

3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER SUNDAY
Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
April 26, 2020

GATHERING & WELCOME

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Risen Christ says: Peace be with you.

People: We are filled with joy because he lives! Alleluia!

Leader; The Risen Christ says: Reach out, touch, and believe!

People: Our Lord and our God! Alleluia!

MUSICAL INTERLUDE “Graced With Garments of Great Gladness”
(Johann Franck, c. 1649)

Graced with garments of great gladness, I shall leave the depths of sadness.
Enter into glory's splendor, there with joy my praises render.
To the One whose grace unbounded has this wondrous banquet founded.
Sing my soul your story telling: Christ eternal in me dwelling.

Brightness, that my life so brightens, Light, that all my soul enlightens.
Joy, that joins my heart in knowing, Fount, that is all being flowing,
At your name I cry, “My Maker!” Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven, for our good through Jesus given.

Jesus, Bread of Life, I pray you, let me gladly here obey you.
To your table here invited be your love by love requited.
From this banquet let me measure, oh, how vast, how deep its treasure.
Through the mercies that you give me as your own in heaven receive me.

OPENING PRAYER (from Taize, Prayer for Each Day)

Risen Christ, when we have the simple desire to welcome your love, little by little a flame is kindled in the depth of our being. Fueled by the Holy Spirit, this flame of love may be quite faint at first. The amazing thing is that it keeps on burning. And when we realize that you love us, the trust of faith becomes our own song. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Gospel According to Luke 24: 13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad.

Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him."

Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

MEDITATION "Take ... Bless ... Break ... Give" - Rev. Dr. Deborah M. Jenks

SHARING

HYMN “Jesus Took the Bread” (*Ruth Duck, 1982*)

Jesus took the bread, daily gift of God,
formed of wheat and sweat and toil, sun rain and sod.
In our hands we take gifts of bread and wine,
gathered from the fields of earth, sign of love divine.

Jesus blessed the bread, thanked the God of grace,
thanked the One who made all worlds, all time and space.
Blessing, honor, praise, all to God belong.
In our human brokenness; there is God revealed.

Jesus gives the bread at our table still,
gives the cup to those who seek God’s loving will.
Let us go in peace; let us freely give,
sharing love with all the world daily as we live.

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 HYMN OF BLESSING “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”
(*Fred Kaan, 1975, alt.*)

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around; loaves
abound!

Christ is able to make us one, at his table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live, to bless, love in word and in deed express.
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around; loaves
abound!

Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share; God (Immanuel) everywhere!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around; loaves
abound!

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE