



HEAVEN BOUND

First United Methodist Church

Pastor Chris Hardy

Greeting & Announcements

Gathering Meditation

"All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them."

– Jesus, John 14:23 (NLT)

Prelude & Lighting of the Candles

Holy God, author of the Word made flesh, to whom belongs both the first Word and the last, open us to your Spirit, that as scripture is spoken and your Word proclaimed, we may be comforted, convinced, and changed to the glory of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: We come together this day, drawn by the light of God's love!

People: In God's eternal kingdom, darkness and despair are vanquished.

Leader: In God's eternal realm, peace and hope reign!

People: Let all the people praise God with their music and their voices!

Leader: Let all the people praise God with their deeds of loving-kindness.

People: Praise be to God!

***Praise Song**

"I Saw the Light / I'll Fly Away"

***Affirmation of Faith**

A Modern Affirmation

#885

***Opening Prayer**

Astonishing God, you give us a vision of the heavenly city, the new Jerusalem, your home among mortals on earth. All people and all nations will stream to your city where they will find nourishment, healing, and peace. Even now, your blessing shines upon all the earth to help us see a larger vision of your loving care for all creation. And so, you call us to move beyond our comfortable circles, and into unfamiliar places, as we seek to share your dream of a world made new in Christ. Amen.

Children's Message
† Coins for Kids

Pastor Chris

A Time of Prayer – Sharing our Joys & Concerns
The Lord's Prayer

***Hymn** "Shall We Gather at the River" #723

Reading of Holy Scripture Revelation 21:1-10, 22-22:5 (NLT)

Message Pastor Chris

***Hymn** "For the Healing of the Nations" #428

***Passing of the Peace**

Giving Back to God with our Tithes and Offerings
Offertory

***Doxology** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" #95

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Giving God, as spring bursts forth its blossoms in witness to your love, you bless us from generation to generation with the new life of Easter faith. All that we have and all that we are come from you, O God, so we gladly share this offering, that others too may be blessed, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Benediction**

***Hymn** "Rejoice, the Lord is King" #715

***Postlude**

*Please stand if you are able

†Each Sunday our children will be accepting coin donations that will benefit a ministry or project of their choosing.

Today's bulletins are sponsored by Tom & Leslie Schupper
in memory of James Schupper

[You're Welcome Here](#)

Here at our church we extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, gay, straight, filthy rich, comfortable, dirt poor, have lived here for decades, just moved in, or are passing on through.

We extend a special welcome to those that are newly married, never married, married again, or married for longer than they can even remember... or choose to remember. We welcome families of all shapes and sizes, those with one child that is as quiet as a mouse, those with a whole basketball team, and even moms and dads with crying new-born babies.

You're welcome here if you can sing like Garth Brooks or if you can't carry a note in a bucket. You're welcome here if you're 'just browsing,' just woke up or just got out of prison. Those that serve in our military or work in our community as first responders, you're welcome here, too. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Bishop of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference, or if you haven't been in church since your little nephew's baptism.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit moms, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters and food connoisseurs.

We welcome those who are in recovery or are still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps. We welcome you even if don't like 'organized religion' or you call yourself 'spiritual.'

If you blew all your money on the horses or the blackjack table, you're welcome here, too. We offer a welcome to those who work too hard, don't work at all, can't spell, or come just because grandma is in town and she made you go to church.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid or got lost on route 191 and wound up here by mistake. We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts, and all those at different locations on their own journey of faith... and we welcome you!

We hope that you'll visit us for worship on Sunday at 11:00 and consider making us a part of your family. You're welcome here.

www.firstumcbangor.com