

**We remember in our prayers:** Virginia Chubbuck, Amy Poole, Joe Dee, Kathleen Grigg, George & Pat Greene, Jeff & Jeanne Sewall, Dottie, a family member of the Boudin family and friend, Suzanne, Greg Foster, a neighbor of Susan Greene, Ginny Kroitich, The family of Joe Evans, Carol & Eric Johnsen, the Betancourt family, and our neighbors at the Edgecomb Green.

**Acknowledgements:** Responsive prayer by David Adam, Christian poet from Lindisfarne, Ireland. Ending verses are found in the Carmina Gadelica, a collection of older traditional prayers from the Celtic lands. Responsive Communion Liturgy by the First Congregational Church of Malone, New York. Hymns played by Pianists Terry Heller and Pianist Richard Irwin Music from his website: <https://play.hymnswithoutwords.com/>. Except where otherwise noted, music in today's bulletin that is not in the public domain is Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-739201. All rights reserved.

Minister                      Rev. Katherine E. Pinkham  
Church Co-Ordinator      Marjorie DiVece

### Edgecomb Community Church, UCC

*"God is still speaking"*

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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## Celtic Prayer Service

Edgecomb Community Church, UCC

*"To bring together our communities in spirituality and loving service to humankind."*

**Third Sunday after Epiphany, January 22, 2023**

WELCOME

Rev. Kate Pinkham

SOUNDING THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

OPENING RESPONSES (responsive)

One: In Christ                      **All: We arise to the new day.**  
One: In Christ                      **All: We arise to the new opportunity.**  
One: In Christ                      **All: We arise above temptation.**  
One: In Christ                      **All: We arise above the storms.**  
One: In Christ                      **All: We arise from all that would depress us.**  
One: In Christ                      **All: We arise from death.**  
One: In Christ                      **All: We arise to the new day.**  
**All: Thanks to You, O gentle Christ, that You have raised us  
freely from the darkness of the night to the kindly light of this  
day, to fellowship of believers.**

LIGHTING THE TRINITY CANDLES (responsive)

**All: Set our hearts on fire with love for you, O Christ our God  
so that in its flame we may love you with all our heart,  
with all our mind, with all our soul, and with all our strength,  
and our neighbors as ourselves, so that by keeping your  
commandments we may glorify you, the giver of all good gifts.  
Amen**

One: We light a light

**All: in the name of the God who creates life,**

One: in the name of the Savior who loves life,

**All: in the name of the Spirit who is the fire of life.**

HYMN *O Christ Surround Me* Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

READING *Light* Frederick Buechner

SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalm 27:1,4-9; Isa 49:1-7; Matt 4:12-23

TIME OF REFLECTION (*music for mediation*)

HYMN *Just as I Am* vs. 1-3

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (*see insert*)

## PRAYER

One: For this day of possibilities; The roads that we have walked, glances and greetings exchanged, conversations and silences, decisions made or deferred, successes and failures, prayers whispered or left unsaid, blessings given or received; for this day of possibilities and the ones that are to come, we give to you our thanks.

One: For each step that we might take

**All: Be our guide, O Lord of Life.**

One: For each load that we might bear

**All: Be our strength, O Lord of Life.**

One: For each mountain we might face

**All: Be our power, O Lord of Life.**

One: For each river that might impede

**All: Be our safety, O Lord of Life.**

One: For each place where we might rest

**All: Be our peace, O Lord of Life.**

One: For each sunrise and sunset

**All: Be our joy, O Lord of Life.**

**Let our eyes be your eyes, sharing compassion, warmth and love. Let our hands be your hands bringing healing with their touch. Let our ears be your ears listening where there is need. Let our words be your words bringing comfort, joy, and peace.**

*Prayer by Welsh Christian poet John Birch*

## PRAYER FOR OTHERS

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION AND PRAYER - *You are welcome to come forward to light a taper from the Christ candle and place it in the sand as a symbol of your prayer.*

## SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

Christ binds us with a bond of love that cannot be broken. My sisters and brothers, the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **All: And also with you.**

## CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER (*in unison*)

**O God, we have seen your glory, felt the touch of your love, and felt your presence with us. With joyful hearts, we offer you our gifts. Having heard your call, we offer you our lives and our service. Amen.**

\*HYMN *All Things Bright and Beautiful* vs. 1

## BLESSING

One: May the blessing of light be on you - light without and light within. May the blessed sunlight shine on you like a great peat fire, so that stranger and friend may come and warm himself at it. And may light shine out of the two eyes of you, like a candle set in the window of a house, bidding the wanderer come in out of the storm. And may the blessing of the rain be on you, may it beat upon your Spirit and wash it fair and clean, and leave there a shining pool where the blue of Heaven shines, and sometimes a star.

**All: And may the blessing of the earth be on you, soft under your feet as you pass along the roads, soft under you as you lie out on it, tired at the end of day; and may it rest easy over you when, at last, you lie out under it. May it rest so lightly over you that your soul may be out from under it quickly; up and off and on its way to God. And now may the Lord bless you, and bless you kindly. Amen.**

**Celebration of the Lord's Supper**  
*(Responsive)*

Pastor: Let us gather around the table with the offering of bread and drink upon it and the promise of the Living Christ among us. This is the welcome table of God where all who seek to be at peace with their neighbor and all who seek the mercy of God in Christ are embraced. Come, for we are invited into this holy mystery. Come.

**People: We are ready!**

Pastor: Jesus said: "I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger, and all who believe in me shall never be thirsty.

**People: We are hungry and thirsty. O Lamb of God, we come!**

Pastor: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took his authority as the Christ and offered the bread in thanksgiving and said . . . *(The pastor lifts up the bread.)*

**People: "Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."**

Pastor: In the same way, and by the same authority, Jesus offered the cup in thanksgiving and said, *(The pastor lifts up the cup.)*

**People: "Take, drink. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of me."**  
*(The pastor may hold hands, palms down, over bread and cup)*

Pastor: Come, Holy Spirit. Come. Open our eyes to the mystery of Christ's presence in these ordinary things in these our ordinary lives. May they be for us the very essence of the living Christ in our midst. Through the broken bread . . .

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**People: We participate in the Body of Christ.**

Pastor: Through the cup of blessing . . .

**People: We participate in the new life Christ gives.**

*(The pastor then breaks the bread and pours the cup. The pastor opens hands toward the people.)*

Pastor: These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready!

Sharing of the Elements

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Gracious and loving God, you have made us one in the body of Christ and nourished us at your table with holy food and drink. Thank you for feeding our hunger and relieving our thirst. Now send us into the world to do the work you have given us to do: to find the lost and lonely, to heal broken souls, to free prisoners, and make the powerful care. Grant us strength to persevere in resisting evil, and to proclaim in all we say and do your good news in Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.**

*Responsive Communion Liturgy by the First Congregational Church of Malone, New York.*

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## PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

Let us pray for all people, in all parts of this troubled world, and in all kinds of need.

Lord, shine your light upon those who live in danger of violence, persecution, oppression, displacement, loss and injustice because of race, belief, gender or who they are. We pray that the hearts of those who visit the evils of prejudice and greed upon others may be turned from darkness and awakened to the true light in the love and compassion of the Lord.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Lord, shine your light upon those who live in fear of famine, disease and destitution, and upon those who live without hope, faith or love, that they may know your true love and the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Shine your light upon your church and upon all people of faith that their love may shine in the darkness, uniting in their endeavors for the common good. May we, in the ministries which are our lives, proclaim the Good News as our faith shines forth.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Lord, shine your light upon those who suffer in mind, body or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your redeeming love. We pray also for those who love and care for them. We name in our thoughts any known to us who are in special need of our prayers, in a moment of silence ...

*Silence*

**Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer for we pray this with the words Jesus gave us saying, "Our Father,....Amen.**