

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 27, 2025

- We thank God for more generous offerings of \$490 toward Jessica Silverman's medical mission trip this summer. This brings the total to \$2490. His grace abounds!

### THIS WEEK.

- **Mon-Tues** Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of NY and NE in Scarborough, ME.
- **Wed, Apr 30th - 7:00 pm:** Zoom Bible Study—Let's Study: 1 Corinthians
- **Thu, May 1st—9:30 am:** Ladies Bible Study
- **Thu, May 1st—1:30 pm:** Barre Bible Study
- **Sun, May 4th—6:00 pm:** Danville Bible Study, 1 Thessalonians

### UPCOMING

- **Deacons' conference May 17th, Upton Mass.** Register @ [copcv.org](http://copcv.org).
- **English for Kids — Jun 28th-Jul 5th** please pray for team preparation.
- **COPC Kids Camp is Jul 21st-25th.** Mark your calendars; registration at the church home page.

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Elders: Michael Breen, Chris Liff, Andrew Selle (Teacher), Michael Sherburne  
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## LORD'S DAY EVENING WORSHIP

April 27, 2025



### GOD GATHERS HIS PEOPLE

**Prelude** *A time to be quiet and prepare for holy worship.  
When the music begins, please take your seats.*

**Welcome**

**Salutation and Call to Worship**

### GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

**\* Opening Hymn** *Come, We That Love the Lord  
# 700 Trinity Hymnal (all verses)*

1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;  
join in a song with sweet accord, and thus surround the throne.

2 Let those refuse to sing that never knew our God;  
but children of the heav'nly King may speak their joys abroad.

3 The men of grace have found glory begun below;  
celestial fruits on earthly ground from faith and hope may grow.

4 The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets,  
before we reach the heav'nly fields or walk the golden streets.

5 Then let our songs abound, and ev'ry tear be dry;  
we're marching through Immanuel's ground to fairer worlds on high.

**\* Invocation**

**Reading of God's Law**

**Psalm of Confession**

Psalm 143  
(p 620 pew Bible)

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Congregational Prayer**

GOD SPEAKS HIS WORD TO HIS PEOPLE

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture John 21:15-19  
(p 1078 pew Bible)

Sermon The Secret of Prayer Beginning Again

Prayer of Application

\* Closing Hymn *There Were Ninety and Nine* \*\*  
# 187 *Trinity Hymnal* (verses 1,3,4,5)

1 There were ninety and nine that safely lay in the shelter of the fold,  
but one was out on the hills away, far off from the gates of gold —  
away on the mountains wild and bare, away from the tender Shepherd's care.  
(2X)

3 But none of the ransomed ever knew how deep were the waters crossed;  
nor how dark was the night that the Lord passed thro' ere he found his sheep that  
was lost. Out in the desert he heard its cry — sick and helpless, and ready to die  
(2X)

4 "Lord, whence are those blood-drops all the way  
that mark out the mountain's track?"  
"They were shed for one who had gone astray  
ere the Shepherd could bring him back."  
"Lord, whence are thy hands so rent and torn?"  
"They're pierced tonight by many a thorn." (2X)

5 But all thro' the mountains, thunder-riv'n, and up from the rocky steep,  
there arose a glad cry to the gate of heav'n, Rejoice! I have found my sheep!  
And the angels echoed around the throne, Rejoice, for the Lord brings back his  
own! 2X

\* Benediction

\*Please stand if able

\*\* by permission, Great Commission Publications

SERMON REFLECTIONS

John 21:15-19

Think back for a moment to all the wonderful events on the Sea of Galilee which led Peter to his final restoration in John 21:17-19. Earlier in our chapter, when the disciples were most exhausted, and did not expect to catch any physical fish, let alone succeed in their calling as fishers of men, Christ gave them a great, symbolic catch of fish, and then called the fish which He had caught for them, “their fish” in John 21:10!

Does not this auger well for these disciples, to realize that, in the task of man-fishing, their nets would not fail, nor the sea of mankind fail to yield a catch! Christ would know all their needs, and guide them to where the fish are! No wonder Peter surrenders to Jesus in John 21:17, confessing that Christ indeed knows all things about his life and calling!

This prayer confessing Christ knows all is so important. As Thomas Manton put it:

*Peter addresses God Himself, who knows the secrets of the heart. To speak directly of God to God, argues our sincerity, when to God’s face we avow our trust. This is also heard in Peter’s words, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you”.*

Jesus goes on in John 21:18-19 to prove how right Peter was in confessing His omniscience, for He even knows the way Peter will die. With acute and painful detail, Jesus describes this death, describing what church tradition asserts was the *manner* of His death (crucifixion): “When you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish to go” (John 21:18).

Meditate and Pray: How powerful Jesus is in His complete knowledge of us! Because He knows us through and through, He is able *not only* to tell us *the worst* news about a painful death – but also to ensure that *even in the pain of that death*, we will be able to follow Him! As Jesus says so confidently to Peter in John 21:19 – “Follow me”!

Have you ever seen a flock of sheep balk to go near a dark valley or wooded area because they sense the danger contained therein? Well, Jesus is a truly remarkable Shepherd, able to lead us, like He did Peter, to follow Him even into the valley of the shadow of death!