

4th SUNDAY OF EASTER
 COMMUNION SUNDAY
 Worship from Home
 First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
 MAY 3, 2020

GATHERING & WELCOME

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23, adapted)

Leader: They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

People: The LORD is our shepherd, we shall not want.

Leader: Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done...

People: He makes us lie down in green pastures; he leads us beside still waters; he restores our souls. He leads us in right paths for his name's sake.

Leader: All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

People: Even though we walk through the darkest valley, we fear no evil; for you are with us; your rod and your staff— they comfort us.

Leader: Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.

People: You prepare a table before us in the presence of our enemies; you anoint our heads with oil; our cups overflow.

Leader: And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

People: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives, and we shall dwell in the house of the LORD our whole lives long.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE God Is My Shepherd – Dvorak

Sarah Schneider	voice
Ann Boudreaux	chimes
Hunt Gressitt	string bass

INVOCATION (David Adams, *The Open Gate*)

**God, our minds seek to know you,
 Our hearts long to find you,
 Our souls desire to serve you.
 send us out from our worship, aware of your Presence,**

**That our hearts may be renewed,
 Our minds refreshed,
 Our souls restored,
 That we may reveal you to others,
 And know you ourselves,
 As Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

John 10:1-10

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

MEDITATION "To Be Devoted" - Rev. Dr. Deborah M. Jenks

SHARING

A TIME OF PRAYER

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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

HYMN OF RESPONSE I Come With Joy

I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.

I come with others far and near to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion
bread.

Together met, together bound by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy to give the world the love that makes us one, the love that makes
us one.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF COMMUNION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

A HYMN OF BLESSING We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky (Words: Ruth Duck,
1989)

We cannot own the sunlit sky, the moon, the wildflowers growing,
for we are part of all that is within life's river flowing.
With open hands receive and share the gifts of God's creation,
that all may have abundant life in every earthly nation.

Where bodies shiver in the night and, weary wait for morning,
when children have no bread but tears, and war-horns sound their warning,
God calls humanity to wake, to join in common labor,
that all may have abundant life in oneness with their neighbor.

God calls humanity to join as partners in creating
a future free from want and fear, life's goodness celebrating.
That new world beckons from afar, invites our shared endeavor,
that all may have abundant life and peace endure forever.

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE