

12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
August 23, 2020

GATHERING & WELCOME

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 138))

Leader: I give you thanks, O God, with my whole heart;

People: I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;

Leader: For though the Lord is high, God regards the lowly;

People: God will fulfill God's purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE "You Are The Way" (*George W. Doane, 1824*)

You are the way; through you alone can we the true God find;
In you, O Christ, is now revealed God's heart and will and mind.

You are the truth; your word alone true wisdom can impart;
You only can inform the mind and purify the heart.

You are the life; the open tomb proclaims God's love anew;
And God will ne'er forsake the one who trusts, O Christ, in you.

You are the way, the truth the life; grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys eternal flow.

INVOCATION

Loving God, thank you for the gift of this new day. You have blessed me in so many ways in days that have come before. This day I will look and listen for signs of your joy and gladness present in my life, in the lives of others, and in this beautiful world. As I begin this day, I pray that you will strengthen my soul and that whatever your desire for me will be fulfilled in faithfulness and love. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be

conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God--what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Matthew 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

MEDITATION "Not Conformed, but Transformed" - Rev. Dr. Deborah M. Jenks

SHARING

MUSIC OFFERING "Savior God Above" (*Duke Ellington, 1943*)

Refrain:

Savior God above, God Almighty, God of love,
please look down and see my people through.

I believe that God put sun and moon up in the sky.
I don't mind the gray skies, 'cause they're just clouds passing by. (Refrain)

Heaven is a goodness time, a brighter light on high.
Love your neighbor as yourself, and have a brighter by and by. (Refrain)

I believe God is now, was then, and always will be.
With God's blessing we can make it through eternity. (Refrain)

A TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Debts)

CHORAL RESPONSE "In God Alone" Taize

In God alone my soul can find rest and peace,

in God my peace and joy.
Only in God my soul can find its rest.
Find its rest and peace.

BLESSING & SENDING

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE