

18<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST /WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY  
WORSHIP FROM HOME  
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC  
October 4, 2020

GATHERING AND WELCOME

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Rejoice in our God always!  
People: Again, I say, rejoice!  
Leader: For God has gathered us together  
People: From all the corners of the earth  
Leader: to be present now,  
People: and to know the joyful unity  
Leader: of being one with Christ.  
People: Rejoice in our God always!  
Leader: Again, I say, rejoice.

INVOCATION(unison): **God of the faithful in every time and place, today you have called us into the church to be one body in Jesus Christ. You have bestowed upon us the gifts we need for your service. Grant that we may willingly take our part; that we may support one another; and that we may seek the greatest gift, which is love. Knead us together into one loaf with all your people throughout the world, through your Spirit of oneness. Amen.**

CHORAL ANTHEM "Come away with Me"

**Come Away With Me**

Come away with me to a quiet place,  
apart from the world with its frantic pace,  
to pray, reflect, and seek God's grace.  
Come away with me. Come away.

Come today, with thoughts of the countless ways  
That God's steadfast love blesses all our days,

And join with me in silent praise.  
Come away with me. Come away.

Come and say, in words whispered from your soul,  
The feelings and actions you can't control.  
Your spirit needs to be made whole.  
Come away with me. Come away.

SCRIPTURE READING   Philippians 1:21-30 (NRSV)

<sup>21</sup> For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup> I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup> but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup> Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup> so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. <sup>27</sup> Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup> and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup> For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— <sup>30</sup> since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

SERMON    "Striving Side by Side"

SHARING

HYMN       "Help Us Accept Each Other"

### **Help Us Accept Each Other**

Help Us accept each other  
as Christ accepted us;  
teach us as sister, brother,  
each person to embrace.  
Be present God among us,  
and bring us to believe

we are ourselves accepted  
and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O God, your lessons,  
as in our daily life,  
we struggle to be human  
and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people,  
for all, not just for some,  
to love them as we find them,  
or as they may become.

#### A TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer (depts)

#### SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation and Prayer of Communion

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison): **O God, through this bread and this cup, you have made us one with you and with each other. May the unity we find at this table be a gift that we carry out into your suffering, divided world. Help us to find strength in knowing that you, the God of peace, will always be with us. Amen.**

CHORAL RESPONSE: "Almighty Lord"

#### **Almighty Lord**

Almighty Lord and God of love,  
direct my heart and guide my ways;  
amend my sin, my mind remove  
from all that from thy glory strays,  
from all that from thy glory strays.

#### BLESSING AND SENDING

#### SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE