

Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
Sunday, August 29, 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship *(from Nancy Townley)*

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: Every generous act of giving is a tribute to God's love for us.

Many: Lord, let us be people of generous and abundant gifts for others.

One: Be ready to listen and slow to react in anger.

Many: Lord, prepare us to be peaceful people.

One: Keep your hearts and spirits ready to serve the Lord.

All: Lord, open our hearts to hear and respond to your words of life in ministries of hope and peace. AMEN.

Hymn *"I Bind unto Myself This Day"*

I bind unto myself today
the strong name of the Trinity
by invocation of the same,
the Three in One and One in Three.

I bind this day to me forever,
by power of faith, Christ's incarnation,
his baptism in the Jordan river,
his death on cross for my salvation,
his bursting from the spiced tomb,
his riding up the heavenly way,
his coming at the day of doom,
I bind unto myself today.

I bind unto myself today
the virtues of the starlit heaven,
the glorious sun's life-giving ray,
the whiteness of the moon at even,
the flashing of the lightning free,
the whirling wind's tempestuous shocks,

the stable earth, the deep salt sea
around the old eternal rocks.

I bind unto myself today
the power of God to hold and lead,
God's eye to watch, God's might to stay,
God's ear to hearken to my need,
the wisdom of my God to teach,
God's hand to guide, God's shield to ward,
the word of God to give me speech,
God's heavenly host to be my guard.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself the name,
the strong name of the Trinity
by invocation of the same,
the Three in One and One in Three,
of whom all nature has creation,
eternal Father, Spirit, Word.
Praise to the Lord of my salvation;
salvation is of Christ the Lord!

Unison Prayer of Invocation

Holy One, in Christ you have shown us the way into your Beloved Community of mercy, love and peace, in which you are making all things new. We gather this morning to affirm our covenant and sacred promise to be in loving relationship with you. Thank you for giving us life. Open us, body, mind and spirit to your truth. Fill us with your grace so we can offer your world--and experience--forgiveness, reconciliation and hope. Amen.

Children's Message

James 1:17-27

¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. ²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

²⁶ Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

⁷ The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus ² and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. ³ (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. ⁴ When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles. ^[a])

⁵ So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?” ⁶ He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied

about you hypocrites; as it is written: ““These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁷They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.’^[b] ⁸You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

¹⁴ Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. ¹⁵ Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.”

²¹ For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²² adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³ All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”

Sermon

“All We Say and Do”

- *Pastor Lisa*

Hymn

“Choose This Day”

"Choose this day the one you'll follow! Choose the one to guide your way!"

So a leader told his people as he spoke to them one day.

"Some see other gods and follow;

They put trust in what is hollow.

You must choose whom you'll obey!"

"As for me and those in my house, we'll serve God, and God alone!"

Lord, these words of challenge meet us in our families and our homes.

For the values all around us

Often trouble and confound us.

Can we live as you have shown?

In a world that finds its pleasure in the things that money buys,

We are called to different treasure as we hear your people's cries.

May our families find in serving

Those the world calls undeserving

Bread that truly satisfies.

In a world where recreation tempts our families from the pews,

May we ponder what the faith means as we help our families choose.

Are also on the faces
Of people going by
I see friends shaking hands, saying, "How do you do?"
They're really saying, "I love you"

I hear babies cry, I watch them grow
They'll learn much more
Than I'll ever know
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world
Yes, I think to myself
What a wonderful world

Benediction

Postlude

Most of our morning prayers come from the UCC Worship Ways.