

## SERVICE OF WORSHIP

SOUNDING THE CHURCH BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE pianist Joseph Cough, Jr.

GREETING AND CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come this morning with excitement, for the seasons are changing, in Creation and in the life of faith.

**All: From days of being scattered, we come to reconnect with one another, to renew a sense of being a part of the family of faith.**

One: We come seeking to renew our grounding in the faith of the church.

**All: Faith that brings hope and healing to our lives.**

One: We come to express together our common faith.

**All: Faith that brings joy and justice to the world.**

One: We come to give thanks for faith.

**All: Faith that is a gift from God.**

One: We come to share the faith of others.

**All: And in that sharing to discover anew the God of our ancestors, who is made known to us in Jesus Christ, and who nurtures us by the Holy Spirit.**

One: Let us rejoice in this gift of the family of faith in Jesus Christ!

\*OPENING HYMN *Part of the Family* (See Insert)

\*GATHERING PRAYER and PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God who is our loving Creator, we enjoy this day because of your grace and mercy. Help us to leave yesterday**

**behind and not to wish for tomorrow, but to accept the uniqueness of today. By your Holy Love, heard in your word, celebrated in baptism and at Christ's table, seen in Christ Jesus and brought nearby your Holy Spirit: take from us that which we no longer need to carry, so that we may be free again to serve you and each other. Forgive us when we think more of ourselves than of others, when we turn from you and get too much in our own way, when we fail to reach those most in need and to lift up those who have stumbled. Help us to receive the gifts you provide which we need to live faithfully each day, and empower us to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. We ask in Jesus' name, who walks with us and is your Way for us. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

\*PRAYER RESPONSE

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.*

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READINGS *James 2: 1-10, 14-17* *Mark 7: 24-37*

SERMON *Escaping Notice or Being Astounded?* Rev. Don Bizer

HYMN OF REFLECTION *This Little Light of Mine* #524  
(With additional verses as the Spirit moves!)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE MORNING OFFERING

\*Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God for all that love has done,  
Creator, Christ and Spirit one.*

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

\*CLOSING HYMN *O for a World* #575

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE pianist and vocalist Joseph Cough, Jr.

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

**We remember in our prayers:** Nancy Giles, the family of Amy Poole, MaryJane Wells, Don Gage, Adalyn Ray, George Greene, Sammy Soule, Tom Boudin, Margaret Ellsworth, Poppy Truchon, Rose Young, Ron Leeman, Joe Dee, Kathleen Grigg, Jeff & Jeanne Sewall, Betancourt family, and our neighbors at the Edgcomb Green.

**Acknowledgements:** 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.

# Edgcomb Community Church

United Church of Christ

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



September 8, 2024

The Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

*"God is still speaking"*



An Open and Affirming Congregation  
15 Cross Point Road, P.O. Box 113, Edgcomb, ME 04556  
[www.edgcombchurch.org](http://www.edgcombchurch.org) FB/EdgcombCongochurch  
Phone: 207.882.4060  
Guest Minister: Rev. Don Bizer  
Church Coordinator: Marjorie DiVece  
Pianist: Joseph Cough, Jr.