

We are, all of us, always crossing borders. Everything seems to happen all at once when we're young, but as we get older we see that we are always moving away from one thing and toward another, never still, never without motion. We live in liminal time, each moment sliding into the next, the future into the present, the present into the past. We believe all things are possible, and that there are always more stories to be written.

Amy Ellis Nutt, Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family, 21st c.

Every time you make a choice you are turning the central part of you, the part of you that chooses, into something a little different from what it was before. And taking your life as a whole, with all your innumerable choices, all your life long you are slowly turning this central thing into a heavenly creature or a hellish creature: either into a creature that is in harmony with God, and with other creatures, and with itself, or else into one that is in a state of war and hatred with God, and with its fellow creatures, and with itself. To be the one kind of creature is heaven: that is, it is joy and peace and knowledge and power. To be the other means madness, horror, idiocy, rage, impotence, and eternal loneliness. Each of us at each moment is progressing to the one state or the other.

C.S. Lewis, 20th c.

It's not addition that makes one holy but subtraction: stripping the illusions, letting go of pretense, exposing the false self, breaking open the heart and the understanding, and not taking one's private self too seriously.

Richard Rohr, 21st c.

Prayer Candles: Is there a person or relationship that needs a prayer?

Please come forward and light an individual prayer candle before our worship begins.

Greeting One Another in Peace and Friendship Welcome and Announcements

The Prelude *Praeludium* Theodore Dubois
Mark Baker, *organ*

The Centering Silence

The Introit *There is a Balm in Gilead* African American Spiritual
Senior Choir; Molly Webster, *Director*

* **The Gathering Hymn** *Restless Weaver* # 658

* **The Call to Worship** John Bell, *Iona Community, Scotland*

L: Where ignorance, self-love and insensitivity
have fractured life in community,

P: give your light, O God of love.

L: Where injustice and oppression have broken the spirit of peoples,

P: give your light, O God who frees.

L: Where hunger and poverty, illness and death
have made life an unbearable burden,

P: give your light, O God of grace.

L: Where suspicion and hatred, conflict and fear
have challenged your goodness,

P: give your light, O God of peace.

L: Open the eyes and ears of nations and peoples
so that all may walk in the light of love.

**P: Remove the ignorance and stubbornness of nations and peoples
so that all may drink from the fountains of your goodness. Amen.**

The Gathering Prayer *Miriam Therese Winter, 20th c.*

O God of a Thousand Faces, you see through all our pretenses to that silent, secret place within where our true spirit sojourns. We come to ask you to prune away the duplicities, the costumes and the masks, that hide our best intentions. Remove all the quick defenses that disguise who we really are. Open us up to you and to all who would touch the truth of our being, so that all may see the integrity of lives given over to you, now and forever. Amen.

The Anthem *Shepherd Me, Lord* Rosenbaum/Kingsley
Senior Choir; Molly Webster, *Director*

Time for the Child in Each of Us

Sing Our Children to Sunday School (*seated*) *Go Now In Peace* #437(*twice*)
Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of God surround you
everywhere, everywhere you may go.

The Prayer Hymn (*seated*) *What Does the Lord Require for Praise* # 659

The Silent Prayer and Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*) *trans. from Arabic by Mark Berry, Telford Shropshire, UK*
O Breathing Life, your Name shines everywhere.

Release a space to plant your Presence here.

Imagine your possibilities now. Embody your desire in every light and form.

Grow through us this moment's bread and wisdom.

Untie the knots of failure binding us,

as we release the strands we hold of others' faults.

Help us not forget our Source, yet free us from not being in the Present.

From you arises every Vision, Power and Song from gathering to gathering.

Amen. May our future actions grow from here!

The Congregational Response *O Lord, hear my prayer* Taize Community
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer. When I call answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: All my hope comes from God.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

The Offering Prayer of Dedication (*unison*) J.P. Newell (*adapt.*)
**O Generosity beyond measure, we can hoard the gifts with which you bless us
or we can share them with others. May what we offer in these moments
be the very blessing, the very hope, the very peace that others need. Amen.**

The Offering and The Offertory *Day by Day* Benjamin David Knoedler
Mark Baker, *piano*

* **The Doxology** # 49
**From all that dwell below the skies
let the Creator's praise arise: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
through every land, in every tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

The Gospel Reading *The Gospel of Thomas: 64* Barbara Turner, *Liturgist*

The Sermon *The R.S.V.P.* Reverend Grenfell

* **The Parting Hymn** *When the Poor Ones* # 662

* **The Benediction**

* **The Choral Benediction** # 523
**Live in charity and steadfast love,
live in charity; God will dwell with you.**

* **The Postlude** *All Hail the Power of Jesus Name* Benton Price
Mark Baker, *organ*

OCTOBER PLATE OFFERINGS

Orono Middle School Backpack Program

This program provides non-perishable food items to eight families identified as being in need by the school nurse, the guidance counselor and teachers. Teachers add the food to children's backpacks every Friday while the children are engaged in activities outside the classroom. In this way, the aid remains completely confidential to everyone except the staff involved in distributing the food. CUF members shop and deliver the food once a month where it is discretely placed in the guidance office. This program relies on donations from the Orono Health Association, the Orono-Old Town Kiwanis, anonymous donations, and our congregation's plate offerings. Thank you.

Maine Indian Women's Missionary Organization

The Maine Indian Women's Missionary Organization is a non-profit that works toward establishing classrooms where native women can get job training to work as CNAs, and a working kitchen where women can learn healthy cooking skills. The organization also runs a food bank to support families in need on Indian Island in Old Town.

Please memo your check
or mark your envelope:

Pledge

or

Maine Indian Women's Mission

or

Orono Backpack

Envelopes: include your name

Checks: payable to CUF
(*The Church of Universal Fellowship*)

(*unmarked gifts will support
Orono Backpack
and Indian Women's Mission*)

September Plate Offerings
Wilson Center \$160
Hurricane Relief \$344