



May 5, 2024, 10am
6th Sunday of Easter, Year B

The Parish Hall

(mask optional with appropriate physical distancing)
& via Facebook Live:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/46922863436>

Sunday School Seaside Sessions with Hope Rowan:
Love in the Beatitudes: <https://youtu.be/cysGop2pqIM>

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor Joe Cistone, Deacon Sue Damon, and
(Musician Hope Rowan is off today)

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.
During Worship in the Parish Hall please feel free to remain seated.*

Ringing of the Worship Bell at 9:55

Prelude Music

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS at 10am

All

CANDLE LIGHTING

All

Spirit of the Living God fall a-fresh on me

Spirit of the Living God fall a-fresh on me

Melt me mold me, fill me use me

Spirit of the Living God, fall a-fresh on me

(Sung twice, second time using "us" instead of "me")

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Joe: The Lord Be With You

All: **And also with you**

Joe: Let us greet one another with an exchange of Peace

CALL TO WORSHIP: (<https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/easter-6b-may-5/>) **Sue & All**

Sue: Christ gives us a new commandment:

All: **“Love one another as I have loved you.”**

Sue: When we love one another as Christ has loved us,
we will live lives full of joy.

All: **We will live with God’s love deep in our hearts.**

Sue: Let us worship the one who shows us how to love.

All: **Let us worship with joy! Alleluia!**

OPENING SONG: *The Gathering of Spirits, by Carrie Newcome*

INVOCATION: (<https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/easter-6b-may-5/>) **Sue**

Loving God, we remember your Child’s commandment to love one another as he has loved us. May this time of prayer and reflection remind us of the love we have in Jesus. As we leave this sacred space, may we be filled with joy as we share God’s love with others.

All: **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION & NEW LIFE **All**

Jesus, our sibling and friend, we confess that we do not always love one another. Our divisions and disagreements so often prevent us from knowing the joy of meaningful relationships. Even as we seek to follow your example, we forget that we are chosen and appointed by you to bring hope to a weary world. Help us renew our focus and live by your will...that we may follow you with joy in our hearts. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE: **Sue & All**

Jesus no longer calls us servants, but friends. Each relationship is a

new opportunity to abide in Christ's love, and a reminder that we can start again.

All: We are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

SCRIPTURE: (<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=71>, adapted for our hearing):

Acts 10:44-48 (CEB)

Sue

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell on everyone who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. They heard them speaking in other languages and praising God. Peter asked, "These people have received the Holy Spirit just as we have. Surely no one can stop them from being baptized with water, can they?" He directed that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited Peter to stay for several days.

Psalm 98, (CEB, adapted for our hearing)

Sue

Sing to the Lord a new song
because the Lord has done wonderful things!
The Lord's own strong hand and the Lord's own holy arm
have won the victory!
The Lord has made salvation widely known;
the Lord has revealed his righteousness
in the eyes of all the nations.
God has remembered God's loyal love
and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
every corner of the earth has seen our God's salvation.
Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth!
Be happy!
Rejoice out loud!
Sing your praises!
Sing your praises to the Lord with the lyre—
with the lyre and the sound of music.
With trumpets and a horn blast,
shout triumphantly before the Lord, the king!
Let the sea and everything in it roar;

the world and all its inhabitants too.

Let all the rivers clap their hands;

let the mountains rejoice out loud altogether before the Lord
because the Lord is coming to establish justice on the Earth!

The Lord will establish justice in the world rightly;
the Lord will establish justice among all people fairly.

John 15: 9-17 (CEB, adapted for our hearing)

Joe

“As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father’s commandments and remain in God’s love. I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete. This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you. No one has greater love than to give up one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I don’t call you servants any longer, because servants don’t know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because everything I heard from my Father I have made known to you. You didn’t choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you could go and produce fruit and so that your fruit could last. As a result, whatever you ask the Father in my name, God will give you. I give you these commandments so that you can love each other.

SERMON: *“A Sunrise & Agenda”*

Joe

TIME OF PRAYER, OUR JOYS, & OUR CONCERNS: **All**

Sharing of Prayers and Lighting of Candles (may be spoken on Zoom or typed into Facebook Live):

All: *We are sending you light, to hold you, to heal you.*

We are sending you light, to hold you in love, (sung twice).

Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer, the 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 let us fall not into temptation but

deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

All: *Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; incline your ear to us and grant us your peace.*

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS: (<https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/easter-6b-may-5/>)

PLEASE place in basket, mail to Seaside, &/or donate @ (<https://seasideuccmdi.org/giving/>)

Joe: Jesus has appointed us to bear fruit that will last. Fruit that will bring love and justice. Joy and hope. Bring what you can; together, the gifts we offer can transform lives.

All: **Loving God, we remember that one of Christ's most important commandments is loving one another. With these gifts, help us show this love in our words and actions, caring for the vulnerable and offering hope in times of despair. Amen.**

DOXOLOGY:

All

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. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

We gather together here in this Sacred space and across our Community of Faith to share Communion as Jesus did with the disciples & friends.

*In sharing the Bread of Life & Cup of Blessing together, and at a distance from our own homes, we recall how Christ is resurrected in each of us and the world at our door. **All are welcome to participate fully!***

WORDS OF INVITATION:

Joe: O Holy One, Breath of Life, Originator of Grace, Source of Limitless Love. You call us by name and break down the walls that make us strangers to ourselves and one another. We are the Body of Christ. Around our tables, we re-enact our faith. These are the tables Christ prepares for us, the feast God imagines. This is the Peace that Passes All Understanding, the Peace found in the sharing of a simple

meal. Our table is open to all who desire to live in the peace that Jesus the Christ shares, whenever two or more gather in love.

Joe: God be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Joe: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to God.**

Joe: Let us give *thanks* to God most high.

All: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

COMMUNION PRAYER:

Joe: Gathered together at table for Passover in Jerusalem, Jesus took bread... ALL ARE WELCOME HERE!

All: **Amen**

COMMUNION SONG: *I Am the Bread of Life* by John Michael Talbot

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

Sue: Thank you, God, for calling us and gathering us together to remember your continual presence among us, and for nourishing us to go out and be the Body of Christ in the world.

All: **Amen!**

CLOSING SONG: *Light My Way* by Peter Mayer

BENEDICTION: (<https://www.ucc.org/worship-may/easter-6b-may-5l>)

Joe

+ Friends of God, as you leave this place, remember that God has chosen you to share the love you've found with a world of need. Go bear fruit that will last. Let your joyful hearts be signs of hope in these anxious times. Amen.

All: **Amen**

***Thank you for joining us today as we continue our Easter journey together!
Coffee & Conversation will follow immediately after Worship.***



Announcements and Upcoming Events

PLEASE REMEMBER that Annual Meeting & Council documents are regularly updated & available throughout the year at: www.seasideuccmdi.org & posted in all Seaside buildings. Copies are available upon request.

2023 Valentine Award – Seaside UCC chose a wonderful nominee—Mount Desert Island Search & Rescue—to receive the 2023 Valentine Award and presented a cheque for \$1,000 to Seaside’s-own Hannah Mondrach of MDI SAR at Worship on December 17. Please stay tuned for our summer 2024 Valentine Award dinner details & submit your 2024 nominations to Lee!

Access the UCC of ME Anti-Racism Pentecost Challenge at:
<https://www.maineucc.org/ministries/resourceteams/anti-racism/>

Seaside Pop-Up Food Pantry in the Parish Hall. Take what you need, give what you can. Recently re-stocked, items still needed throughout the year include beans, canned tomatoes, canned vegetables, cereal, pasta, and tuna fish. Available 24 hours a day! Hannaford gift cards are also available from the Parish Office if needed. **Please contact Lee or Joe.**

Interested in serving as a Deacon, Lector, or Greeter? Please sign up before or after Worship. You may also let Deb Andrews, Chair of the Deacons, know at dandrews02@gmail.com.

Lee Maldonado (Administrator) works Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 8:30am to 3:00pm. Lee will typically be in the Church office on Tuesdays and Fridays. You may reach Lee anytime on the office phone **207.276.5521** or at officeseasideuccmdi@gmail.com.

Every Sunday at 9:30am. Choir Practice with Hope Rowan in the Union Church.

Every Tuesday at 12pm. Luncheon Devotional & Sharing with Pastor Joe on Facebook Live. Please join us for a few minutes of thoughtful reflection as we gather together across time & space.

Tuesdays @ 12pm – UCC of MDI Peals for Peace Program. Ringing of our Union Church bells as we join the other UCC Congregations in praying for healing & peace in our world.

Weekly Faith Walks at 7am – Each month as we continue practicing appropriate physical distancing while walking & sharing our stories among Creation. RSVP to Joe as able.



Calling All Photographers! Deacon Shirley Beccue, our website manager, always appreciates a variety of current photos—those including people or taken on private property should be provided with their consent: sbeccue@roadrunner.com.

Sunrise Association UCC Spring Meeting, Saturday May 4 at Pilgrim Lodge, 8:15-12:15. See Joe (Association Moderator) to learn more. Hannah, Joe, & Shirley will participate from Seaside.

Sunday, May 19th – Sunrise Association Installation Service & Reception Installation Service for Minister of Faith Formation, Kiah Baxter @ 3 p.m. at the Bar Harbor Congregational Church UCC; More details to follow closer to the date.

Sunday, May 26th - Officers Meeting after Coffee & Conversation, 11:30am.



See Seaside's Facebook page.
for Pastor's Corner
[\(20+\) SEASIDE UCC | Facebook](#)

MILESTONE'S WE CELEBRATE

If you do not see your birthday or anniversary here, please let Lee know.

May Birthdays (*child):

10-Tim Taylor

*26- Logan Bowden



**COMMUNITY OUTREACH IS AVAILABLE
EACH WEEK IN OUR WEEKLY EMAIL.**



PRAYER REQUESTS

Week of May 5, 2024



Please keep the following in your Prayer Life & Meditation Practice this week:

(Please note that this listing is updated as information is provided to the Church Office)

Seaside UCC as we live out the mission & ministries reaffirmed at our Annual Meeting on February 4;

For the Sunrise Association, that we may continue to nourish the vibrancy of our shared ministries & programs;

For 2023 Valentine Award Honoree, MDI Search & Rescue, and their vital work in support of the residents of & visitors to our Island home;

For Licensed Minister, Hannah Mondrach as she takes her final steps toward Ordination;

For Rev. Sarah Pringle Lewis, Affiliated Pastor, in her healing as she continues her important ministry with Seaside UCC;

For our MDI students participating in artistic competitions and season-ending athletic tournaments'

For the shared ministry of the UCC Congregations on MDI;

For the important work of Seaside's Outreach Partner, NextStep;

For all those murdered and harmed by gun violence—especially from the plague of mass shooting massacres across the USA & here in Maine—and all those working for responsible gun reform;

For our Wabanaki brothers and sisters on whose ancestral land our buildings and grounds reside;

For our outreach partners & the people of El Salvador keeping faith in the witness of martyrs, while living under an increasingly authoritarian government;

For all those working to keep reproductive health services readily available across our nation;

For Immigrants & Refugees seeking a safe home and new beginning as the U.S. continues to serve as an important welcoming nation; all those receiving a Novel Coronavirus vaccine, &/or boosters, that they will remain healthy & safe, and for the healing of those struggling with related long-term COVID-induced illness;

For all those struggling with &/or impacted by ongoing pandemic again wreaking havoc in so many parts of the world as the US death passes 1,127million, (including 3,052 of our fellow Mainers) with more than 771 million cases & 6.9+million deaths worldwide;

For the Doctors, Nurses, EMT's, Pastors, Social Workers, & First Responders keeping us well;

For our Congregation as we live out our Pastoral priorities while living into our Just Peace status;

For 2022 Valentine Award honoree, Mount Desert Nursery School, 2021recipient, Island Connections, and the 2020 recipient, the Mount Desert Nursing Association, in their ongoing ministry among us;

For the women & girls of Afghanistan seeking dignity and the inherent equality all women deserve;

For our LGBT+ friends & family as they seek our solidarity & support to live their lives fully;

For all those working to demilitarize the USA's police force and the police forces exploring reform;

For all those reminded of and reliving sexual assault and trauma at this time;

For our neighbors and friends struggling with addiction &/or loneliness;

For everyone going through the terrifying experiences of illness for themselves &/or loved ones;

For all those incarcerated, seeking reform in their lives; and,

For all those nations & peoples impacted by war & violence around our world.

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The following personal prayer requests shared with Pastor Joe &/or one of our Congregation's members recently as part of our Pastoral Care ministry:

- Healing prayers for Anastasia Brayer, (Sue Damon grandniece), in her ongoing recovery & development;
- The Avila Family at this time of gratitude for health & wellness;
- The Carter & Moore families & friends at this time of mourning
- For Joe & Kathy Cistone (Joe's parents) in their aging and as Kathy recovers from a recent hospitalization .
- Joan and Andy and family as they mourn their dear friends passing (Jerry Olejnick);
- Coastside & Community Response Team;
- Karen Coombs;
- Mark Cross in his recovery & Laura as she cares for their family;
- Healing prayers for Sue Damon & Libby Smith;
- For Sue Damon's daughter Danyelle, as she recovers;
- Fernald family as they mourn their passing of James Fernald;
- For the Harris family;
- Roger & Jeb Innes;
- James (Jim) Morrison, (Sue Damon's brother and Libby's son) in his time of healing;
- The Residents of Birch Bay;
- Our dear friends Judy Richards & family;
- For the family & friends of Rebekah Sartin;
- Carolyn Searchfield, Tim's Mother, in her time of healing;
- Healing prayers for Martha Searchfield in her recovery;
- Libby Smith in her time of healing;
- Prayers for Timmy Taylor's healing;
- Tim & Jeanie Taylor and family as they mourn their Nieces passing (Micayla Kolb);
- For Seaside Outreach Partner, Mahesh Upadhyaya's—his spouse Meena, daughter Megha, and the entire IPM Family—as they mourn Mahesh's mother Rati's passing February 12;
- For Mary Wallace;
- Kate Winters, former co-Pastor of the UCC Church in Belfast, in her time of healing;

and, five additional special intentions for healing.

PRAYER
REQUEST

Please let us know if a Prayer Request needs to be added/updated/removed.

Lectionary (Year B) Readings for Sunday May 12

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 • Psalm 1 • 1 John 5:9-13 • John 17:6-19

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=93>

If you would like to schedule a call or visit with a Pastor &/or Deacon, please contact Seaside's Church Administrator, Lee Maldonado, at: 276.5521.

You may learn more about the mission & ministries of Seaside UCC at: www.seasideuccmdi.org

