

19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
WORSHIP FROM HOME
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
October 11, 2020

GATHERING AND WELCOME

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are each on a journey, a journey of faith.

People: and we are on a journey together.

Leader: Can we trust God on the journey?

People: Yes, we have set out in good faith.

Leader: We will risk letting go and leaving the familiar.

People: We will look for God's leading as we go.

All: We will trust God on the journey.

Leader: Let us rejoice and worship the God of peace.

INVOCATION (unison): **Eternal God, we long for truths that are lasting, yet we want our faith to be alive to the people and the problems of today. As we sail forward in an ever-changing world, may faith in Christ be our anchor, and your love be our guide; through the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

CHORAL ANTHEM "God is My Shepherd"

God is My Shepherd, Antonin Dvorák

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.

SCRIPTURE READING **Psalm 23 (RSV)**

The Divine Shepherd

A Psalm of David.

23 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want;

² he makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters;^[a]

³ he restores my soul.^[b]

He leads me in paths of righteousness^[c]

for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,^[d]

I fear no evil;

for thou art with me;

thy rod and thy staff,

they comfort me.

⁵ Thou preparest a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

thou anointest my head with oil,

my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely^[e] goodness and mercy^[f] shall follow me

all the days of my life;

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.^[g]

Philippians 4:1-9(RSV)

¹ Therefore, my brethren, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

Exhortations

² I entreat Eu-o'dia and I entreat Syn'tyche to agree in the Lord. ³ And I ask you also, true yokefellow, help these women, for they have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. ⁶ Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

SERMON "Whatever Is Gracious..."

SHARING

HYMN "Precious Lord"

Precious Lord, Thomas A. Dorsey

*Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

*When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

*When the shadows appear and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

A TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer (debts)

CHORAL RESPONSE "Shepherd Lead"

Shepherd Lead

*Shepherd lead,
Lead me in Your righteousness.
make your way plain before my face.
For it is you, God,
you, God only, who makes me to lie down in safety.*

BLESSING AND SENDING

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE