

Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
Sunday, March 21, 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude *from "Fugue in A minor" by J.S. Bach* - Hunt Gressitt

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 days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant... it will not be like the old covenant:

Many: Written on stone.

One: This will be a radically new covenant, my laws will be within you

Many: Written on hearts.

One: And God added these wonderful words -

Many: I am your God and you are my people.

All: Imprint these words anew on our hearts, O God, so that we know you in all your fullness, love you as you love us, and worship you as you deserve.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

We come to this time of worship in awe and with thanksgiving at all the evidence of your grace towards us. Open our ears that we may hear you speaking to us anew; open our hearts that we may love as you love us and our world, and open our lips to proclaim your praise. Kind and merciful God, we stand before you empty-handed and we feel small and frail before you. Forgive us for the times we boast of the good that you gave us the grace to do. Fill our poverty with your gifts, keep us from looking down on any of our brothers and sisters, and give us grateful hearts for all that we have received from you. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Hymn *"Help Us Accept Each Other"*

Help Us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, god, among us, and bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O God, your lessons, as ion our daily life
We struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.

Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
To love them as we find them, or as they may become.

Unison Prayer of Invocation

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible

Jeremiah 31:27-34

²⁷The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. ²⁸And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the Lord. ²⁹In those days they shall no longer say: "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge." ³⁰But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge. ³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

A Reading from the Epistles

2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5

¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

⁴ In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ²proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

Sermon

"Written On Our Hearts"

- Pastor Lisa

*Hymn

"Come, My Way"

Come, my way, my Truth, my Life: such a way as gives us breath;
Such a truth as ends all strife; such a life as conquers death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a light as shows a feast;
Such a feast as mends in length; such a strength as makes a guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a joy as none can move;
Such a love as none can part; such a heart as joys in love.

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

We offer these gifts, O God, as proof that we remember all your benefits towards us. May these gifts and the service of our lives benefit others so fully and graciously that they will know that your love is clearly written on our hearts. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

*Hymn

"You Are the Way"

You are the way; through you alone can we the true God find;
In you, O Christ, is now revealed God's heart and will and mind.

You are the truth; your word alone true wisdom can impart;
You only can inform the mind and purify the heart.

You are the life; the open tomb proclaims God's love anew;
And god will ne'er forsake the one who trusts O Christ I you.

You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys eternal flow.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION