship ~ featuring “Coffee by Design” coffee
- 7:00 PM** Scout Committee Meeting (Beinema Hall)

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Are you having trouble seeing the small print in the bulletin?  
Please ask an usher for a **LARGE print bulletin and hymn.**

# Make Me a Channel of Your Peace



1. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. \_\_\_\_\_ Where  
 2. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. \_\_\_\_\_ Where  
 4. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. \_\_\_\_\_ It



there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. \_\_\_\_\_ Where  
 there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope. \_\_\_\_\_ Where  
 is in par-don - ing that we are par - doned, \_\_\_\_\_ in



there is in - ju - ry, your par-don, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ and  
 there is dark - ness, \_\_\_\_\_ on - ly light, \_\_\_\_\_ and  
 giv - ing of our - selves that we re - ceive, \_\_\_\_\_ and in



where there's doubt, true faith in you. \_\_\_\_\_  
 where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy. \_\_\_\_\_  
 dy - ing that we're born to e-ter-nal life. \_\_\_\_\_



3. Oh, Mas-ter, grant that I may nev - er seek \_\_\_\_\_ so



much to be con - soled as to con - sole, \_\_\_\_\_ to be



un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, \_\_\_\_\_ to be



loved as to love with all my soul. \_\_\_\_\_

WORDS: *Prayer of St. Francis*; adapt. by Sebastian Temple (Matt. 6:12-15)

MUSIC: Sebastian Temple

CHANNEL OF PEACE  
Irregular

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## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Closed on Friday

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