

**The First Congregational Church  
of Rockport, UCC  
12 School Street ~ Rockport, MA  
March 29, 2026**



*The First Congregational Church of Rockport, "The Old Sloop," is an  
Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ.  
Whoever you are and wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are  
welcome here for an hour or a lifetime.*

## *About us*

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### **Our Covenant**

We, the members of this congregation, welcome you with gladness into our lives. We renew our covenant of faith and offer you our support, encouragement and love to the end that all of us may grow in the boundless mercy of God. By loving and being loved, forgiving and being forgiven, serving and being served, let us go forward together with courage as Christ's disciples, glorifying God by being fully alive.

### **Our Open and Affirming Statement**

We the members of The First Congregational Church of Rockport are called upon to love each other as God loves us, freely and unconditionally. Therefore, we covenant to become an Open and Affirming congregation, welcoming persons of every age, ability, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, nationality, ethnicity, and immigration status into full membership and participation in our community life and ministry. We embrace and support those who experience rejection and exile from spiritual community and commit ourselves to the struggle against injustice.

### **Serving the Church**

The congregation, Ministers  
The Rev. Derek van Gulden, Pastor  
Dr. Philip Swanson, Music Director  
Kristina Martin, Associate Music Director  
Kaitlyn Welch, Director of Faith Formation  
Annette Mackin, Office Manager  
Phil Bynarowicz Church Sexton  
Daniel Chase, Tech. Person



### **Contact information**

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Office Hours Wed., Thurs., Fri. 9-2

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## Order of Worship

We acknowledge that the land we live on and the water that surrounds us, were inhabited by the Pawtucket peoples, members of the Wabanaki Confederacy.

### We Gather as God's People

**Prelude** Beach Spring Early American/setting by Don Husted

**Introit** Dum Pater Familias Medieval Chant Gillian Hurst soloist

**Welcome** Rev. Derek van Gulden

**Hymn # 213 - Hosanna, Loud Hosanna**

### Announcements

### Worship Moment

Music Committee

### Call to Worship

One: We are a wilderness wandering people on a journey of the soul.

**All: May we find our destination in our longing to be whole.**

One: Our Holy God is calling to us.

**All: With Jesus by our side may compassion be our compass;**

One: may the Spirit be our guide,

**All: on The Way, on The Way, on The Way.**

### Prayer of invocation

James Krieger

Jesus of Palm Sunday parades, be with us on The Way. We wonder if we have what it takes to truly march in the name of justice and love for all people. Are we able to sacrifice the paths that benefit only us for the ones that make a way in the wilderness for the least? We come seeking your courage and resolve in order to follow your way of love. Amen.

## **Seeking Transformation and New Life**

### ***Call to Transformation***

Leader: When Jesus set the stage for his entrance into Jerusalem, he knew he would be competing with outward and visible displays of the dominating power of the Roman Empire. But he also knew that Empire didn't just live in parades of the powerful and shows of force. Empire also lives in our bodies, minds, spirits, relationships, and communities. So, he set out with a donkey and a colt and a band of outcasts and freedom-fighters to help them and us imagine a different kind of power – the power of love and justice.

### **Words of Grace**

Leader: Let your soul receive this rest: You and we are not what Empire imagines. There is resistance, liberation, and wisdom beyond Empire.

**Assembly: Praise God who forgives us and frees us inviting us to a belonging where dignity isn't earned, bought, or proven, but received as grace.**

### **Passing of the Peace**

**Baptism Alycia Rose** (see Baptism insert)

**Song** He/She's Got the Whole World In His/Her Hands.

### **We Listen for God's Word**

**Scripture** Psalm 37:1-9; Luke 19: 28b-40 James Krieger

**Sermon** The Other Way Rev. Derek

**Choral Anthem** Ride On Grayston Ives

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father and Mother, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

**Response  
#769 Hear  
Our Prayer**

Musical score for 'Response #769 Hear Our Prayer'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in - cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.'

**We Respond to God's Word**

**Offering  
Doxology**

Musical score for 'Offering Doxology'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God, all crea-tures here be-low; Praise God a-bove, you heaven-ly host: Cre - at - er, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost.'

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

## **We Take God's Light into the World**

**Hymn # 215 - Ride On! Ride On in Majesty**

**Benediction**

**Choral Amen and Chimes**

**Coffee Hour** All are invited to coffee hour and "Palm Sundaes" after the worship service, hosted by the Membership Committee

**Service Helpers Today**

**Ushers** Jeff Taylor and Dorothy Geiser

**Liturgist** James Krieger



***Deadline for Easter Flower dedications and donations is Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.***

*To help deliver flowers after the Easter Service contact  
Celene Lyon [celenelyon@comcast.net](mailto:celenelyon@comcast.net)*

## **Old Sloop Presents**

***Sat Apr. 18: Antje Duvekot and  
David Berkeley***



***Sat May 2 Abbie Gardner  
Jenna Nicholls opens***

*Tickets at*

*oldslooppresents.org,*

*John Tarr Store 49 Main St.*

*The Bookstore of Gloucester, 61 Main St.*

*(stores accept cash and checks).*





**Congregation  
Pot Luck  
April 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in  
Fellowship Hall**



Continuing our monthly potluck dinner on the first Tuesday of each month. You may re-heat your dish in the church kitchen. Please provide a label with your dish listing main ingredients.

***Holy Week and Easter Services 2026***



**Wed., April 1- 7 pm Vespers Morgan Room**

**Thurs., April 2- 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service (Sanctuary)** A service of remembrance of Jesus washing the feet of the Disciples, the Last Supper. Foot washing, Communion, scripture, music.

**Fri., April 3- 6 pm Ecumenical Good Friday Service at Trinity Congregational Church, Gloucester** Meditation on the last 7 words from the cross by 7 Pastors.

**Sun., April 5- 6 am Easter Sunrise Service, Good Harbor Beach  
10:00 am Easter Service(sanctuary) Coffee Hour  
Fellowship Hall hosted by the Old Sloop Fleet.**

**April 26, Final Service with Rev. Derek After worship, Farewell Blessing & Sendoff Gathering Meal to honor and thank Pastor Derek with his family, with members and friends of the congregation, and with other invited guests, hosted by the church, as a whole**

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS Mar. 29- Apr. 5, 2026**

Sunday, Mar. 29 10:00 am Palm Sunday Service ~ After worship,  
Palm "Sundaes" Coffee Hour, hosted by Faith Formation & Old Sloop  
Fleet, together.

2:00 pm AA Women's Group (Morgan Room)

Monday, Mar. 30 Office Closed

3:45 pm CAYC rehearsal Fellowship Hall

6:00 pm Orchestra rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, Mar. 31 Office Closed

11:00 am Tai Chi (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 pm Al-Anon (Morgan Room)

Wednesday, Apr. 1 Church Office Open 9-2

9:15 am Yoga class

3:00 pm Storytelling Zoom

5:00 pm Bible Study Zoom

7:00 pm Vespers in the Morgan Room

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, Apr. 2 Church Office Open 9-2

9:30 am Book Group (Morgan Room)

7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service (Sanctuary)

Friday, April 3 Church Office Open 9-2

6:00 pm Ecumenical Good Friday Service at Trinity UCC

Seven Pastors meditate on the last seven words from the cross.

Saturday, April 4 8:30 am AA meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, April 5 6 am Easter Sunrise Service at Good Harbor Beach

10 am Easter Service Coffee Hour hosted by Old Sloop Fleet