

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

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship (from The United Methodist Church)

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: It's coming; the Kingdom of God is coming!

Let your Reign, O God, be acknowledged among all people.

Many: We stand on the threshold of truth.

We are perched on the branches of justice.

One: Across the horizon we see the outline of peace and harmony.

Many: With privilege comes responsibility,

With responsibility comes accountability,

With accountability comes honesty,

With honesty comes faithfulness.

All: God of Creation and history, equip us to live faithfully in your Kingdom! Amen.

*Hymn *"O God of Earth and Altar"*

O God of Earth and Altar, Bow down and hear our cry;
Our earthly rulers falter, our people drift and die
The walls of gold entomb us, the swords of scorn divide;
Take not your thunder from us, but take away our pride.

Awaken us to action and forge us into one.
Defying sect and action; O God your will be done!
Oppressive systems snare us; our apathies increase.
Great God in mercy spare us for justice and for peace!

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gracious God, we come before you this morning with great expectation. We expect you to be here, and we expect you to leave here with us. We thank you for your grace and the promise of your reassuring presence now and always. When our expectations of ourselves and of others are not met, please help us to keep trusting in the possibility of renewal and regeneration. As we gather together on this Communion Sunday, please guide us to know what are *your* expectations of us, and give us the strength and wisdom to meet them.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light, and walk in your ways. Amen.

Words of Assurance

A Reading from The Hebrew Bible **Exodus 20:1-20**

¹ And God spoke all these words: ² “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ³ “You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

⁸ “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ “You shall not murder.

¹⁴ “You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ “You shall not steal.

¹⁶ “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷ “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

¹⁸ When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance ¹⁹ and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.”

²⁰ Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.”

A Reading from The New Testament **John 2:13-25**

¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at

tables exchanging money.¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!”¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”

²⁰ They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?”²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body.²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

²³ Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name.²⁴ But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people.²⁵ He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.

Sermon *“Turning the Tables”* - Pastor Lisa

*Anthem *“Hannah’s Song”* - Stu Davis

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

Pastoral Prayer

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

Invitation to Give

*Prayer of Dedication *(Based on Romans 6:1b-11)*

Living God, in celebration of being alive in your spirit, we commit this ordinary money to your care. Strengthen us to be caretakers of your created world and to practice daily, caring acts that reflect your extraordinary love. In the name of the One who sacrificed for our eternal life, we humbly pray. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

CONSECRATION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O God, through this bread and this cup, you have made us one with you and with each other. May the unity we find at this table be a gift that we carry out into your suffering, divided world. Help us to find strength in knowing that you, the God of peace, will always be with us. Amen.

*Hymn

"Lead Me, Guide Me"

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, along the way,
For if you lead me I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me O Lord, lead me.

I am weak and I need thy strength and power
To help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness thy face to see,
Lead me O Lord, lead me.

I am lost if you take your hadn't from me,
I am blind without thy Light to see,
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.
Lead me O Lord, lead me.

*Benediction