

*Opening wide our doors and hearts
in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord and Savior*

**The Fourth Sunday
of Easter
Sunday, April 26th, 2026
9:00 a.m.**

Join us in person for our service. Or join us by going to our livestream on the St. Peter's YouTube page [here](#).

The worship leaflet can be found [here](#).

Coffee hour will be held after the mass.

This Sunday's Ministers:

Mr. Tom Ainsworth, *Crucifer*

Mr. Jake Mahon & Mr. Steve Booth, *Eucharistic Ministers*

Mr. Wayne Franklin, *Lector*

Ms. Anita Chandler, *Usher*

Mr. Will Estrella, *Videographer*

Ms. Janene Gorham, *Altar Guild*

From the Priest in Charge

Dear Friends,

Last Sunday, during our final service with Father Tom Mousin, our lector Tom Ainsworth adapted the Prayers of the People to give thanks for Fr. Tom as a gift from our Creator and as the sower of seeds that have taken root and grown good fruit here at St. Peter's. We certainly praise God for Fr. Tom's careful and loving care of this congregation! And the adapted prayer was a lovely segue into this Earth Week, anchored by Earth Day on April 22. We remember that God created the earth, the sky, the waters, the plants, and the animals, and God saw that they were good.

Time in nature can help us appreciate our connectedness to all living things. It can give us peace amidst the turbulence of these times, and the griefs and losses of our personal lives. Connecting with Creation gives us a way to engage with resurrection joy, as we see signs of life around us (yes, even in cold weeks like this!). You will find below a poem by farmer and writer Wendell Berry that speaks to the healing power of the natural world, whose own health and wellbeing we are in turn called by God to steward and protect.

My prayer for you in these 50 days of Easter is that you will be attuned to signs of life and how growth can come out of even the deepest loss.

In faith and love,
Myrna+

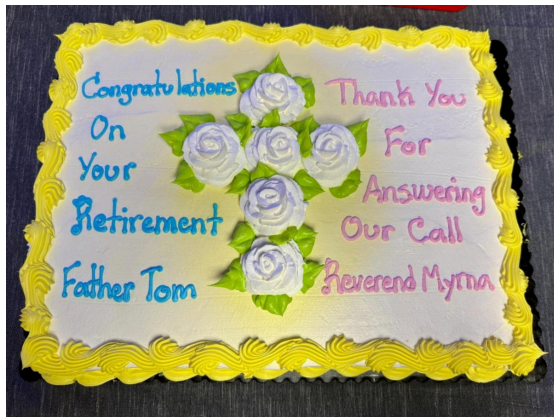
“The Peace of Wild Things” by Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake rests in his

beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief.
I come into the presence of still water,
and I feel above me the day-blind stars waiting with their light.
For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

A Sweet Ritual

Thank you to all who created the beautiful coffee hour following Fr. Tom's final service. Especially wonderful was the dual-purpose cake which Fr. Tom and Rev. Myrna cut together in a final ritual. What a blessing!



Reception for Transitional Diaconal Ordination

St. Peter's will co-host the reception following the ordination of Emily Keniston and Maribeth Payne on May 9. **We will need people to help set up and clean up, and to make sweet and savory dishes for the reception.** Lenita and Rodney Richard have graciously agreed to coordinate our efforts---thank you! A sign-up sheet will be in the undercroft. If you have questions, please email Lenita at lenitarichard@gmail.com



By the Grace of God
and with the consent of the people

The Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Brown
Tenth Bishop of Maine

will ordain

Emily Ainsworth Keniston
and
Maribeth Anderson Payne

Deacons
(Transitional)

in Christ's one holy catholic and apostolic Church

Your prayers and presence are requested

Saturday, the ninth day of May, two thousand and twenty-six
at ten o'clock in the morning

The Cathedral Church of St. Luke
143 State Street, Portland, Maine

Reception immediately following the service

Clergy are asked to wear red stoles

The service will also be livestreamed on St. Luke's [YouTube channel](#).

Caring for God's Creation



Diocesan Earth Day Luncheon

Thank you to Janene Gorham and Meredith Tipton, who represented our Earth Keeper team at the Diocesan luncheon on Wednesday, April 22, Earth Day. Bishop Brown attended and

encouraged us to continue working hard toward Creation Care. The discussion included solar energy, group participation, and recycling. Did you know...St. Peter's registered with a solar company in 2025 for our electricity provider!

Opportunity for the Sacrament of Baptism

If you have never been baptized, the Day of Pentecost (May 24th this year) is one of four occasions listed in the Book of Common Prayer as particularly appropriate for administering the sacrament. During baptism, we are anointed by the Holy Spirit as well as sprinkled with water, and so Pentecost Sunday, when we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit, is a natural time to receive the sacrament. If you have never been baptized, or if you have family members whom you may wish to baptize, please be in touch with Rev. Myrna, so that preparations can be made.

YOUTH SERVICE CORPS LOCK-IN



**SATURDAY
MAY 16TH
5:00 PM**

Flexible Options for Pick Up

Sat. night @ 10:30 pm

Sun. morning before 9:30 am

Sun. morning @ 11:30 am



**First Congregational Church UCC
301 Cottage Road, South Portland**



**\$10 - \$30 Suggested Donation to YSC
Includes dinner, ice cream and breakfast**

**Come together in
faith, friendship,
and prayer!**

- **PLAY ICE BREAKER GAMES**
- **MAKE A MEAL TOGETHER**
- **WALK TO RED'S DAIRY FREEZE**
- **COMPLETE A SERVICE PROJECT**

RSVP to Amber Burks at amber@stalbansmaine.org



Compline

Compline will meet on Wednesday, April 29th, at its usual time, 7:00 PM.

Connect with our gathering then by clicking the Zoom link [here](#).

Vestry Meets on Tuesday, April 28th at 6:30 PM

The vestry, our governing board, will meet on Tuesday, April 28th at 6:30 PM on Zoom. Anyone is welcome to attend. The Zoom link can be found [here](#).

**Be Kind to the Earth:
Use Clynk Bin for Bottles/Cans**

We have noticed some returnable cans and bottles are ending up in the trash. Please use this container (usually in the "pie room" next to the kitchen) to recycle these items. Thank you!



A Reminder About Parking

Our parking lot is limited, and on Sundays, all of the spaces facing the church are reserved for handicapped access. If you do not need to use the elevator, please use parking on the street so that those spaces are available for those that need to use the elevator. Thank you!

Updates to Parish Directory

We are updating our Parish Directory, and hope to complete this soon! Copies of the directory can be found on the table in the undercroft. Please notify Bob Simmons at: treasurerstpetersport@gmail.com if you have a change of address or phone number, or to provide him with this information if you are a newcomer. You can also speak to him at church if you prefer.

This Week at St. Peter's

Vestry, Tue. Apr. 28, 6:30 pm, Zoom

Compline, Wed. April 29, 7:00 PM on Zoom

Coming up at St. Peter's

Emily Keniston's Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate,

Sat. May 9, 10 am, St. Luke's Cathedral

Youth Service Corps "Lock In" Overnight Event, Sat. May 16-Sun. May 17, First Congregational Church UCC, South Portland

Holy Baptism, Day of Pentecost, Sun. May 24, 9 am, Church

Celebration of New Ministry, Sun. June 7, 4 pm, Church

Sunday Minister Rota for May

May 3, 2026

Mr. Galen Weibley, *Crucifer*
Mr. Tom Ainsworth & Ms. Anne Whitman, *Eucharistic Ministers*
Ms. Cindy Sherwood, *Usher*
Mr. Clayton Hickey, *Videographer*
Mr. Jonathan McCormick & Mr. Rich Price, *Counters*

May 10, 2026

Mr. Steve Koskinen, *Crucifer*
Ms. Emily Hickey & Ms. Lenita Richard, *Eucharistic Ministers*
Mr. Tom Ainsworth, *Usher*
Mr. Bob Simmons, *Videographer*
Ms. Meredith Tipton & Ms. Lenita Richard, *Counters*

May 17, 2026

Mr. Tom Ainsworth, *Crucifer*
Ms. Emily Keniston & Ms. Janene Gorham, *Eucharistic Ministers*
Mr. Will Estrella, *Usher*
Ms. Lenita Richard, *Videographer*
Mr. Wayne Franklin and Ms. Anita Chandler *Counters*

May 24, 2026

Mr. Jake Mahon, *Crucifer*
Mr. Galen Weibley & Mr. Steve Booth, *Eucharistic Ministers*
Mr. Bob Simmons, *Usher*
Mr. Will Estrella, *Videographer*
Mr. Jonathan McCormick & Mr. Wayne Franklin, *Counters*

May 31, 2026

Mr. Fred Fowler, *Crucifer*
Ms. Janene Gorham & Ms. Anne Whitman, *Eucharistic Ministers*
Ms. Anita Chandler, *Usher*
Mr. Bob Simmons, *Videographer*
Ms. Meredith Tipton & Ms. Lenita Richard, *Counters*

Weekly Prayer List

Prayers For Parishioners, Families, and Friends

Ann Marie Cady
Allison Schroth
Francisco Andreu
Diane Dalton
Dino Rice
Robert Stillings
Pat Fowler
Mary Ann Hoy
Barbara Vessey

Fred Madore
Alan Biagiotti
Jane Noone
Marc Lombe and family
Linda Foster
Garrett Keniston
Kevin Curty
Paul Loven
Anita Chandler

Peter Haskell, *friend of Allison Schroth*
Martha Gagliardi, *friend of Fr. Tom*
Tommy Valente, *friend of Don and Ann Marie Cady*
Jane Reiha, *friend of Judy Howes*
Stephen and Rebecca Seraniche, *friends of Dino Rice*
Marge Devine, *family member of Allison Schroth*
Jimmy Devine, *family member of Allison Schroth*
Fuji Sprott, *friend of Dino Rice*
David Turner, *cousin of Craig Mousin*
Tammy, *friend of Craig Mousin*
Beth, *friend of Lee Walters*
Pam, *friend of Anita Chandler*
The Kutasi Family, *friends of Allison Schroth*
Kelly Marie Bell, *friend of Allison Schroth*
Earle, *friend of Cindy Sherwood*
Grace, *family member of Jessie Vega*
Kay Gross, *friend of Jane Noone*
Lisa Gorham, *daughter of John & Janene Gorham*
Gerald and Anita Talbot, *friends of Anita Chandler*
Peter Munro, *brother of Emily Hickey*
Todd Cheney, *father of Matt Cheney*
Jay Sprout, *friend of Tom Mousin*
Sandy Woolley, *friend of Judy Howes*
Amanda and Chris Conant, *friends of Jane Noone*
Pam, *friend of Cindy Sherwood*
Michael King, *friend of Anita Chandler*
Amy Carter, *friend of Fred and Priscila Madore*
Norma and Joe Kennedy, *friends of Jane Noone*
Mary Jo Floyd, *relative of Fr. Tom Mousin*
Frank Beal, *friend of Lenita and Rodney Richard*
Mary Lou Toye, *aunt of the McCormicks*
Cathryn Buckley, *sister of Judy Howes*
John Richard, *brother of Rodney Richard*
Jim Halstead, *friend of Craig Mousin*

If you wish to add or return persons to the prayer list, please contact our Prayer Ministry Coordinators:

Allison Schroth: 207-807-1315, Aschroth207@gmail.com

or

Emma Bond: 207-619-3662, emma.e.bond@gmail.com

A Prayer for Those We Love

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From *The Book of Common Prayer*

NOTES ON THIS SUNDAY'S MUSIC

Robert Schumann's father was an author and book dealer in Zwickau, the German town where Schumann was born. As a child, Robert took piano, flute and cello lessons, and also started composing.

When he was a teenager, he still wasn't sure whether he wanted to be a writer or a composer. But after heading off to the University of Leipzig to study law, he knew for certain he didn't want to be a lawyer! In Leipzig, Schumann took piano lessons with a distinguished teacher named Friedrich Wieck, whose star pupil was his daughter Clara. In spite of the fact that she was nine years younger than he was, Robert Schumann and Clara Wieck fell in love. Clara's father absolutely refused to let the relationship continue. It took years -- and a court battle with Clara's father -- before Robert and Clara Schumann could finally get married.

When the Schumanns' daughter Marie turned seven, her father gave her a small album of piano pieces that he'd written for her. It's from this collection that this morning's prelude comes.

The text for "Ye Holy Angels Bright" owes its present form to two authors separated by 200 years. Richard Baxter (1615-91), an English priest who "grew too Puritan for bishops and too Episcopalian for the Presbyterians," penned a lengthy poem beginning with "Ye Holy Angels Bright." 200 years later, John Hampden Gurney (1802-62) selected stanzas and ideas and created a greatly modified version of the Baxter text which is not really about angels so much as a call to praise God. Angels, the departed souls in heaven, the church on earth, and any singer of the hymn ("My soul, bear thou thy part") are all urged to share in the endless praise of God.

As for our recessional hymn: tune composer Phoebe Palmer Knapp (1839-1908) played a melody to her friend Fanny Crosby and asked,

"What does the melody say to you?" Without hesitation, Crosby replied that the tune said, "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!" and proceeded to recite the entire first stanza of the now-famous hymn. Fanny Crosby (1820-1915), blind at the age of six weeks, was a lifelong Methodist who began composing hymns at age six. She became a student at the New York Institute of the Blind at age 15 and joined the faculty of the Institute at 22, teaching rhetoric and history. In 1885, Crosby married Alexander Van Alstyne, also a student at the Institute and later a member of the faculty. He was a fine musician and, like Fanny, a lover of literature. Fanny Crosby's hymns have historically been among the most popular songs sung by Methodists...and members of countless other denominations. "Blessed Assurance" (1873) is one of the ten most popular hymns sung by United Methodists according to hymnologist Carlton Young, and it is one of eight Crosby hymns in the current *United Methodist Hymnal*. Because of her long life, Fanny Crosby had an extraordinary relationship with several United States presidents, even penning poems in their honor on occasion, and she was influential in the spiritual lives of, or friends to, Presidents Martin Van Buren (8th), John Tyler (10th), James K. Polk (11th), and Grover Cleveland (22nd and 24th). In her later years, she addressed a joint session of Congress on the topic of education for the blind.

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St. Peter's Episcopal Church | 10 Alton Street | Portland, ME 04101 US

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