

21st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
WORSHIP FROM HOME
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
October 25, 2020

GATHERING AND WELCOME

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP (from the Iona Worship book)

Leader: Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God.
Whoever loves is a child of God and knows God.

People: Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION(unison): **Gracious God, you have promised to receive us when we come to you. We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have disobeyed your law. We have not loved you or our neighbor as we should. Forgive us, O God, and grant that we may live and serve you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether; the past is finished and gone; everything has become fresh and new. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

HYMN "Fairest Lord Jesus"

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of God to earth come down;
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.
Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the
blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 116: 1-7; 12-15
Matthew 22: 34-40

Psalm 116: 1-7; 12-15

I love the Lord, because he has heard
my voice and my supplications.
² Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
³ The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.
⁴ Then I called on the name of the Lord:
“O Lord, I pray, save my life!”
⁵ Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;
our God is merciful.
⁶ The Lord protects the simple;
when I was brought low, he saved me.
⁷ Return, O my soul, to your rest,
for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

¹² What shall I return to the Lord
for all his bounty to me?
¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord,
¹⁴ I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.
¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his faithful ones.

Matthew 22: 34-40

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

SERMON **The Jesus Creed**

SHARING

HYMN “Spirit of God”

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart; wean it from earth, through
all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as you are, and make me love you as I
ought to love.
I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies, no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
No angel visitant, no opening skies; but take the dimness of my soul away.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS*

Congregational Welcome: **We welcome you with joy as partners in the
common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers
as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the
power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God’s
knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

A TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer/Lord’s Prayer (debts)

CHORAL RESPONSE “Peace I leave with you” (Refrain

Peace I leave with you, my friends, shalom, my peace, in all you do.
Peace I leave with you my friends. I give to you so you can give to others to.

SHARING OF CHRIST’S PEACE

*It is with great joy that we welcome Randi and Peter Neblett of East Blue Hill into
our congregation as new members!