

8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
July 26, 2020

GATHERING & WELCOME

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 105)

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name, make known God's deeds among the people.

People: Sing to God, sing praises; tell of all God's wonderful works.

Leader: Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek God rejoice.

People: Seek the Lord and the Lord's strength; seek God's presence continually.

CHOIR "How Firm a Foundation"

How firm a foundation for you has been laid,
by God in the Word, in the sacrifice paid!
What more can God say than to you has been said,
to you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am your God, I will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand
upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand."

"When through fiery trails your pathway shall lie,
my grace all sufficient shall be your supply;
the flame shall not hurt you; for I have designed
your soul to make pure just as gold is refined."

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy God, we try to fix and fasten you, but you will not be stayed.

You are love in motion:

**always breathing us into being, calling us to serve,
sustaining us in the wilderness.**

Come to us as morning breaks.

**Soften what has grown dry and brittle in our hearts until we worship with
abandon, for we pray in the name of the Son you sent and through the Holy
Spirit that gives us life. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Romans 8:26-39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes."

And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

MEDITATION "Hidden Kingdom" - Rev. Dr. Deborah M. Jenks

SHARING

MUSICAL RESPONSE "I Cast All My Cares Upon You"
Duet: John Merrifield, Sarah Schneider

A TIME OF PRAYER
Sharing of Joys & Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer (Debts)

BLESSING & SENDING

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Shepherd, lead, lead me in your righteousness,
make your way plain before my face.
For it is you, God, you, God only,
who makes me to lie down in safety.

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

Music Director & Sound Engineer: Ann Boudreaux