

Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
Sunday, August 22, 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude *“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”*
 -Ann Boudreaux and Pastor Lisa

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: How wonderful it is to be in a dwelling place for God!

Many: The refreshing springs of God’s love clean and restore us.

One: There is a place here for everyone. No one is turned away.

Many: The least and the lost; the homeless and hopeless are always welcome in God’s house.

One: Praise to God who invites and shelters us all.

Many: Praise to God who heals and sends us forth to serve. AMEN.

Hymn *“Christ Be Beside Me”*
 by James Quinn, adapt. from St. Patrick's Breastplate, 8th cent.
 -John Merrifield and Pastor Lisa

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,
Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,
Christ all around me, shield in the strife.
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,
Christ in my rising, light of my life.

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me,
Christ be on all tongues telling of me.
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me,
In ears that hear me Christ ever be.

Unison Prayer of Invocation

In the beauty of this place, we have come to pray, to worship, to receive healing and hope. We come from the struggles and triumphs of the week, needing to feel the soothing presence of God. Lord, be with us this day. Calm and soothe our souls. Cause us to rejoice that you have provided a special place where we may gather to talk of your presence and love; to sing your praises; and to be empowered to go forth to serve you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Children's Message

Scripture Lessons **Ephesians 6:10-21**

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

²¹ Tychicus, the dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything, so that you also may know how I am and what I am doing.

Sermon *"Extinguishing Flaming Arrows"*

- Pastor Lisa

Hymn *"You are the Way"*

You are the way; through you alone can we the true God find;
In you, O Christ, is now revealed God's heart and will and mind.

You are the truth; your word alone true wisdom can impart;
You only can inform the mind and purify the heart.

You are the life; the open tomb proclaims God's love anew;
And God will ne'er forsake the one who trusts O Christ in you.

You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys eternal flow.

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

Pastoral Prayer

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

Invitation to Give

Offertory - *Anne & Lin Parker*

Prayer of Dedication

**Loving God, we dedicate ourselves to serve you, for you alone are our God.
Receive these gifts we offer, and with these gifts accept the offering of our
lives; in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Hymn "*Be Doers of the Word*"

Be doers of the word of God,
Not simply those who hear.
Be ones who look into God's word,
Obey, and persevere.
Be quick to listen, slow to speak,
And slow to anger, too.
Put wrath aside; instead, be meek
And let God work in you.

Religion that is undefiled,
Religion that is pure
Will reach to help the orphaned child
And welcome all the poor.
If people come here poorly dressed,
To judge them is a sin.
The rich aren't better than the rest;
God welcomes poor ones in.

O Christ, you save us by God's grace
From having to obey.
Then freed to love, we can embrace
A life that seeks your way.
May we be doers of the word;
May faith shine through our deeds;
And as we seek to trust in God,
May ethics follow creeds.

Benediction

Postlude - *Anne & Lin Parker*

Except where otherwise noted, our prayers this morning are from Nancy Townley, as published in the online resource Worship Ways.