

**Second Congregational Church in Newcastle,  
United Church of Christ, Newcastle, Maine**

**Our Money Story Series: Remember  
World Communion Sunday  
October 3, 2021, 10:00 AM**



**INVITATION**

Welcome to Hybrid/In-Person Worship with Second Congregational Church! Whether you are joining us from our sanctuary, various spaces, or different devices, we enter this sacred time together. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. We are devoted to hospitality, generosity and care of all our neighbors and each other!

**Joining us from Facebook Live:** Please note that currently the chat/comment functions will not be monitored regularly during the live service, so we invite you to submit your prayer requests prior to Sunday mornings by email at [pastor@secondcongo.org](mailto:pastor@secondcongo.org).

**Our Money Stories: 4 Week Stewardship Series – About the Theme**

We all have a money story, whether we recognize it or not. Perhaps we are living from a story of fear or shame. Or a story that the church is dying and no longer relevant. Or a story that our actions won't have an impact. Or a story that we don't have enough. Where might God be speaking a new narrative into the limited ones we have told ourselves? This theme invites us to discover and tell our money stories in light of God's money story of liberation and justice. This series encourages us to transform our stewardship practices into more full expressions of who we are and what we believe. This theme is intentionally direct—it invites us to name exactly what we're talking about and not skirt around it. To speak of money is to invite tension into the room. We so quickly want to avoid it. But it's time we reframe this. Money and possessions are one of the most common topics in scripture, and Jesus talked about money more than faith and prayer. Our money story, therefore, is a spiritual story. Thinking about God's money story should be liberating, inviting, and transformative. This stewardship season, we invite you to remember, release, reimagine, and restore your money stories so that we can write the one God is begging us to live into.

**Communion Sunday from Home:** This Sunday is Communion Sunday. If you are joining us from home or from away, you'll want to arrange for your elements of bread and cup before the service begins. In our tradition the bread is symbolic of Christ's body, so any type of bread will do: a slice of bread, a dinner roll or even a corn muffin. In some parts of the world tortilla, rice cake, cassava or crackers are used as this element which is defined not as a wheat product but as the most common food of the people. Let it be something you alone or you with others in your house may break and share. Then prepare a cup or cups of juice -- perhaps grape or cranberry -- or wine, with or without alcohol. Ultimately you want to bring to the table the elements that bring you comfort and connect you with others. Set these elements in the living room or kitchen where

***you experience worship electronically with our faith community.*** Perhaps you would also like to light a candle, have a Bible with you, set your table with a cross, pillar candle, a plant or flower or other symbols of faith that bring you comfort. Include the photograph of someone you wish to bring into the circle of faith. Whatever it is, follow your heart.

***Thank you for your preparation.***  
*Let us now be present to the Spirit,*  
*which brings us together and loves us wherever we are!*

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## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CENTERING MOMENT

### CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: May we remember

**All: That God created.**

One: May we remember

**All: That God liberated.**

One: May we remember

**All: That God fed.**

One: May we remember

**All: That God is still creating, God is still liberating, And God is still feeding us.**

One: Let this be our story.

**All: Let this be where we begin.**

One: Let us worship holy God.

## HYMN 102

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

Rhondda (Next Page)

*Please sing aloud at home or follow along as you are able. Remember, it's our spiritual intention that matters!*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**Holy God, we admit to remembering the wrong things. We remember worldly lessons like, “everyone for themselves,” “an eye for an eye,” and “all is fair in love and war.” And yet, we forget to forgive “70 times seven,” “to love our neighbors as ourselves,” And “to live like the body of Christ.” Why is it so hard to remember the right things? Release us from our muscle memory and re-center us in Your love. Help us to receive your word anew, and to consider stewardship not with the world’s rules, but with your rules. Help us remember. With hope we pray, Amen.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Luke 22:1-23

Bill Bausch, Reader

## HYMN 102

## "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

Rhondda

*Please sing aloud at home or follow along as you are able. Remember, it's our spiritual intention that matters!*

## Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

1. Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this  
 2. O - pen now tread the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing  
 3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might - y;  
 stream doth flow; let the fire on and cloud - y pil - lar  
 fears sub - side; lead me on through death's des - truc - tion,

hold me with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
 lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,  
 land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es,

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.  
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.  
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

WORDS: William Williams  
 MUSIC: John Hughes

CWM RHONDDA  
 87.87.877

**REFLECTION:** "Our Money Stories: Remember"

Rev. Char Corbett

Aside from October being popularly known as pumpkin spice month, it's also that time of year when we also hear such quotes as:

*"The heart of autumn must have broken here and poured its treasure upon the leaves."*

*"Autumn is the mellower season, and what we lose in flowers we more than gain in fruits."*

*"Autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all the other seasons."*

We also know here at Second Church that autumn means the imminence of our stewardship season, when we pray, learn and talk about another form of treasure, fruits and gold: and that's money.

It's not quite our stewardship season yet. I'm getting a jump start on our money ponderings however, because our planned liturgy and scripture readings for then next few weeks align dynamically for such a conversation. And you know by now that I can talk about anything, anytime through the lens of our faith, including money. So why not now?

For the next few weeks in worship then, we are going to faithfully explore our money story. The story of money in our personal lives, our church life, our communal and global lives. When it comes to money and its presence, purpose and priority in our lives, it's important to recognize that we all have and live life stories that reflect our relationship with money.

We all have a money story. Perhaps we are living from a money story of fear or shame. Or a story of a time that we gave unconditionally. Or a story of scarcity or one of over-abundance. Perhaps the story that resonates with you is the money story that the church is dying or no longer relevant. Or a story that our actions with money really don't make a difference or won't have an impact. Maybe it's a story that we never have enough money or a story about our fears or joys of sharing money.

The question that we'll be wrestling with as we ponder the variety of money stories is this: where might God be speaking a new narrative into the limited ones we tell ourselves about money?

I'm hoping together we can explore, discover and share about our money stories in a way that is direct, inviting, affirming and life giving. And why not? Money and possessions are one of the most common topics in scripture and Jesus talked about money more than faith and scripture. Therefore, money is very much part of our spiritual story. So using scripture and thinking about God's money story in the midst of our own stories can be liberating, inviting and transformative, particularly as we remember, release, reimagine and restore our money narratives.

When I remember the beginnings of my money story, I remember that I haven't always been a pastor.

As I often tell people: I was supposed to be an accountant.

Of course, I should have known that wasn't the way it was going to be.

In my junior year in college, the campus chaplain, Rich Simpson - who remains a friend to this day and has since become a Canon in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts - asked me over a pizza at dinnertime:

"Char, have you ever considered going into ministry?"

My response (after choking on the slice of pizza I'd just taken a bite out of):

"Um, that would be a hard no, Rich. You know I'm supposed to be an accountant!"

I mean, what else was I supposed to be?

- In high school and college I didn't play sports, or an instrument, or participate in the theater program.
- I was on the business track, and I was an officer in every business club the schools offered: Junior Achievement, Future Business Leaders of America, Distributive Education Clubs of America and the National Accounting Honors Society.
- In my junior and senior years in HS I was pretty wild. I worried my parents because I was out late nearly every night, returning with my eyes red, hair wild and hands cramped. Why? Because I was competing regionally, state-wide and nationally – in accounting.
- My first job: a cashier at the local grocery store. Then I landed a job as a clerk in a local manufacturing company. From there I secured a student accounting position in the business office my first week of college and eventually became a Budget Analyst for the CT State University System.

Ah, accounting: I wanted to give my life to tracking money!

I had good reason: Not only because I found I was good at it, but in my lived life, it felt like there never was enough money. Or so I thought. And so I wanted more of it. Lots more. And I wanted control over where it went.

Suffice it to say then that I get it. I get this earthly life's temptation to count pennies. To weigh the cost. To minimize losses. To hedge my bets. To outsmart the market. To pocket the gains. To analyze, tinker and project to death a balanced budget for any and all kinds of reasons and institutions.

I of course still manage and account for money. I put these skills into practice here in the church and in my home life and for my volunteer work. But obviously...God wanted me to account for my life in other ways. And here I am. A pastor.

Through the remembering of my own money story, I've come to understand that I'm still an accountant in many ways. And on the journey, this is what I've had to reconcile, and perhaps you too can relate:

- That my head for numbers, my heart for others and my very loud, clear voice are needed, not in a business office but in God's service of worship, compassion, advocacy and mercy;

- that the Spirit of my life has invited if not willed me into giving my life to accounting for another kind of economy, the kind that is eternal and bountiful and where there is enough for everyone;
- that I'm called to count and exchange this other kind of living currency, God's currency, and to help others, like you, to see that this currency is more wholesome and equitable;
- That the credits and debits of my life, your life and all our living do have a price and that it can be costly to all of creation if we aren't kind, loving, generous and faithful in our giving and receiving;
- That I am responsible for reporting on the affairs of this life for all, not just the profits, losses, assets and inventory of a few;
- And that not all the investors in the church, the wider community, indeed the world are going to be happy about what I report back after my prayerful, discerning, skilled and faithful analysis.

Although I've been accused of being idealistic in my pursuit of God's economy, I'm far from naïve. I know we still need money to navigate this world, to secure what we need, what our families need. As your pastor, I need to be a good steward of the funds you pay me to minister to you and to this community. How I spend, give, save, budget and manage my time and my money matters. It reflects who I am, what I value, what counts and doesn't count. Who counts and doesn't count.

That's true for all of us.

It's true of Second Church.

And as pastor, it's part of my job to guide the church in all our accounting affairs. The spiritual ones and yes, even the monetary ones.

It might seem to some in our church leadership and among church members, friends and neighbors that it's all we do, talk about money.

- How are the pledges doing?
- Are we covering our costs? Meeting our financial obligations?
- Do we spend from our endowment or not? At what percentage?
- How will we maintain the staff, the building, the grounds, our ministries with the rising cost of everything?
- Who should pay to use our building, our sanctuary, our spaces and what shall the fees be?
- Which community partners will receive our gifts, our support, our grants? Which ones won't and why? Will we even have enough to give to the missions we've budgeted for this year?

Here's are two important questions we also have the privilege of pondering together:

- What does our faith tell us about money?
- What guides us in our planning and our giving: Facts? Fear? Faith?

As we remember our own stories of money, we begin with a story older than our own from the Gospel of Luke. The fearful religious leaders were plotting to kill Jesus. They were afraid of the people. Rather than engaging in relationship, they worked with Satan, that power and impulse of evil that had entered into Judas's heart. They manipulatively instructed him on how to betray his once beloved teacher. The religious leaders were pleased with the weakness of his monetary temptation; and in exchange for his role in crushing the source of their fear, Jesus, they gave him money. Money used in a destructive, deadly way.

So often, the world relates to this coercive and corrupt use of money. And this story, from beginning to end is no different. It's a story that begins with monetizing fear, greed and corruption. But God joins the plot of this biblical story. Events are set against the ending in which a meal is shared, where Jesus gives bread and wine and there is enough for all. Jesus' act of sharing around the table sets him apart. The rest of the disciples participate in the meal as he faithfully anticipates a new economy, one where he invites them and all of us to bring about, remember and participate in the Kingdom of God that is yet to come.

So, as we prepare to move to this table of remembrance, and to share a meal where all are welcome and there is enough for all, how will we remember our money memories? How do the money stories we are surrounded by reveal a misuse of power? Do we benefit or engage in this behavior too, even if we never meant to or don't intend to? How can the potential for our money stories as we remember them be transformed, renewed, with God's purpose?

Will we remember that Jesus has shown us how to take meals, fuel our bodies and divide what is among us so that there is enough for everyone?

"The elements and the meal are identified in different ways: the body of Christ, broken; the blood of Christ, shed; the Bread of Heaven, the cup of salvation, the mystery of faith, the supper of the Lamb. But in every tradition I know, someone, at some point, says, "Remember." Remember how God became one of us? Remember how God ate with us and drank with us, laughed with us and cried with us? Remember how God suffered for us, and died for us, and gave his life for the life of the world? Remember? Remember? (Evans, Rachel Held. *Searching for Sunday*. (Nashville, TN: Nelson Books, 2015), 128.).

Perhaps as we remember our own money stories, the story of the last supper and the story we will tell after we receive from God's table, we can answer faithfully with one final fall quote:

"Autumn is the season to find contentment at home by paying attention to what we already have." May we remember our money stories as so. Amen.

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## INVITATION TO GIVING

*We are currently not passing the plate during worship. Instead, you are invited to leave an offering before or after the worship service set on the rear tables. If you are joining us on-line, we also encourage you to consider visiting our website [www.secondcongo.org](http://www.secondcongo.org) for secure on-line giving options.*

## DEDICATION:

**Gracious God, we admit that giving is complicated. We all have our money narratives, and they affect us in different ways. Today we pray You will re-center our narratives. Remind us that we do not give out of shame or guilt of obligation or to feel worthy. We do not give to buy Your grace. Remind us: we give out of a desire to participate. We give as a sign of gratitude. We give because we belong to one another. We give to build a more just and equitable world. We give because we love. So take these gifts and remind us that all money narratives are welcome at this table. In hope, joy and generosity, we pray. Amen.**

**DOXOLOGY:**        *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God, for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.*

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## THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION ON WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

*Communion will be shared together virtually from our sanctuary and in own homes.*

## COMMUNION ANTHEM

“Bread of the World”

Richard Shephard

## INVITATION

The table is always a place where we tell stories. We tell stories of growing up and falling in love, of making mistakes and figuring it out. We tell stories that make us laugh, stories that make us cry, and stories that help us remember. This table is no different. For at this table we tell stories about a God who loves us unconditionally. We tell stories about a man who fed the hungry, washed the feet of his disciples, and said, “This is my body—for you.” So friends, as you come to this table today, bring your stories— Stories about who you are and who you want to be. Stories of shame and disappointment, stories of fear and faith. Bring your money stories, your faith stories, your love and heartbreak stories—bring them all. For no matter the narrative, God welcomes us at this table. You belong here. There is a seat saved for each of you.

## BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

God, we pause to ask Your blessing of grace be upon this Communion table, the Communion tables in all churches of Your truth and the many tables in our homes, where meals and memories are shared and where we are forever united in Spirit.

**All: Gentle Host, send your Spirit of life and love, power and blessing upon these elements and all of us, scattered but gathered in joy for the sake of You and living in hope for all. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**



## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ON WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

The story of God calls us to remember—

**that creation was made good,  
and Sabbath is necessary.**

The story of God calls us to remember—

**that we belong to one another,  
for we are bone of bone and flesh of flesh.**

The story of God calls us to remember—

**that reconciliation between siblings is holy,  
and slavery of any kind is evil.**

The story of God calls us to remember—

**that the wilderness is real,  
and that God will be with us—  
raining down manna and speaking in a still, small voice.**

The story of God calls us to remember—

**that love looks like healing the sick,  
eating with the outcast,  
making room for the children,  
and seeing the unseen.**

The story of God calls us to remember —

**The spirit of the worldwide Church,  
Its many voices, its many places,  
Its call to serve all unconditionally.**

The story of God calls us to remember—

**because if we forget,  
we risk making God, love, and reconciliation small.**

So as we remember, may we declare—

**we believe in a God who made all things good,  
who stands with the suffering,  
walks with us in the wilderness,  
sees the overlooked,  
loves with an untamed heart,  
and makes room for all at God's table.**

It is in this remembrance that we pray for... *(Pastor Char will lead the congregation in prayers offered throughout the week).*

**All: And so in practice and in faith, we join our voices together to remember, and to tell, praying together...**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from Evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### WORDS OF REMEMBERING:

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body, broken for you. As often as you eat of it, do so in remembrance of me."

In the same manner, Jesus took the cup, blessed it and gave it to the disciples, saying: “This is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you. As often as you drink of it, do so in remembrance of me.” By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ’s birth, life, ministry, death and resurrection, and we live forever in the hope that Christ will come again.

### **SHARING THE ELEMENTS:**

Let us at our many tables receive the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.

**All: We become the Body of Christ in the Bread we share.** *(Let us eat bread together, recalling our communal relationship with the Spirit and one another).*

Let us in our many places around the world receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.

**All: We are one in Christ in the Cup we share.** *(Let us all drink, recalling our individual devotion to God, our love of Christ and the Spirit of hope).*

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:**

**Holy God, as we leave this table, help us to remember this moment. Help us remember that with You, all are invited. Help us remember that with You, there is a seat for everyone. Help us remember that with You, there is enough food to go around, that even Judas was invited to the meal, and that there is manna in the wilderness. Help us remember so that as we go, we can build tables like this in the world, as it is so needed. Gratefully we pray, Amen.**

### **CLOSING HYMN 360**

**“I Love to Tell the Story”**

Hankey *(LAST PAGE)*

### **BENEDICTION** *(adapted from www.globalministries.com):*

As we remember the many stories that unite us as God’s people, may God bless your story.

May your days be long and your nights serene.

May your friendships honor you and your family love you.

May you eat at your table, and may you be gathered into to God’s embrace with a smile.

### **POSTLUDE**

Postlude on “All People Who on Earth Do Dwell”

Henry Shepherd

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### ***Today’s Worship has been prepared, sent out, offered and led by:***

- ▶ **Bill Bausch**, Communications & Technology Support; Snippets Meister
- ▶ **Rev. Char Corbett**, Pastor
- ▶ **Jim Corbett**, Videographer and Technical Support
- ▶ **Jane Wilmot**, Minister of Music, Keyboard, organ and piano
- ▶ **Scripture Reader:** Bill Bausch
- ▶ **Deacons on Duty:** Judy Jones and Lonnie Andersen
- ▶ **Greeter:** Shirley Tawney

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**Have a question about Second Church or today's service? A concern or a joy to share? A prayer request? We're here to listen and respond! Contact our Pastor, Deacons or Pastoral Relations Committee:**

- ▶ **Lonnie Andersen**, Deacon/Spirit Team Chairperson: [lonnieba@gmail.com](mailto:lonnieba@gmail.com)
- ▶ **Bill Bausch**, Pastoral Relations Committee: [wbausch@gmail.com](mailto:wbausch@gmail.com)
- ▶ **Kristin Brown**, Deacon: [kristinbrown222@gmail.com](mailto:kristinbrown222@gmail.com)
- ▶ **Rev. Char Corbett**, Pastor: [pastor@secondcongo.org](mailto:pastor@secondcongo.org)
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- ▶ **Carl Nord**, Moderator: [chnord@twc.com](mailto:chnord@twc.com)
- ▶ **Rev. Ann Roundy**, Pastoral Relations Committee: [revaroundy@gmail.com](mailto:revaroundy@gmail.com)

**Church Office Hours:** Monday – Thursday, 11:00-1:30pm

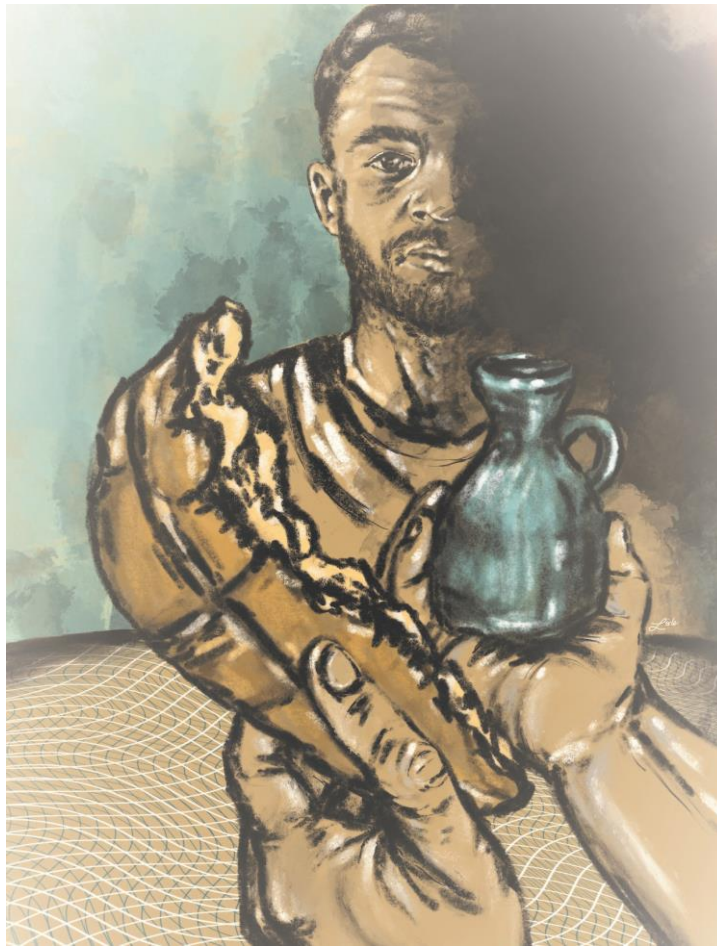
**Address:** Second Congregational Church, PO Box 243, 51 Main St., Newcastle, ME 04551

**Office visits and Appointments:** Given Covid restrictions, we kindly ask you to call ahead.

**Covid Protocols:** Currently masks are required when entering the building at any time.

**Visit our website:** <https://secondcongo.org>

**Find us on Facebook** at [www.facebook.com/secondcongo](https://www.facebook.com/secondcongo)



Artist: Rev. Sara Are | Sanctified Art LLC  
"Enough"

## CLOSING HYMN 360

## "I Love to Tell the Story"

Hankey

## I Love to Tell the Story

1. I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,  
 2. I love to tell the sto - ry, 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat  
 3. I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.  
 what seems, hun - ger - ing and I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet.  
 seem, hun - ger - ing and I thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know 'tis true;  
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.  
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.  
 'twill be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

*Refrain*  
 I love to tell the sto - ry, 'twill be my theme in glo - ry

to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

WORDS: Katherine Hankey, 1868  
 MUSIC: William G. Fischer, 1869

HANKEY  
 76.76D w. refrain