

Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
Communion Sunday
Sunday, May 2, 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

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 you.

One: The Spirit is coming to bless us all with a new song:

Many: Let our joy be complete!

One: Gifts for the good of all, poured out on all to teach us a new song:

Many: Love one another!

One: Strangers and neighbors, foreigners and family will join in the new song:

Many: No longer servants but friends!

One: Come, let our worship make a joyful noise,

Many: Rejoicing in the friendship of God.

*Hymn

“Love Will Guide Us”

Love will guide us, peace has tried us, hope inside us will lead the way
On the road from greed to giving, love will guide us through the dark night.

If you cannot sing like angels, if you cannot speak before thousands,
You can give from deep within you. You can change the world with your love.

You are like no other being. What you can give no other can give
To the future of our precious children, To the future of the world where we live.

Hear the song of peace within you, Hear the song of peace in your heart.
Spring's new beginning shall lead to the harvest. Love will guide us to make a new start.

See the light of hope within you; Let it glow in your work and your play.
Your inner song sings all around you: Let it guide you on your way.

Share the song and share the silence; Share the shade and share the light
With every friend, foe, neighbor, stranger on our journey through this life.

Unison Prayer Of Invocation And Repentance

O beloved God, all the ends of the earth marvel at your deeds of power; we feel your presence as growth returning to the countryside; we rejoice as we remember your faithfulness and steadfast love revealed in the risen Christ. Surround us with that faithfulness and steadfast love. Fill us with generosity and courage so that we may be called your friends and go forth to befriend your world. Loving God, we do not always keep your commandments; we fail to love you; our conscience is not clear. Wash us in living water that we may live again through the grace and mercy of Jesus, our resurrected Savior. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Pastor Lisa: Do you feel it – there, deep down in your hearts? God’s love is alive, beating, breathing – in you!

All: **Because God abides in us, we can live for others, allowing God’s love to bear fruit in us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

Children’s Message

A Reading from The New Testament **1 John 5:1-9**

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. ²This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. ³In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. ⁹We accept human testimony, but God’s testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son.

A Reading from The Gospels **John 15:9-17**

⁹“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a

servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.

Sermon

"As I Have Loved You"

- Pastor Lisa

*Hymn

"Wondrous Love" arr. by Paul Christiansen

What wondrous Love is this, O my soul,
That caused the Lord of life To bear the heavy cross

What wondrous love is this, O my soul,
That Christ should lay aside His crown for my soul.

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

Pastoral Prayer

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

Invitation to Give

*Prayer of Dedication

Beloved Jesus, you surprise us by naming us your friends. You open a way of unexpected justice, mutuality and joy among us. Take these gifts and bless them, and let them serve your people at home and throughout the world, all of us, your cherished friends. We pray in Your holy name. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

CONSECRATION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (from UCC Worship Ways)

Remain with us, O God. Make this feast the nourishment we need to grow more wild and wonderful. Graft us onto the vine of your Beloved so that we might grow more connected

with you and all of creation. With this food and this drink, let us be the love that we have found in you and your Son, in whose Body we share, and for whom we are so grateful. We pray in His name. Amen.

*Hymn

"May Day Carol" -traditional English

- June Potter Durkee

The moon shines bright, the stars give a light
A little before tis day
Our Heavenly Father, he called to us
And bid us awake and pray.

Awake, awake, oh pretty, pretty maid
Out of your drowsy dream
And step into your dairy below
And fetch me a bowl of cream.

If not a bowl of thy sweet cream
A cup to bring me cheer
For the Lord knows when we shall meet again
To go Maying another year.

I have been wandering all this night
And some time of this day
And now returning home again
I've brought you a branch of May.

A branch of May I've brought you here
And at your door I stand'
Tis nothing but a sprout, but it's well budded out
By the work of our Lord's hand.

My song is done and I must be gone
No longer can I stay
So it's God bless you all, both great and small
And send you a joyful May.

*Benediction

Pastor Lisa: Christ sends us forth: Keep my commandments, abide in my love:

All: We will go forth in peace and justice!

Pastor Lisa: Love one another, go forth to serve:

All: We will go forth in love!

Pastor Lisa: Share in my mission, bear fruit that will last:

All: We will go forth as your friends, rejoicing!

Pastor Lisa: Let us go forth in peace to witness to our community and world, that

All: Christ is alive!

Pastor Lisa: May the blessings of God rest upon you. May God's peace abide in you. May God's presence illuminate your heart now and forever more. Amen.