

13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
 Worship from Home  
 First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC  
 August 30, 2020

GATHERING & WELCOME

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Br. Roger, Taize)

Leader: O God, you do not look at appearances but at our heart; you are forgiveness.

**People: O God, you renew in us peace of heart and a serene joy.**

Leader: O Risen Christ, you are with us, even with those who are unaware of your presence.

**People: O Risen Christ, you place in our hearts a longing for your Kingdom.**

Leader: O Risen Christ, you call us to share the fruits of the earth and of our work.

**People: O God, by your Christ the fullness of your life is offered to us, into your hands we place our entire life.**

MUSICAL INTERLUDE "Almighty Lord and God of Love" (*Text: William Leighton, 1565-1622; Music: Ian Tracey*)

Almighty Lord and God of Love, direct my heart and guide my ways;  
 Amend my sin, my mind remove from all that from thy glory strays.

INVOCATION (Miriam Therese Winter, 20<sup>th</sup> cent. American Catholic missionary)

**O God of a Thousand Faces, who sees through all our pretenses to that silent, secret space within where our true spirit sojourns, prune away the duplicities that mask our best intentions and all those quick defenses that disguise who we really are. Open us up to you and to all who would touch the truth of our being, so that all may see the integrity of lives given over to you, now and forever. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Exodus 3:1-15**

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up."

When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

### **Romans 12:9-21**

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

MEDITATION "So Far As It Depends Upon You" - Rev. Dr. Deborah M. Jenks

SHARING

MUSIC OFFERING "Lead Us from Death to Life" (*Refrain: Satish Kumar; Stanzas: Marty Haugen, 1985*)

Refrain:

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,  
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.

Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;

let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill the universe.

Still al the angry cries, still all the angry guns,  
still now your people die, earth's sons and daughters.  
Let justice roll, let mercy pour down,  
come and teach us your way of compassion. (Refrain)

So many lonely hearts, so many broken lives,  
longing for love to break into their anguish.  
Come, teach us love, come, teach us peace,  
come and teach us your way of compassion. (Refrain)

Let justice ever roll, let mercy fill the earth,  
let us begin to grow into your people.  
We can be love, we can bring peace,  
we can still be your way of compassion. (Refrain)

#### A TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Debts)

#### CHORAL RESPONSE

#### BLESSING & SENDING

#### SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE