

6th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
July 12, 2020

GATHERING & WELCOME

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In you we live and move. In you we have our being.

People: We are in your love, enfolded in your peace, surrounded by your might.

Leader: Open our eyes, O God,

People: Enlarge our vision.

Leader: Open our hearts, O God,

People: Increase our faith.

Leader: Open our minds, O God,

People: Deepen our knowing.

Leader: We are in your love, enfolded in your peace, surrounded by your might.

People: In you we live and move. In you we have our being.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE "Fairest Lord Jesus"

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
O thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling, starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer,
Than all the angels heaven can boast.

INVOCATION

O God, we do not pretend to come to you with more faith than we really have. We do not come to make promises that are beyond our grasp. We do not come seeming to be more than we are. We come to offer these

words, these actions, and ourselves, trusting that you hold in your hands our faith, our promises, and our lives. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 25:19-34

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples born of you shall be divided;
one shall be stronger than the other,
the elder shall serve the younger."

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterwards his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob. Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Romans 8:1-3

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, ...

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls

away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

MEDITATION "Let Anyone With Ears, Listen!" - Rev. Dr. Deborah M. Jenks

SHARING

A TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Debts)

MUSICAL RESPONSE

BLESSING & SENDING

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

PROVIDING MUSIC:

Sopranos: Hunt Gressett, Gina Grogean, Sarah Schneider, Joy Avery Webb

Altos: Hunt Gressett, Gina Grogean

Tenors: Hunt Gressett, Paul McNulty, John Merrifield

Baritone: Bill MacDowell

Chimes: Hunt Gressett, Sally MacDowell, Jeannie Warren

Music Director & Sound Engineer: Ann Boudreaux