

# EDWARDS CHURCH *of* NORTHAMPTON

United Church of Christ

**May 3, 2026**

**Sunday, 10:00 AM**



United in Christ's love, we are committed to creating a just and loving world where all feel valued and free to be themselves. Wherever you are on your journey of faith, we welcome you to be a part of shaping this community as it continues to evolve. We invite you to bring all that you are to this church: your gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, family structure, race, color, ethnicity, culture, age, range of ability; your economic, educational, and immigration status, and your unique perspective.

## Welcome to Edwards Church

Take a moment to read through the bulletin to familiarize yourself with the order of worship.

Please see an usher for:

- ❖ Large-print bulletins.
- ❖ SoundMate assisted listening devices.
- ❖ Childcare is provided.
- ❖ Faith Formation classes available following the children's message.
- ❖ Sunday services at Edwards Church are recorded and livestreamed, if you prefer not to be photographed or filmed, please inform an usher.

**Thank you volunteers:**



**Head Usher:** Justin Chick

**Welcome Liturgist:** Stefanie Adair

**Scripture Reader:** Leon Drzewianowski

**Fellowship:** Susan Swift and Michele Whiting

**Flowers:** Laura Frogameni

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**Our Staff:**

Interim Pastor: The Rev. Jennifer Geary

Music Director: Adam Simon

Treasurer: Sabra Aquadro

Office Manager: Keith Barnicle

Sexton: Justin Clifford

Faith Formation: Shannon Ryan, Denisse Barron, Edith Parker Yourga

Livestream Services: Alex LaMarche, Thomas Campbell



# **Order of Worship**

Sunday, May 3, 2026

↑ Indicates standing in body or spirit.

B = Black New Century Hymnal, R = Red Pilgrim Hymnal.

**~ We Gather to be Present to God ~**

**Prelude**                                      Quasi Andante                                      César Franck (1822 - 1890)

**Welcome**

**Introit**

**Call to Worship**

**Opening Prayer - Unison**

**God, we rejoice that you raised Jesus from the dead. We rejoice that you daily offer us abundant life. We have come to praise you for your power and compassion. Fill us and this space with your Holy Spirit. Bless our thoughts and our actions that all we do will give you glory. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

↑ **Sharing the Peace of Christ**

*Use whatever gesture or words feel best for you to greet each other with the Peace of Christ.*

↑ **Hymn Insert**

*Lord of the Dance*

**~ We Listen to Hear God's Voice ~**

**Scripture**                                      Acts 7:55-60; John 14:1-14

**Anthem**                                      In This Heart                                      Sinead O'Connor (1966 - 2023)

In this heart lies for you, a lark born only for you  
Who sings only to you, my love, my love, my love  
I am waiting for you, for only to adore you  
My heart is for you, my love

This is my grief for you for, only the loss of you  
The hurting of you, my love  
There are rays on the weather, soon these tears will have cried  
All loneliness have died, my love  
I will have you with me in my arms only  
For you are only my love

## **Time for Children of all Ages**

↑**Hymn # B 344**

*The Time Was Early Evening*

**Sermon**

Rev. Jennifer Geary

~ **We Respond to God in our Lives** ~

## **Offering**

### **Offertory**

↑**Sung Presentation**

tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Let trumpets sound and voices sing!  
Let all on earth their praises bring!  
Alleluia, Alleluia  
For Christ has conquered sin and death  
And given life eternal breath.  
O Praise God, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia*

↑**Unison Prayer of Dedication**

**Hallelujah, thank you God for all our blessings, especially the resurrection of Jesus the Christ. In deep gratitude we lay these offerings before you. Offerings of our hearts and hands. Bless us all, and continue to use us as ambassadors of your love. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

## **Community Prayer**

**Sharing**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Silent Prayer**

**Lord's Prayer** *Use the words most comfortable for you. If you are unfamiliar with this prayer, here is one version. Other versions can be found on page 9 in the black hymnal.*

**Our Nurturer who is in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come; your 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

### **Invitation**

#### **Music During Communion**

Panis Angelicus

C. Franck

Carol Wroblewski; mezzo-soprano, Hanif Lawrence; tenor

Panis angelicus

May the bread of angels

fit panis hominum;

Become bread for mankind;

Dat panis cœlicus

The bread of heaven puts

figuris terminum:

All foreshadowings to an end;

O res mirabilis!

Oh, thing miraculous!

Manducat Dominum

The body of the Lord will

pauper, servus et humilis.

nourish the poor, the servile, and  
the humble.

**Sharing the Bread** (Gluten free) eat it at your own timing

**Sharing the Cup** (Alcohol free) hold to drink together

### **Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**God of ceaseless new beginnings, we rejoice that through your powerful love, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. In the resurrection you have shown that neither trouble nor persecution, hardship nor poverty, danger nor death, can separate us from your love. Free us from the fear of death that we may serve you with courage. Free us from despair that we may bring your hope to others. Free us to trust in you. Thank you for the blessings of this holy sacrament which nourishes us to be your people. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

Adapted from the Book of Worship c 1986 with permission of the United Church of Christ.

## Announcements

↑ **Hymn # B 433**

*In the Bulb There is a Flower*

↑ **Benediction**

↑ **Sung Blessing**

*As You Go on Your Way*

As you go on your way, may God go with you  
May God go before you to show you the way  
May God go behind you to encourage you  
Beside you to befriend you  
Above you to watch over  
Within you to give you peace

↑ **Postlude**

Maestoso

C. Franck

*During the Postlude, feel free to sit or to make your way to fellowship time.*

The rosebuds on the altar are in honor of the April births of:

- **Gemma Leese Goldsmith.** Parents: Courtney and Paul Goldsmith; Grandparents: Richard & Sabra Aquadro
- **Imari Yagmin.** Parents: Yvanna & Joseph Yagmin; Grandmother: Janet Abreu

## This Week at Edwards Church

*Monday 5/4*

1:00 PM Pastor Open Office Hours  
7:00 PM Elected Core Ministry (Zoom)

*Tuesday 5/5*

10:00 AM Pastor Open Office Hours  
7:00 PM Gamblers Anonymous (Addis Hall)

*Wednesday 5/6*

11:00 AM Bible Study (Zoom)  
7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous (Addis Hall)

*Thursday 5/7*

5:00 PM Pastor Open Office Hours  
6:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous (Addis Hall)  
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

*Friday 5/8*

7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous (Sanctuary)

Saturday 9/9

7:30 PM Pioneer Valley Capella (Sanctuary)

Sunday 5/10

10:00 AM Worship (Sanctuary)

11:00 AM Outreach Team (Edwards Room)

## Announcements

### **Boston Harmony Concert**

It's Boston Harmony concert time! We hope to see you at **4:00 PM this Sunday, April 3rd**, and share our joy in harmony.

Please invite your friends to this event at Edwards Church, and share this with your community. Our regional, multigenerational ensemble brings together singers from all around New England. This season's repertoire, learned from the tradition bearers, includes: South Africa in Xhosa and Sotho languages, regions of Caucasus Georgia, Bulgaria, Corsica, Lithuania, the Occitan region of France, a setting of Yiddish poetry, and both contemporary and traditional American Shape Note compositions.

Sliding scale admission at the door: \$5-\$25

Cash or Venmo

### **Meditation Group**

All are welcome participate in Meditation. It is offered weekly at Edwards Church on Mondays at 6:00 PM in the Edwards Room. No experience necessary!

### **Zoom Bible Study**

Join us every **Wednesday at 11:00 AM** as we read together the passages for the upcoming Sunday. Every day is a stand-alone event so come when you can and join our lively discussion. This week's scripture is: Acts 17:22-31; 1 Peter 3:13-18; John 14:15-21

Let the church office know if you would like to have your name added to the weekly Zoom invitation or just join using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/fbrph2p5>  
If you need a Bible, there are a few copies available through the Church office.

## Worship Services Online

To watch our worship services online, please go to our YouTube channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/c/EdwardsChurchNorthamptonMA>

## Pioneer Valley Capella

**Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM Pioneer Valley Capella** (Sanctuary "The Fruit of Silence" Pioneer Valley Cappella, Geoff Hudson, conductor, presents "The Fruit of Silence," choral meditations on peace.

## In Our Prayers

If you would like to add or remove a name on the prayer list, please contact the church office or Rev. Geary.

|            |          |          |          |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Gwen       | Dick     | Margaret | Michele  |
| Emily      | June     | Kan      | Danny    |
| Baby Alden | Laura    | Nicole   | Margaret |
| Deb        | Tom      | Shelia   | Bob      |
| Bert       | Beth     | David    | Bill     |
| Steve      | Mildred  | Laura    |          |
| Mark       | Courtney | Kate     |          |
| Yvette     | Kimberly | Marc     |          |

Those who mourn, the family and friends of:

|                 |                  |                   |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Rick Aponte     | Carla Bee        | Marjorie E. Tauer |
| Evelyn Blakesly | Larry Hansmeier  | Louise Montague   |
| Molly McGovern  | Janie Thurber    | Audrey Easter     |
| Phyllis Rogers  | Eleanor Dietrich |                   |

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## Lord of the Dance

*Unison* G Em Bm Em

1. I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I  
 2. I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but they  
 3. I danced on the sab-bath when I cured the lame, the  
 4. I danced on a Fri-day and the sky turned black; it's  
 5. They cut me down and I leapt up high,

Am D7

danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I  
 would not dance and they would not fol - low me; I  
 ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame; they  
 hard to dance with the dev - il on your back; they  
 I am the life that -'ll nev - er, nev - er die; I'll

G Em Bm Em

came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth. At  
 danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John; they  
 whipped and they stripped and they hung me high; and they  
 bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone, but  
 live in you if you'll live in me;

Am D7 C G Refrain G Bm

Beth - le - hem I had my birth.  
 came to me and the dance went on.  
 left me there on a cross to die. Dance, then, wher -  
 I am the dance and I still go on.  
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

WORDS: Sydney Carter, 1963

MUSIC: 19th cent. Shaker tune; adapt. by Sydney Carter, 1963;  
harm. by Gary Alan Smith, 1988LORD OF THE DANCE  
Irr. with Refrain

LIFE AND TEACHING

em G  
ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

Am D G C G D7  
Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all wher - ev - er you may

G C D7 G C G  
be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

# The Time Was Early Evening

344

The Iona Community, 1988

Mark 14:12-25

1 The time was ear-ly eve - ning, the place a room up - stairs;  
2 The com - pa - ny of Je - sus had met to share a meal;  
3 "The bread and bod-y bro - ken, the wine and blood out - poured,  
4 Christ Je - sus, now a - mong us, con - firm our faith's in - tent,

The guests were the dis - ci - ples, few in num-ber and few in prayers.  
The One who made them wel-come had much more to re - veal.  
The cross and kitch - en ta - ble are one by my sign and word."  
As, with your words and ac - tions, we u - nite in this sac - ra - ment.

## Refrain

Oh, the food comes from the bak - er; the drink comes from the vine;

The words come from the Sav - ior, "I will meet you in bread and wine."

*In the Iona Community collection Enemy of Apathy, this piece is titled "The Song of the Supper" and is accompanied by an instruction that it is an "effective song for a house communion, or when the sacrament is celebrated in the usual eating place."*

Tune: AFTON WATER Irr. with refrain  
Traditional Scottish melody  
Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

Natalie Sleeth, 1985

*Unison*

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;  
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;  
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!  
 there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.  
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,  
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.  
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.  
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

*Natalie Sleeth composed her "Hymn of Promise" first as a choral anthem and then adapted it to this version for congregational singing. It was dedicated to her husband, Ronald Sleeth, who died shortly after she completed it.*

Tune: PROMISE 8.7.8.7.D.  
 Natalie Sleeth, 1985