

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER
Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
MAY 10, 2020

GATHERING & WELCOME

PRELUDE Music of the Lyre – Sarah Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Iona Community Worship Book)

Leader: Jesus says, "I am the Way for you."

People: And so we come to follow Christ.

Leader: Jesus says, "I am the Truth for you."

People: And so we come to dwell in the light.

Leader: Jesus says, "I am the Life for you."

People: And so we come, leaving behind all else to which we cling.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE "Come My Way, My Truth, My Life"

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.

INVOCATION

**Just as a woman caresses her child, O God, you wrap us in gentle care.
Make yourself known to us now to still our anxious hearts. Within this
household of faith comfort us with the gospel of your abiding love. Nurture
us with the Bread of Life that satisfies. Free us from all earthly securities
that we may rely solely on your strength. So we may be free at last. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 7:54-60

When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he

prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation — if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,"
and "A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

John 14:1-14

[Jesus said:] "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

MEDITATION "Living Stones" - Rev. Dr. Deborah M. Jenks

SHARING

A TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer (Debts)

A HYMN OF BLESSING "Like a Tree Beside the Waters" (James F. D. Martin, 1992)

Like a tree beside the waters, nurtured by your loving care.
We, O God, your sons and daughters, your enduring witness bear.
In each passing generation may your voice of love be heard.
Bless, we pray, this congregation with your holy, living Word.

Like a tree beside the river, drawing life from holy streams,
Fill us with your love forever, recreate our hopes and dreams.
Through the storms of life sustain us by the wisdom of your grace.
May the changing of the seasons find us in your warm embrace.

We, beside the living waters, drink from your eternal life.
Give to all, your sons and daughters, faith that rises over strife.
O Living God, most glorious, strengthen us for life today.
By the hope of timeless promise guide your church upon the Way.

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE