

Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
Sunday, May 16, 2021
Ascension Sunday

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

One: Shout for joy, sing songs of praise,

Many: for God reigns over all the earth!

One: God has gone up with a shout!

All: Sound the trumpets and sing songs of praise! Amen.

***Hymn** *“Call to Prayer”*
 - Sarah Schneider & Hunt Gressitt, vocals; Hunt Gressitt, guitar;
 Anna Emery, flute

Floating and flaming and filling new life.
Hov’ring and healing and helping with sighs.
Spirit at work since the dawning of time.
Meet us right here, touch us right now.
Meet us right here, touch us right now.

Searching and saving and soothing indeed.
Teaching and turning and taking the lead;
Fathering, Mothering, birthing new ways;
Meet us right here, touch us right now.
Meet us right here, touch us right now.

Calling and caring and changing each heart.
Loving and lifting us to a new start;
Jesus our Savior, our teacher, our Lord;
Meet us right here, touch us right now.
Meet us right here, touch us right now.

Unison Prayer Of Invocation

Come, Holy Spirit, and in this time of worship, open our minds to see the power of Scripture to give life; enlighten our hearts that we might see Christ in all whom we meet. Led by the power of your Holy Spirit, may we witness always to the hope to which we are called as we share Christ's love to the ends of the earth. We pray in the name of Jesus—the one, holy, and living God, to whom we give all glory. Amen.

Children's Message

A Reading from The New Testament

Acts 1:1-11

- read by BJ Harris

¹ In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

A Reading from The Gospels

Luke 24:44-53

- read by BJ Harris

⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

Sermon

"Defying Gravity"

- Pastor Lisa

***Hymn**

"If We Are the Body" - by Casting Crowns

It's crowded in worship today
As she slips in
Trying to fade into the faces
The girl's teasing laughter
Is carrying farther than they know
Farther than they know

Chorus: But if we are the body
Why aren't his arms reaching?
Why aren't his hands healing?
Why aren't his words teaching?
And if we are the body
Why aren't his feet going?
Why is his love not showing them
There is a way, there is a way

A traveler is far away from home
He sheds his coat
And quietly sinks into the back row
The weight of their judgmental glances
Tells him that his chances are better out on the road

Chorus:

Jesus paid much too high a price
For us to pick and choose who should come
And we are the body of Christ

Chorus:

Prayers of the People (*sharing of joys and concerns*)

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*debts and debtors*)

Invitation to Give

Offertory

***Prayer of Dedication**

Lord, the money we offer is not payment for services rendered. These aren't our dues necessary for us to belong to this church. We know you made us with a purpose, and so now we give ... on purpose, freely offering to you the best of who we are. Continue to work out your purpose in us. Make us your hands, outstretched, on purpose. Amen.

***Hymn** *"Now With Hands to God Uplifted"*

Now with hands to God uplifted,
Bowed in silence here before Him,
Truly may our hearts adore Him.

Refrain

While we seek Him, And in spirit worship Him.

Be His grace on us bestowed,
Peace which passeth understanding,
very thought towards Him commanding.

***Benediction**