

Gather

PRELUDE *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* [Joy Koning]

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS The Rev. Dana Allen Walsh

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come into the presence of a God
we can neither see nor touch, yet a God we can sense.

We come together to find our joy as God's people.

We come in the name of Jesus,
whose power we cannot explain or capture, but know intimately.

We come together to find hope.

We come to hear from a book
words and stories that are ancient, and yet ever new.

We come together to find meaning.

We live in a world whose economy is based on keeping,
yet in this place we are invited to give.

We come together to find purpose.

We come, leaving behind all the business of our lives—
all the other important things we could be doing.

We come here to worship.

**We are here seeking joy, laughter, and hope
as God's people.**

EXCHANGE OF PEACE

The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

***OPENING HYMN** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* (#276 Red)

OPENING PRAYER Jennifer Murray

GATHERING SONG *I've Got Peace Like A River* (#368 Red)

**I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul. (2x)**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & CONFIRMATION COMMISSIONING

The Rev. Alex Shea Will, Jennifer Murray

Fritz Aude	Elizabeth Curry	Lillian McNulty
Lucas Bacchi	Kathryn Gatewood	Skyeler Organisiack
Vincent Bouchard	Matthew Hahn	John Riley
Jacob Brundage	Madeline Harris	Juliet Sellers
Braeden Cheverie	Scarlett Holbrook	Eric Strong
Jeffrey Conners	Lillian Jagger	Kate Zdunczyk

**I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul. (2x)**

Children (Pre-K & older) are invited to attend Church School

All who are able, please stand.

Center

MUSICAL OFFERING *Offertory* [John Ness Beck]

SCRIPTURE Genesis 18: 1-15 (O.T. p. 10) Dave Bryan

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." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

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."

SERMON HUMOR: A Pillar of Joy Dana Allen Walsh

MEDITATION *Meditation* [James Burke]

Share

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE The Rev. Alex Shea Will

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

***CLOSING HYMN** *We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight* (#399 Red)

Bless

***BENEDICTION** Dana Allen Walsh

POSTLUDE *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*
[Dietrich Buxtehude]

While we are without heat, we're working to keep our worship services short (45 minutes) but faithful. We will return to the fullness of our worship service when the heat is restored.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our sympathy to the family and friends of 50+ year member **Ruth Urquhart** who died on October 14. A memorial service will be held in November.

FLOWERS

The flowers today are given in memory of **Mr. and Mrs. William H. Gibson** by the Memorial Flower Fund.

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICES

Acolyte: Charley Harris / **Assistant Treasurers:** Amie Hellauer, Amy Joyall, Carolyn Parker, Karen Perkins / **Deacons:** Dave Bryan, Doug Mesler, Barbara Stubenhaus / **Fellowship:** Jan Holden, Mulu Kebede, Whitney & Dave Repetto / **Flower Arranger:** Carolyn Gray / **Flower Deliverers:** Anne Marie Cortner, Doug Mesler / **Greeters:** Ellen & Eric Arvidson / **Head Usher:** Kerianne Harris / **Sound:** Tom Appleton / **Trustee:** Rob Thomas

PASTORAL AND PROGRAM STAFF

All Members are Ministers / Dana Allen Walsh, Senior Pastor / Alex Shea Will, Associate Pastor / Sherry Tupper, Minister of Visitation / Jennifer Murray, Minister of Youth & Families / Cathy Meyer, Minister of Music / Linda Francalancia Hacker, Administrator / Joanne Smith, Financial Administrator / Nora Pelt, Communications Administrator / Andy Brien, Facilities Manager

WELCOME TO SOUTH CHURCH

We are glad you are here. We are a Christ-centered community that celebrates the love of God. Although we are of varied minds, we are one body, bound together in Christ. We recognize the uniqueness of every individual as God's beloved child. We seek to respond faithfully to God's call for justice for all creation. We strive in word and deed to be faithful to Jesus' model of loving acceptance. We seek to create a sanctuary where all will know they are welcomed and included. You are welcomed, no matter your age, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status, race and ethnicity, physical and mental ability, or economic circumstance, into the full life and ministry of South Church, including worship, sacraments and rites. Join us as we grow together in God's love.

Pray without ceasing...

[Thessalonians 5:17]

IN HOSPICE CARE Tom Carey (Piekarski family friend)

RECOVERING Terry Ebner, Chris Ouimet, Manny Correia, Catherine Kane (John Riley's friend), Ken Cyr (Julia Rutherford's father-in-law), Stu Slater

HOPE & HEALING

Susan Dobbie & grandsons Dylan & Cole (Kate Smyers' friends), Bob Lindaman (Ellen VanArsdale's brother), Mary Jay Hudak, Mary McGrath (Martin McGrath's mother), Kathleen Martin (Eileen Fogue's mother), Mary Carey (Piekarski family friend), Maureen Healey (Brian Healey's mother), Kelly Nelson (Scott Hoenig's cousin), Michael Hemmer (Anne Hemmer's brother), Sandra Flaig (Shad Flaig's mother), Susan McCullough & Alice O'Hara (Piekarski family's relatives), Betsy (Heather Saniuk's friend), Jeff Cutts, Kristy Riley Moulton, (Blech family friend), Greg Quick (Sally Baker Quick's brother), Paul Bursey, (Alicia Bursey's father), Nancy Esposito (Terri Guenard's friend), JP, Catherine, Grace & Fiona Ryan (Robin Flaig's friends), Renee Rich, (Shirley Stratton's friend), Donna & Jeff Donohue & family (Susan Sleight's friends), Ann O'Connell (Deanna Atchison's friend), Daniella Bernd (Shirley Stratton's friend), Joe Marchlewski, Chris Wikoff (Marna Moorhead's friends), Kathy Dann & extended family, Joan Butler (Lauren Stone's mother), Anne Pease

UNDERGOING CANCER THERAPY

Carl Kellerer (Kathleen Curry's uncle), Kelli Engler (Kath Mason's friend), Vanessa Dyer (Heather Harris' sister), Anne Hemmer, Richard Marshall (Carol Carmichael's father), Max Littlefield (Joyall family relative), Mary Ferguson (Kelly Ferguson Pace's sister), Keith Anderson (Mark VanDoren's friend), Glenn Green (Peter & Deb White's son-in-law), Donna Moberg (Carol Floreen's sister-in-law), Laurie Adami (former member), Becky Jordan Hull (Tom Jordan's sister), Barb Beechner (Barbara Collins' sister-in-law), Douglas Pratt (Marianne Knowles' brother), Barbara Sutton, (Shirley Stratton's sister), Jolice Sellers (Liss Seller's mother-in-law), Johanna Lunger (Stacy Lunger's mother-in-law), Mark Alpert (Courtney Rogers' friend), Annie Hudak (Jay Hudak's daughter), Jennifer Mancuso (Terri Guenard's friend), Ray Simard (Lysanne LaPierre's uncle), Joey Ranney (Kathleen Ranney's nephew), Kim Scartelli (Lisa Guy's friend), Barbara Rizzo (Norma Morava's friend), Joe (Brenda Bryan's friend), Helen Wikoff, Noelle DeLahoz (Marna Moorhead's friends), Tish Barry (Sue Barry's sister-in-law), Claire DeRosa (Irene Lattanzio's sister), Greg (Deanna Atchison's friend)

IN NURSING HOMES OR ASSISTED LIVING

Academy Manor: Allison Atwood; **Avita (Newburyport):** Anne Clough; **Marland Place:** Mary Hamilton, Gwen VerPlanck; **Edgewood Gardenvue:** Ralph Crossan; **Prescott House:** Carlene Darby, Patricia Shaw; **River Ridge, Kennebunk, ME:** Jennifer Tupper Pedneault; **Sunrise (Burlington):** Phyllis Holmes; **Yarmouth, ME:** John Knowles (Jim Knowles' father)

SERVICE PERSONNEL

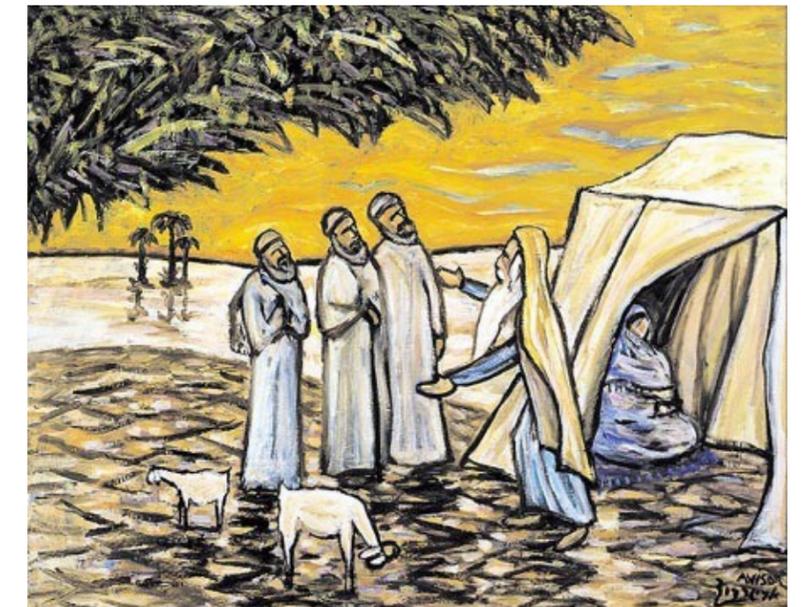
Andrew Santoro (Serena Santoro Manning's son), Torrey Benware (Courtney Rogers' cousin), Alex Krienke (Larisa Henderson's brother-in-law)

ALSO

People in need or in crisis, both known and unknown to us.



An Open & Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ



Sunday October 21, 2018 - 10:30 a.m.

TODAY'S EVENTS

Faith Forum: 9:15am—Library
Worship Music Rehearsal: 9:15am—Sanctuary
Drop-in Prayer: 11:45am—Parlor
High School Youth Group: 11:45am—Youth Center
Newcomers Class: 11:45am—Chapel
Hymn Festival: 3pm—Sanctuary
Caregivers: 7pm—Library

UPCOMING EVENTS

Newcomers Class: Sunday, October 28, 11:45am
Trunk or Treat: Saturday October 27, 1-3pm
Day of Service & Supper: Saturday November 3

Some Notes to Help You Feel at Ease this Morning

Children...

- **Four and Under:** Can have fun in our professionally staffed nursery.
- **PreK—Middle School:** Can relax & learn in church school during the school year and are welcome to participate in worship during the summer.
- **Of All Ages:** Can stay throughout worship and participate. Families can sit in the pews or at the table at the front of the sanctuary. It's filled with books and soft toys to keep little hands faithfully busy.

Visitors of all ages...

- Can fill out a Gold Card in the pew, to help us know that you worshiped with us, and leave it in the offering plate.
- Are welcome to an all-age fellowship after worship in the room directly under the sanctuary.

Folks new and returning to worship...

- Are invited to wear nametags to help us call you by name.
- There are no assigned seats; sit where you feel most comfortable.
- Ushers have hearing assist devices so all might hear God's Word.
- We celebrate the noises of children; they remind us we're alive.
- Generally: We stand for singing and sit for speaking.
- We sing with joy and spirit, without fear of judgement.
- We share our prayers vulnerably, and hold them with care.
- We pray with our eyes closed or open, our heads bowed or raised.
- We pass the peace with hugs and handshakes, with nods and smiles.
- We share communion with all who are willing—especially children.