

Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
Sunday, April 18, 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship (From Joan Stott)

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: We come, listening God. Hear our prayers today!
Please listen to our urgent needs, and answer us.

Many: We gather together, O God, to worship and praise you especially for the security you give to us all.

One: O God, we pray that you will heal us of our distresses, and all that upsets us when we come to worship you.

Many: Loving God, may your people be made conscious of God's warmth and the welcome of your presence.

One: Joy-giving God, your joy is more fulfilling than any of life's abundances that we have ever experienced.

All: Gracious God, you are our security and our peace, and we rest quietly in your abiding presence. Amen.

*Hymn *"You Are Mine"*

I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all you fear;
You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice, be still and know I am here.

Refrain

Do not be afraid, I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me, I will bring you home;
I love you and you are mine.

I am hope for all who are hopeless, I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night, I will be your light, come and rest in me.

I am strength for all the despairing, healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and all will know my name.

I am the Word that leads all to freedom, I am the peace the world cannot give.
I will call your name, embracing all your pain, stand up, now walk and live!

Unison Prayer of Invocation (From David Beswick)

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of the bread: open the eyes of our faith that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A Reading from The Gospels Luke 24:13-36

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

¹⁹ "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken!²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he

disappeared from their sight.³² They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” ³⁵Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Sermon *“So Many Roads and Just One Christ”* - Pastor Lisa

*Hymn *“Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day”*

Joy dawned again on Easter Day,
The sun shone out with bright array;
For when the Apostles hid in fear,
The Risen Christ to them appeared.

O Jesus, Savior, Gentle One,
Come take our hearts to be your own,
That we may give you all our days
The willing tribute of our praise.

O Sovereign One, with us abide
In this our joyful Eastertide;
From every weapon death can wield,
Your own redeemed forever shield.

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

Pastoral Prayer

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

Invitation to Give

*Unison Prayer of Dedication

God of all creation, you have put a gladness in our hearts that goes far beyond any craving for food, drink, or the comforts that the world would offer us. Help us to see beyond the many desires for things that can't begin to bring us the contentment that being generous disciples will pour into our lives. As we present these gifts to you, may our offerings of service, of prayers, of witness, and of wealth be pleasing to you and fill our lives with the joy that is like no other. We pray in the name of the Risen Christ. Amen. (Psalm 4)

*Hymn

"Peace I Leave With You, My Friends"

Refrain

Peace I leave with you, my friends,

Shalom, my peace, in all you do.

Peace I leave with you friends.

I give to you so you can give to others, too.

To share God's love is why I came,

To show God's kindness without end.

Go now, my friends, and do the same.

Until I come again.

Take my hand and be at peace;

The spirit of our love I send.

And with this love you will be free,

Until I come again.

With this love now all will know

That loneliness is at an end.

Rejoice, my friends, although I go,

For I will come again.

*Benediction