

Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
Sunday, August 1, 2021
Communion 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: You call your people to prayer and praise in many ways.

This day, bring us together just as you called the people of Israel to gather manna in the desert to eat and sustain life.

Many: God of unity, give us this day our daily bread.

One: Offer us the nutrients we need to remain connected to you. As spiritual beings, we desire to receive food that endures—faith, hope, and love.

Many: God of grace, give us this day our daily bread.

One: All life is created and nourished by you! May we grow into new circles of understanding and being, reflecting the ways in which we have been touched by your holy manna.

All: Holy Spirit, come! Give us this day our daily bread.

*Hymn *"Come, Share the Lord"*

We gather here in Jesus' name, His love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
For through his loving Son the Father makes us one:
come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come share the Lord.

No one is a stranger here, everyone belongs, finding our forgiveness here,
We in turn forgive all wrongs.

He joins us here, he breaks the bread, the Lord who pours the cup is
risen from the dead;
The one we love the most is now our gracious host:
Come, take the bread, come drink the wine, come, share the Lord.

We are now a family of which the Lord is head;
Though unseen he meets us here in the breaking of the bread.

We'll gather soon where angels sing; we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King;
Now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:
Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come share the Lord.

Unison Prayer Of Invocation

Life Sustainer, we receive the things you desire to offer us today and each new day! Grant us wisdom and openness to your Word and use its teachings to energize our bodies and spirits. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Reception of New Members (*See insert*)

A Reading from The New Testament

Ephesians 4:1-16 (NIV)

- Rick Seeger

⁴ As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

⁷ But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸ This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high,
he took many captives
and gave gifts to his people.”

⁹ (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to

become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

A Reading from The Gospels

John 6:24-35 (NIV)

²⁴ Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus. ²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?” ²⁶ Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. ²⁷ Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.” ²⁸ Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?” ²⁹ Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

³⁰ So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” ³² Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴ “Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”

³⁵ Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Sermon

“Immaturity”

- *Pastor Lisa*

*Hymn

“One Bread, One Body”

Refrain:

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
One cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth,
We are one body in this one Lord.

Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
Woman or man, no more.

Many the gifts, many the works,
One in the Lord of all.

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

O God, we share these gifts in the spirit of those who shared their loaves and fishes: we ask that you take these gifts and use them to feed all of creation—to produce seed and grain, filling humans and animals alike, and to restore wholeness in the places where malnourishment exists. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

CONSECRATION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We are grateful for the gracious invitation to your table. No other meal sates our hunger, quenches our thirst and fills our hearts the way your banquet does. Fill us with your Spirit and empower us to share the good news of the gospel through our words and actions so those who don't know you will learn that you are the bread of life and the living water. We look forward to the day your kingdom is fulfilled so no one suffers from hunger or thirst. Amen.

*Hymn *"Sent out in Jesus' Name"*

Sent out in Jesus' name, our hands are ready now
To make the part the place in which the kingdom comes.

The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain
Into a world of love, of justice and of peace.
The task is ours to do, to set it really free.
O help us to obey and carry out your will.

*Benediction

Postlude

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

- *the Chimes Choir*

The Bread of Life: Service Prayers for the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost was written by the Rev. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, Minister and Team Leader for Center for Analytics, Research, and Data, LCM.