

7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
July 19, 2020

GATHERING & WELCOME

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 139)

Leader: O God, you have searched me and known me.

People: You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

Leader: You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

People: Even before a word is on my tongue, you know it completely.

Leader: If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

People: even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE "Come Away with Me"

Come away with me to a quiet place,
apart from the world with its frantic pace,
to pray, reflect, and see God's Grace.
Come away with me, come away.

Come today with thoughts of the countless ways
that God's steadfast love blesses all our days,
and join with me in silent praise.
Come away with me, come away.

Come and say, with words whispered from your soul,
the feelings and actions you can't control.
Your spirit needs to be made whole.
Come away with me, come away.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Sarum Primer, 16th century)

**God be in my head and in my understanding;
God be in my eyes and in my looking;
God be in my mouth and in my speaking;
God be in my heart and in my thinking;
God be at my end and at my departing.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 28:10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place — and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

Romans 8:18-25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Matthew 13:24-30

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

MEDITATION "Waiting with Eager Longing" - Rev. Dr. Deborah M. Jenks

SHARING

CHOIR ANTHEM "Let Justice Flow Like Streams" (*Jane Parker Huber, 1984*)

Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water pure.
 Enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure.

Let righteousness roll on as others' care we heed,
 An everflowing stream of faith translated into deed.

So may God's plumb line, straight define our measure true,
 And justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life through.

A TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing of Joys & Concerns
 Pastoral Prayer
 The Lord's Prayer (Debts)

BLESSING & SENDING

MUSICAL RESPONSE "Bless the Lord, My Soul" (*Taize*)

Bless the Lord, my soul. And bless God's holy name.
 Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

CHOIR THIS SUNDAY:

Sopranos: Gina Grogean, Hunt Gressett, Sarah Schneider, Joy Avery Webb
 Altos: Gina Grogean, Hunt Gressett
 Tenors: Hunt Gressett, John Merrifield
 Basses: Tom Bjorkman, Tom Grogean, Bill MacDowell

Music Director & Sound Engineer: Ann Boudreaux