

Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
Sunday, April 25, 2021

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: Come, walk with the Lord this day.

Many: We seek places of peace and rest from the stresses of our lives.

One: The Shepherd will lead you to places where your soul may be restored.

Many: We come, sometimes fearful of the hostilities of the world.

One: In the midst of all the turmoil, The Shepherd will provide for your needs abundantly.

All: Surely these wonders will heal and restore our spirits. AMEN.

*Hymn

“Come Celebrate with Thanksgiving”
(Hoy celebramos con gozo al Dios)

Come, celebrate with thanksgiving, come and worship God almighty,
Who is creator of all things, and the giver of good gifts;
Who came to be one among us, even dying on a cross.
Evil has been overcome, and now death has been destroyed.

Refrain

Celebrate that Christ is living and then wait for God’s great gift:
The divine and holy Spirit now may come into our hearts.

Come, celebrate feasting that the God of liberation
Brings to new life, new wholeness, and forgives in joy and love.
With voices and happy drumming let us sing the triumph song.
God is alive and among us, now our dancing hearts rejoice!

Come, celebrate all together in this feast of heavenly love.

We come at God's invitation on this happy, holy day.
Joyfully, let us now gather, celebrating unity,
Joining our hands in thanksgiving as the family of God.

Unison Prayer of Invocation

Thank you, loving God, for bringing us to this time of worship. Refresh us and heal us again. Remind us of the many ways in which you have blessed our lives with your abundant love and your presence. Guide our hearts and our spirits that we may hear your words, and our souls may be stirred into active service to your people. In the name of the Good Shepherd, who leads us to life, we pray. AMEN.

A Reading from The New Testament

1 John 3:16-24

New International Version (NIV)

¹⁶This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

¹⁹This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence:²⁰ If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²²and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

A Reading from the Gospels

John 10:11-18

New International Version (NIV)

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father —and I lay down

Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water, pure,
Enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure.

Let righteousness roll on as others' cares we see,
An overflowing stream of faith translated into deed.

So may God's plumb line, straight, define our measure try,
And justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life through.

*Benediction