

Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
Sunday, February 7, 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship (From Isaiah 40:21-31)

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 your spirit.

One: The Lord is the everlasting God.

Many: Our God is the Creator of the ends of the earth.

One: He gives power to the faint.

Many: He strengthens those who are weak.

One: Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted.

Many: But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.

One: They shall mount up with wings like eagles,

Many: They shall run and not be weary

One: They shall walk and not faint.

All: Blessed be the name of God, day by day.

*Hymn

"Come Away With Me"

Come away with me to a quiet place,
apart from the world with its frantic pace,
to pray, reflect, and seek God's grace.
Come away with me, Come away.

Come today with thoughts of the countless ways
that God's steadfast love blesses all our days,
and join with me in silent praise.
Come away with me, Come away.

Come and say, in words whispered from your soul,
the feelings and actions you can't control.
Your spirit needs to be made whole.
Come away with me, come away.

Unison Prayer Of Invocation And Repentance

Lord God, through Jesus you opened the eyes of the blind; you healed the sick and you fed the hungry. By the Spirit you restore strength to the weary and give hope to those who are in despair. You call us, Lord, to proclaim your deeds and your wonders to all people; to worship and serve you that all may be made whole. You offer us a new life of righteousness. We give you thanks and praise for your mercy and your love. Make us worthy, O Lord, to receive all your gifts. Descend on us like the light of a new day. Give light to our souls and put your praise upon our lips. You, Lord, have called us here and you ask us to be ready to go on a journey with you. But our hearts are fearful and our spirits drag. We want to think we could do the work that you have placed before us, but we lack the enthusiasm and true belief in your guiding presence. So we just sit back and let the winter days roll by. Stir us up, Lord. Shake us up, Lord. Get us ready to joyfully serve you. Help us believe in your powerful presence and your guiding love. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 40:21-31

40:21 Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? 22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; 23 who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. 24 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. 25 To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. 26 Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. 27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? 28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. 29 He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. 30 Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; 31 but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

1:29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. 30 Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once.

31 He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. 32 That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons.

33 And the whole city was gathered around the door. 34 And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. 35 In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. 36 And Simon and his companions hunted for him. 37 When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." 38 He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." 39 And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Sermon

"Have You Heard"

- Pastor Lisa

*Hymn

"Cares Chorus"

I cast all my cares upon you.
I lay all of my burdens down at your feet;
and any time that I don't know what to do,
I cast all my cares upon You.

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

Almighty and Gracious God, we have come this day not simply longing to hear about Jesus, but to find Jesus the Messiah, our Savior. May the gifts we give this day be used to offer

healing to those who are broken in body and in spirit, and through them may others find the Christ in us.. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

CONSECRATION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Thanks be to you, O God, for your presence and your purpose, for your loving kindness and your steadfast Spirit. May the blessings of this table strengthen our faith, increase our generosity and unify our hearts, for we pray in the name of Jesus, the Risen One. Amen.

*Hymn *"Precious Lord"*

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand.
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone.
Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When the shadows appear and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone.
At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

*Benediction