

6th SUNDAY OF EASTER
Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
MAY 17, 2020

GATHERING & WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 66)

Leader: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

People: sing the glory of God's name; give to God glorious praise.

Leader: Bless our God O peoples, the sound of God's praise be heard.

People: who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.

Leader: For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

People: Yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE "Be Now My Vision"

Be now my vision, O God of my heart;
nothing surpasses the love you impart –
You my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, your presence my light.

Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;
ever within me, my soul is assured;
Mother and Father you are both to me,
now and forever your child I will be.

Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise;
you, my inheritance, now and always;
You and you only are first in my heart,
great God, my treasure, may we never part.

INVOCATION (Br. Roger, Taize)

Savior of every life, in following you we choose to love and never harden our hearts. You wish us to know a Gospel joy. And when the depths of our being are covered by a dark cloud, one way forward remains open, the way of serene trust.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 1:6-11

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father

has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

John 14:15-21, 25-27

[Jesus said:] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them. ... I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

MEDITATION "I will not leave you orphaned ..." - Rev. Dr. Deborah M. Jenks

SHARING

SONG "Peace I Leave With You My Friends" Vocal – Sarah Schneider

A TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Debts)

A HYMN OF BLESSING "How Deep the Silence of the Soul" (*Sylvia Dunstan, 1989*)

How deep the silence of the soul that lives within your grace.
 How full the gratitude of heart in your abiding place.
 What rich serenity is found, what courage and release
 when wisdom teaches us to seek the gentle path to peace.

Like unseen chimes on moving air, like warm and morning sun,
 Like gladdening, greening, growing things, like trees in bloom begun.
 Such is your presence in our lives, you touch without a trace,
 until we turn and find ourselves held fast in your embrace.

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE