

Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
Sunday, May 9 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude *opening of "O Cle" by Conrad Paumann* *-Hunt Gressitt, organ*

Call to Worship (from Psalm 98:1-8)

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: Sing to the Lord a new song!

Many: God has done marvelous things!

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

Many: Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

One: Let the sea roar and all that fills it.

All: Let the world and its people sing together for joy!

*Hymn *"Where Charity and Love Prevail"*
 -Tom Bjorkman, BJ Harris, Dale Quinby

Where Charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear true charity we learn;
Let us with heart and mind and strength now love Christ in return.

Forgive we now each other's faults as we our faults confess;
And let us love each other well in Christian holiness.

Let strife among us be unknown, let all contention cease;
Be Christ the glory that we see, be ours Christ's holy peace.

Unison Prayer Of Invocation (From *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*)

Lord, as we listen to your word in this time of worship, open our hearts to the power of your Spirit, call us out of darkness, and lead us into your marvelous light. Help us to keep our eyes upon Jesus, so that we may see your path more clearly, know your truth more fully, and receive your life more abundantly; through Christ who dwells with you and the Holy Spirit in eternal glory. Amen.

Children's Message

A Reading from The New Testament **1 John 4:7-21**

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

A Reading from The Gospels **John 15:1-8**

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in

you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Sermon *"God is Love"* -Pastor Lisa

*Hymn *"Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us"*
-Gayle Durnbaugh, glockenspiel; Hunt Gressitt, harpsichord;
Sarah Schneider, tenor recorder

Like a mother who has worn us, held us close in her delight,
Fed us freely from her body, God has called us into life.

Like a father who has taught us, grasped our hand and been our guide,
Lifted us and healed our sorrows, God has walked with us in life.

Though as children we have wandered, placed our trust in power and might,
Left behind our brothers, sister, God still calls us into life.

When we offer food and comfort, grasp our neighbors hand in love,
Tread the path of peace and justice, God still walks with us in life.

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

Pastoral Prayer

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

Invitation to Give

Offertory *"Because You Live, O Christ"*

*Prayer of Dedication

Dear God, from you comes every gift we need, every blessing we have. May we not hoard them for ourselves, but offer them back to you, that the poor might be fed, the lonely befriended, and the despairing be filled with hope. This we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

*Hymn *"O God the Creator"* -Hunt Gressitt and Lisa Durkee

O God, the Creator, the Three-in-One, the Creator of earth and moon and sun,
You have loved and protected us since time first begun,

Refrain

And we're brothers and sisters in God's love, in God's love,
and we're brothers and sisters in God's love.

For the earth is our mother where all things grow, and her valleys are green
where the waters flow, Gentle deer and the eagle and the mighty buffalo,

We are one in the Spirit, in the great mystery, joined together in beauty
As we dwell in harmony, Bringing all of God's children into one community,

God, we ask you for leaders with your wisdom blessed, and we pray you will join
us in our vision quest. God, we welcome you into our hearts as our guest.

*Benediction