

4th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
June 28, 2020

GATHERING & WELCOME

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Iona Community Worship Book)

Leader: The love of God comes close where stands an open door to let the stranger in, to mingle rich and poor: The love of God is here to stay embracing those who walk God's way.

People: The peace of God comes close to those caught in the storm, forgoing lives of ease, to ease the lives forlorn: The peace of God is here to stay embracing those who walk God's way.

Leader: The joy of God comes close where faith encounters fears, where heights and depths of life are found through smiles and tears: The joy of God is here to stay embracing those who walk God's way.

People: The grace of God comes close to those whose grace is spent, where hearts are tired or sore and hope is bruised or bent: The grace of God is here to stay, embracing those who walk God's way.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE "Unsettled World"
(Words: David Sparks, Music: Hal Hopson)

Unsettled World, where people long to find their way,
to feel secure, from lives of turbulence and rush
we come to seek your peace, our God,
your word to hear, our faith to live.

Unsettled world, where angry poor from grinding need at affluence stare,
with tears and thirst for truth and right
we come, with longing in our hearts,
your Word to hear, our faith to live.

Unsettled world, unsettled church, whose structures creak and doctrines swirl,
by faith, and in the strength of Christ,
we strive in true community,
your Word to hear, our faith to live.

INVOCATION

O God, in mystery and silence you are present in our lives, bringing new life out of destruction, hope out of despair, growth out of difficulty. We give you thanks that you do not leave us alone, but labor to make us whole. Help us to perceive your unseen hand in the unfolding of our lives, and to attend to the gentle guidance of your Holy Spirit, that we may know the joy you give to all people. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 22:1-14

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt-offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt-offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

Matthew 10:40-42

[Jesus said:] "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple — truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

MEDITATION "At What Cost" - Rev. Dr. Deborah M. Jenks

SHARING

A TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer (Debts)

SONG OF BLESSING & SENDING

O Lord, my God, I pray these things never end.
The sand and the sea, the rush of the waters.
The crash of the heavens, the prayer of the earth.

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE