

7th SUNDAY OF EASTER
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
MAY 24, 2020

GATHERING & WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 33)

Leader: Our souls wait for you, O God;

People: you are our help and our shield.

Leader: In you do our hearts find joy;

People: we trust in your holy name.

Leader: Let your love be upon us, O God,

People: as we place our hope in you.

HYMN "Some Glad Morning (I'll Fly Away)"

Some glad morning when this life is o'er, I'll fly away;
to a home on God's celestial shore, I'll fly away.

Refrain

I'll fly away, O glory, I'll fly away:

When I die, halleluiah, by and by, I'll fly away.

When the shadows of this life have gone, I'll fly away;
Like a bird from prison bars has flown, I'll fly away.

Refrain

Just a few more weary days and then, I'll fly away;
To a land where joys shall never end, I'll fly away.

Refrain

INVOCATION (Sylvia Dunstan, 1989)

Dear God, 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 with blooms begun.**

Such is your presence in our lives, you touch without a trace,

until we turn and find ourselves held fast in your embrace.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 1:6-17, 21-26

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."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus ... So one of those who have accompanied us during all that time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us – from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us – one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in tis ministry of apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

John 17:1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

MEDITATION "So, Now What Happens?" - Rev. Dr. Deborah M. Jenks

SHARING

A TIME OF PRAYER

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

A WORD & SONG OF BLESSING - Offered by Ann Boudreaux, Hunt
 Gressitt and Sarah Schneider

Peace is not the product of terror or fear.

Peace is not the silence of cemeteries.

Peace is not the result of violent repression.

Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution of all to the good of all.

Peace is dynamism. Peace is generosity.

It is right and duty. - Oscar A. Romero, 20th century El Salvadorian archbishop

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
 let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
 With God our creator, children all are we.
 Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
 Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
 With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
 to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
 Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
 (Sy Miller & Jill Jackson, 1955)

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE