

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER SUNDAY
Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
April 19, 2020

GATHERING & WELCOME

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Taize, *Prayer for Each Day*)

Leader: O Christ, by your resurrection you open to all people the gates of God's kingdom.

People: O Christ, by your resurrection you reconcile us, and the whole world in your peace.

Leader: Risen Jesus, you breathe your Holy Spirit upon us.

People: And we would like to say to you: you have the words that live life to our soul; to whom else would we go?

HYMN "My Shepherd Is the Living God"

My shepherd is the living God, I therefore nothing need.
In pastures fair, near pleasant streams you settle me to feed.
You bring my wandering spirit back when I forsake your ways,
And lead me for your mercy's sake in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death, your presence is my stay;
A word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away.
Your hand in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread;
My cup with blessing overflows, your oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;
O may your house be my abode, and all my works be praise.
There would I find a settled rest, while others come and go,
No more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.

OPENING PRAYER

**As on a first day you began your work of creating us;
as on a first day you raised your Son Jesus from the dead;
so on this first day, good Lord, freshen and remake us:
and as the week is new, let our lives begin again
because of Jesus who shows us your loving power. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING Gospel According to John 20: 19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

HYMN "We Live By Faith and Not By Sight"

We live by faith and not by sight;
no gracious words we hear.
From Christ who spoke as none e'er spoke, still we know is near.

We may not touch Christ's hands and side,
nor follow where Christ trod;
But in confessing we rejoice: our Savior and our God!

Help then, O Christ, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound
To call on you when you are near and seek where you are found.

That, when our life of faith is done,

in realms of clearer light
We may behold you as you are, with full and endless sight.

MEDITATION “Out From Behind Closed Doors” - Rev. Dr. Deborah M. Jenks

SHARING

A TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing of Joys & Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
The Lord’s Prayer (Debts)

ACCLAMATION

Leader: Alleluia, Christ is risen!

People: The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!

A SONG OF BLESSING “Peace I Leave With You my Friends”