

Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
Sunday, January 10, 2021

Welcome & Announcements

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 your spirit.

One: Today the Spirit makes us one,

Many: United for life by the water and the Word.

One: Reborn in one Spirit,

Many: Reborn in one hope,

One: Drenched in grace, bathed in love.

Many: One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

One: One God and Creator of us all,

All: One who is above all, and through all, and in all. Amen.

*Hymn *"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"*

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,
To take away transgression, And rule in equity.

He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy, And bid the weak be strong'
To give them songs for sighing, Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls condemned and dying, Were precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
And love, joy, hope, like flowers, Spring in his path to birth;
Before him on the mountains Shall piece the herald go;
And righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

O'er every foe victorious, He on his throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious, all blessing and all-blest;
The tide of time shall never His covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever: That name to us is Love

Unison Prayer of Invocation *(from Phyllis Cole and Everett Tilson)*

O God, you create all things. You bear all things, you hope all things, and you endure all things. Each of your creatures, all of your children are members of your body. All partake of your promise. Open your heaven and descend like a dove upon the world; make plain your hidden plan, your mysterious purpose for our lives. Standing in the waters of our baptism, we await your presence. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures *Genesis 1:1-5*

1 In the beginning when God created[Ⓜ] the heavens and the earth, **2** the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God[Ⓜ] swept over the face of the waters. **3** Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. **4** And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

A Reading from The New Testament *Acts 19:1-17*

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. **2** He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." **3** Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." **4** Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." **5** On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **6** When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—
7 altogether there were about twelve of them.

8 He entered the synagogue and for three months spoke out boldly, and argued persuasively about the kingdom of God. **9** When some stubbornly refused to believe and spoke evil of the Way before the congregation, he left them, taking the disciples with him, and argued daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.[Ⓜ] **10** This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia, both Jews and Greeks, heard the word of the Lord.

11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, **12** so that when the handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were brought to the sick, their diseases left them, and the evil spirits came out of them. **13** Then some itinerant Jewish exorcists tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." **14** Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. **15** But the evil spirit said to them in reply, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" **16** Then the man with the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered them all, and so overpowered them that they fled out of the house naked and wounded. **17** When this became known to all residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks, everyone was awestruck; and the name of the Lord Jesus was praised.

A Reading from The Gospels *Mark 4:1-11*

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Sermon *"Spoken into Goodness"* - *Pastor Lisa*

*Hymn *"She Comes Sailing on the Wind"*

Refrain

She comes sailing on the wind, her wings flashing in the sun;
On a journey just begun, she flies on.
And in the passage of her flight, her song rings our through the night, full of
laughter, full of light, she flies on.

Verses

Silent waters rocking on the morning of our birth,
Like an empty cradle waiting to be filled.
And from the heart of God the Spirit moved upon the east,
Like a mother breathing life into her child.

Many were the dreamers whose eyes were given sight
When the Spirit filled their dreams with life and form.
Deserts turned to gardens, broken hearts found new delight,
And then down the ages still she flew on.

Long after the deep darkness that fell upon the world,
After dawn returned in flame of rising sun,
The Spirit touched the earth again, again her wings unfurled,
bringing life in wind and fire as she flew on.

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

Pastoral Prayer

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

Invitation to Give

Offertory *"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"*

*Unison Prayer of Dedication

We give our gifts in love and thanksgiving for all that we have been given. Let our giving, gracious God be not the end point but rather the beginning. Let our gifts of love and gratitude travel where we do not, making pathways of hope where there is none. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn *"The Fragrance of Christ"*

Refrain

Lord may our prayer rise like incense in your sight,
May this place be filled with the fragrance of Christ.

Verses

I will thank you, Lord, with all of my heart,
You have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the Lord I will bless you,
I will adore before your holy temple.

I will thank you, Lord, for your faithfulness and love,
Beyond all my hopes and dreams,
On the day that I called you answered;
You give life to the strength of my soul.

All who live on earth shall give you thanks when they hear
The words of your voice.
And all shall sing of your ways.
How great is the glory of God!

*Benediction