

10th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
 Worship from Home
 First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
 August 9, 2020

GATHERING & WELCOME

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1989*)

Leader: How deep the silence of my soul that lives within your grace.

People: How full the gratitude of heart in your abiding place.

Leader: What rich serenity is found, what courage and release

People: when wisdom teaches us to seek the gentle path to peace.

Leader: Like unseen chimes on moving air, like warm and morning sun,

People: Like gladdening, greening, growing things, like trees with blooms begun.

Leader: Such is your presence in our lives, you touch without a trace,

People: until we turn and find ourselves held fast in your embrace.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE "God is My Shepherd" – Anton Dvorak
 (Vocals: Sarah Schneider, Double Bass: Hunt Gressitt)

God is my Shepherd

I want for nothing.

My rest is in the pleasant meadows.

He leadeth me where quiet waters flow.

My fainting soul doth He restore

and guideth me in the ways of peace,

to glorify His name.

And though in death's dark valley my steps must wander,

my spirit shall not fear,

for Thou art by me still.

Thy rod and staff are with me,

and they shall comfort me.

INVOCATION

O God, we do not pretend to come to you with more faith than we really have. We do not come to make promises that are beyond our grasp. We do not come seeming to be more than we are. We come to offer these words, these actions, and ourselves, trusting that you hold in your hands our faith, our promises, and our lives. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Romans 10:5-15

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say?

"The word is near you,

on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Matthew 14:22-33

Immediately (Jesus) made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

MEDITATION "Take Heart" - Rev. Dr. Deborah M. Jenks

SHARING

CHORAL OFFERING “Like a Mother” (*Daniel Bechtel, 1986*)

Like a Mother Who has borne us,
held us close in her delight,
Fed us freely from her body,
God has called us into life.

Like a father who has taught us,
grasped our hand and been our guide,
Lifted us and healed our sorrows,
God has walked with us in life.

Though as children we have wandered,
placed our trust in power and might,
Left behind our brothers, sisters,
God still calls us into life.

When we offer food and comfort,
grasp neighbor's hand in love,
Tread the path of peace and justice,
God still walks with us in life.

A TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Debts)

CHORAL RESPONSE “Bless the Lord” (Taize)

Bless the Lord, my soul.
And bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me into life.

BLESSING & SENDING

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE