

Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, November 15, 2026 | 10 O'Clock in the Morning

40 School Street | Post Office Box 436 | Cotuit, MA 02635

www.cotuitfederatedchurch.org | 508-428-6163

The Deer̀s Cry – A Hymn by St Patrick

This prayer was composed by Saint Patrick in the year 433 AD. He was aware that there was an ambush to try to kill him and his group en route to the King's court. It was during the march that they sang the Deer's Cry. As the druids lay in hiding, ready to kill, it is said that they saw not Patrick and his men, but a gentle doe followed by twenty fawns. The miracle saved Patrick and his men. "The Deer's Cry", is known by several names, "Lorica" and "The Breastplate of St Patrick" which is another version of the prayer of St. Patrick.

The Deer̀s Cry

I arise today
Through the strength of heaven;
Light of the sun, Splendor of fire,
Speed of lightning, Swiftness of the wind,
Depth of the sea, Stability of the earth,
Firmness of the rock.

I arise today
Through God's strength to pilot me;
God's might to uphold me, God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me, God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me, God's hand to guard me,
God's way to lie before me, God's shield to protect me,
God's hosts to save me, Afar and anear,
Alone or in a mulitude.

Christ shield me today
Against wounding,
Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in the eye that sees me,
Christ in the ear that hears me.

I arise today
Through the mighty strength
Of the Lord of creation.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The Passing of the Peace is the oldest part of the Christian liturgy and is a special way we welcome each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. You are invited to greet members with a handshake or hug, or contactless with your hands over your heart, waving or giving the peace sign.

*CALL TO WORSHIP *Ellen Wakefield*

One: God is the giver of all good things.
Many: God generously makes the world,
and creates humankind in God's image.

One: Come, let us delight in God's gifts.
Many: Come, let us delight in God's goodness.

One: Come, let us live in God's image,
generously giving, hosting, caring for the world.
Many: Come, let us worship God!

*OPENING HYMN The United Methodist Hymnal #89

Please join in singing.

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

CALL TO CONFESSION *Ellen Wakefield*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Ellen Wakefield*

All: Holy God, there are days when we fail to rest.
We stretch ourselves too thin. We say "yes" to every invitation.
We run a million miles a minute.
We ignore your command to rest.
There are also days when we fail to act.
We wait for someone else. We take the easy road.
We find excuses and justify our inaction.
God, forgive our imbalance.
Remind us that birds rest, and they also fly.
Show us how to do the same. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE *Rev. Angela Menke Ballou*

HANDBELL ANTHEM

As The Deer

Arr. by Susan E. Geschke

MISSION MOMENT *Ava Boon*

Cape Cod Foster Closet

(CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO CHURCH SCHOOL)

A SACRED READING *Rev. Angela Menke Ballou*

The Deer's Cry

*HYMN (See insert)

Please join in singing.

Prayer For Peace

HEBREW BIBLE READING *Rev. Angela Menke Ballou*

Psalm 42

EPISTLE READING *Ellen Wakefield*

Ephesians 6: 10-20

SERMON *Rev. Angela Menke Ballou*

All Around Us

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***Prayer in Song*:**

All things bright and beautiful
all creatures great and small,
all things wide and wonderful
You, our God, made them all.

Gathering of the Prayers

***The Celtic Lord's Prayer*:**

(by J. Philip Newell)

Holy One beyond all names, Eternal Wellspring,
May love rise again in us today.
With food for every table,
Shelter for every family,
And reverence for every life.
Forgive us our failings in love,
And free us from all falseness.
That the light of our souls may shine,
And the strength of our spirits endure.
For Earth and all its people.
This day, tonight, and forever.

***Prayer in Song*:**

All things bright and beautiful
all creatures great and small,
all things wide and wonderful
You, our God, made them all.

OFFERTORY

Invitation To Offering

Offertory

Song Of Exile

Marty Haugen

***Doxology*:**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God, above, ye heavenly hosts
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen

***Prayer of Dedication**

*CLOSING HYMN The Faith We Sing #2025

Please join in singing.

As The Deer

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Please join us for coffee hour in Hamilton Hall after worship!



Liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed, A Sanctified Art

TODAYS SERVERS

Ministers: *The People of Cotuit Federated Church*
Pastor: *Rev. Angela Menke Ballou* | Community Minister: *Rev. Daniel Smith*
Deacon: *Nancy Radosevi* | Director of Music: *Megan Anthony*
Lay Reader: *Ellen Wakefield* | Greeters: *Kate Christian & Nancy Lawrence*
Director of Christian Education: *Lynne Belfiore*
Admin. Assistant for Ministry: *Shannon Boon*

TODAYS HAPPENINGS

- Worship 10:00
- Sunday School 10:15
- Coffee Hour 11:15

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AGING WITH GRACE with Dan Smith and Martha Ross
Mondays, Sept. 21, Oct. 5 & 19, Nov. 2 & 16 | 11:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m., Kraft Room.
A five-session small group for those navigating the challenges, changes, and gifts of aging. Gather for reflection, prayerful silence, soulful check-ins, and conversation about the wisdom and resources our faith may offer. Please contact Dan at communityminister@cotuitfederatedchurch.org or sign up in Hamilton Hall. Participants are encouraged to attend most or all sessions.

ROAD TO FREEDOM: Civil Rights Pilgrimage to Selma and Montgomery, Alabama
March 4–7, 2027 — Please express interest by Monday, December 7
Following a powerful and meaningful pilgrimage last spring, we are gauging interest in a return trip to Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, March 4–7, 2027. Together, we will visit the Equal Justice Initiative's powerful Legacy Museum and National Memorial for Peace and Justice, walk across the historic Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, and explore other significant Civil Rights landmarks, including the ACLU museum, the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s parsonage. The estimated cost is $1,500 per person

(double occupancy) or $1,800 (single occupancy), including museum admission fees, ground transportation, group hotel accommodations, and estimated round-trip airfare from Boston to Montgomery. Participants will arrange their own flights. Some scholarship assistance is available. Interested in joining us this year, or have questions? Please contact Rev. Dan Smith by Monday, December 7. Dan will follow up shortly thereafter with more details and next steps for confirming participation and reservations.

FIVE WISHES: A CONVERSATION ABOUT WHAT MATTERS MOST
Sunday, November 22nd | 11:30-12:00 in Kraft Room.
While the news and culture often encourage us to focus on our differences, one thing most of us have in common is the desire to take good care of the people we love. Five Wishes is America's most widely used advance care planning document. It offers a thoughtful, accessible way to share your wishes with loved ones and approach future health challenges with greater confidence and peace of mind. Why not use the upcoming holiday season as an opportunity to make time for conversations about what really matters?
Please join Rev. Dan Smith for a brief, informal workshop after church on Sunday, November 22, from 11:30 a.m. to noon. We'll introduce the Five Wishes workbook (we've ordered 30 copies!), explore how it can help you express your wishes, and share some practical tips for having these important conversations with family and friends—perhaps during your holiday gatherings. Questions? Contact Rev. Dan Smith at communityminister@cotuitfederatedchurch.org

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE
Donations due by Saturday, Nov. 21st
There is a food list and signup sheet in Hamilton Hall for the annual Thanksgiving meal baskets provided to our neighbors in need. Please list what item and how many you intend to purchase to allow for advanced planning. Email the church office at office@cotuitfederatedchurch.org with any questions.

Cotuit Federated Church Justice Forum

"Our" Story: How the Wampanoag Village of Patuxet Became Plymouth Colony and the Thanksgiving Myth

with PAULA PETERS

Tuesday, November 17 · 6:30–8 p.m.
Cotuit Federated Church
40 School St, Cotuit, MA



The Mayflower arrived in 1620, but the critical backstory of Plymouth Colony is rarely told. In this presentation, Paula Peters will talk about the kidnapping of 20 men from Patuxet in 1614 by English explorers, the introduction of an epidemic disease that wiped out tens of thousands of Wampanoag, and why the return of one of those stolen men was so important. She will also examine how the treaty with Plymouth Colony undermined the sovereignty of the Wampanoag people and why 100 Wampanoag warriors crashed the colonists' first harvest feast.

The event is free and open to the public.

About Paula Peters

Paula Peters is a politically, socially and culturally active citizen of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. For more than a decade she worked as a journalist for the Cape Cod Times and is now co-owner of SmokeSygnals, a Native owned and operated creative production agency. She is a founding and former board member of the Native Land Conservancy and now serves as the NLC Communications and Programs Manager. She is also an independent scholar, writer of Native, and particularly Wampanoag history, exhibit designer and film producer. Paula lives with her husband and children in Mashpee, Massachusetts, the Wampanoag ancestral homeland.


Can We Talk...®
A COMMUNITY SHARING OF PAIN AND HEALING
We are holding space for you.
Sunday, November 22, 2026
5:00 – 7:00 PM
Cotuit Federated Church
Hamilton Hall, 40 School St., Cotuit
Can We Talk® is a spiritually-inspired, community-based, clinically-supported space for the sharing of painful stories in a loving community.
A space to share your story through loving words, poetry, song or silence.
All are welcome.
For more information contact Linda at rockyluke@comcast.net.