Welcome to State Street Church, United Church of Christ

November 29, 2026

During the greeting, the Pastor will ask if any visitors would like to be introduced; this is optional. Children are welcome, but not required, to come forward during the "Time for Children," and may either return to their seats or join us for Kids Church. Nursery is available for children three and under. Ask an usher.

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Prelude O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Setting by David Maxwell

Greetings, Introductions, and Announcements

The Lighting of the Peace Candle

Response *Deep Peace* Sing! #201

Passing of the Peace

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

A Moment of Centering Silence

*Opening Hymn #116 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL

*Call to Worship Paul Jones

One: Advent begins with a longing: O God, draw near.

Many: We bring our hopes, our grief, and our unanswered questions.

One: With Isaiah, we cry out for God's presence.

Many: We come as we are, trusting that our honest prayers are welcome.

One: Jesus calls us to keep awake.

Many: Open our eyes to our neighbors and our hearts to your presence.

One: Let us worship the God who hears our cries.

Many: Together, we will make room for hope.

*Please rise in body or spirit.
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*Invocation (in unison)

God of our longing, we come before you with all that this season holds: anticipation and weariness, cherished memories and fresh grief, questions we struggle to put into words. Receive us as we are. When you seem far away, give us courage to keep praying. When fear consumes our attention, help us notice the neighbor who needs us and the kindness that sustains us. You are the potter, and we are the clay; shape us into a people whose hope takes form in compassion and courage. As Advent begins, awaken us to your presence and make us ready to respond with love. Amen.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle — The Sisk Family

A Time for Children

Scripture

Hebrew Scripture:	Isaiah 64:1-9	pew Bible, p. 770
Christian Scripture:	Mark 13:24-37	pew Bible, p. 51

This Morning's Sermon — Rev. Bryan S. Breault

A Time of Prayer

Sharing our Joys & Concerns

A Moment of Silence

Response Hymn #109 — *With Joy Draw Water* — ST COLUMBA

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

Our Father, Mother, Parent, 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

We are aware that some give online or by other means, and some are unable to give. When the usher comes to your pew, you should feel comfortable looking at the usher, smiling, and nodding so the usher knows to move to the next person.

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Invitation

Anthem — *With Songs of Rejoicing* — J.S. Bach
Eli Dale and Jess Doughty — Arr. Hal Hopson

*Doxology — OLD HUNDRETH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heav'nly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Closing Hymn #110 — *Now Bless the God of Israel* — FOREST GREEN

*Benediction

Postlude — "Little" Prelude in G minor — Attr. J.S. Bach

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At the end of the service everyone is welcome to a time of fellowship and refreshment in Chapel Hall (through the door at the front left of the sanctuary) following the start of the Postlude. Those who wish to listen to the Postlude are welcome to remain in their pews.

Many thanks to Davis Balestracci for serving as guest organist and to Eugene Long for serving as guest choir director.

Meaningful worship requires many people working together. Our thanks to:

Deacons: Tori Bachman, Carol Hughes, Nor Dale
Ushers: Katy Rand, Peg Cushman
Fellowship Hosts: Margy Soule
Liturgist: Paul Jones
Greeter: Ginger Raspiller

Restrooms are located on both sides of the church entrance—ask an usher for assistance.

*Please rise in body or spirit.
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Calendar

Sunday, December 6th, after church – Congregational Meeting

State Street Church is a progressive, diverse congregation. We provide a spiritual home for people from all walks of life. We work toward the vision of social justice preached in the gospel but are not exclusive in our faith. We find meaning in connecting with one another to help those in need and to nurture and deepen our spiritual awareness. We don't feel a need to agree on every matter but we try to listen and learn from one another. We are wide open to, and deeply affirming of, LGBTQ+ individuals. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. We encourage you to continue your spiritual journey with us! We'd love to get to know you.

Website: www.statestreetchurch.org
Phone: 207-774-6396
Mailing address: PO Box 4037, Portland, ME 04101

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9 AM—12 PM & 1 PM—4 PM, Monday thru Friday

Parking – Sundays Only

- Street Parking is free on Sunday
- Reiche School (5-minute walk)
- Cumberland Club

Use this QR code to donate.

State Street Church, United Church of Christ
Reverend Bryan S. Breault, Pastor
Kaylyn Zipp, Christian Education Director
John Ross, Building and Office Manager
Maryam Darjazi, Childcare Provider

Long Creek Holiday Gift Collection

Approved Items Wish List

- Dove Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash, and Deodorant/Anti Perspirant, all variants except aerosol
- Colgate Toothpaste - ***Cavity Protection only, please***
- Large Duffle bags
- Composition Notebook, ***no metal***
- Puzzle books - crosswords, Sudoku books, and word searches
- Card games - Playing cards, UNO, Phase 10, Skip Bo, Monopoly Go
- Winter coats – Men's sizes M, L, XL
  Women's sizes S, M
- Winter boots – Men's sizes 9, 10, 12
- Sneakers – Men's Basketball sizes 9.5, 10, 11, 12
  Women's sizes 6,7,8,9
- Slippers - Men's sizes 11-12, 13-14
- Pajama pants - Men's sizes S, M, L
  Women's sizes S, M, L
- Jeans – Men's sizes 32x32, 34x32, 36x32
  Women's sizes 6, 8
- Shirts – Men's sizes S, M, L, XL, 2XL
  Women's sizes S, M, L, XL
- Ankle socks - Men's and Women's
- Crew socks - Men's and Women's
- Boxer Briefs - Men's sizes S, M, L, XL

If you have any questions, please see Steve Conroy, David Morin, or Carolyn May

The Stable Door Stood Open Wide...



J. Barrie Shepherd

In a harsh season of locked doors, barred gates, tight sealed borders, here is my 2026 Advent/Xmas poetry collection, "The Stable Door Stood Open Wide..." The ninth of such seasonal works it offers thirty of my poems on Advent-Xmas themes to light the way toward the stable door in Bethlehem. As in past years the book offers a different kind of Xmas gift. It fits neatly into a dangling stocking. Signed copies cost $10 (+ $2 postage). Order at barrieshep@aol.com; 15 Piper Road K325, Scarborough, ME 04074; or 207 281 4825. In the spirit of the season all proceeds from book sales are donated to local food pantries. And may the stable door stand ever open to you.