

20th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
WORSHIP FROM HOME
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
October 18, 2020

GATHERING AND WELCOME

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP (from the Iona Worship book)

Leader: We gather here in your presence, God,

People: in our need, and bringing with us the needs of the world.

Leader: We come to you, for you come to us in Jesus,

People: and you know by experience what human life is like.

Leader: We come with our faith and with our doubts;

People: with our hopes and our fears.

Leader: We come as we are, because you invite us to come;

ALL: and you have promised never to turn us away.

INVOCATION (unison): **We come before you, O God, and wait for the kindling flame of your Holy Spirit, calling us into fuller and richer lives. You have blessed us by the night's rest and by morning's light. Open us to your claim on us. Show us your way. Let us live in the spirit of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

CHORAL MUSIC "Grace Alone"

Every promise we can make, every prayer and step of faith,

Every difference we will make is only by his grace.

Every mountain we will climb, every ray of hope we shine, Every blessing left behind, is only by his grace.

Refrain

Grace Alone, which God supplies, strength unknown he will provide.

Christ in us our Cornerstone, we will go forth in grace alone.

Every soul we long to reach, every heart we hope to teach,

Everywhere we share his peace is only by his grace.

Every loving word we say, every tear we wipe away,

Every sorrow turned to praise, is only by his grace.

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

²Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

²⁰This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

²³This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.

²⁷The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

²⁹O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Exodus 14:19-31

¹⁹The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵He clogged^[a] their chariot wheels so that they

turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

SERMON "Going Forward Faithfully"

SHARING

HYMN "In the Midst of New Dimensions"

*In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?*

Refrain:

*God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, Now and
ever more.*

*As we stand a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes, Grant that
we, your global village, might envision wider dreams.
Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again.*

A TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer (debts)

CHORAL RESPONSE “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 dwell in safety.*

BLESSING AND SENDING

SHARING OF CHRIST’S PEACE