

3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
 Worship from Home  
 First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC  
 June 21, 2020

GATHERING & WELCOME

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from *The Pattern of Our Days*, ed. Kathy Galloway)

Leader: God says: When the time comes, I will answer the prayers of my people.

**People: I will betroth you to myself forever with integrity and justice, with tenderness and love.**

Leader: I will betroth you to myself with faithfulness, and you will come to know me.

**People: I will say: You are my people, and you will answer: You are our God.**

Leader: For once you were outside mercy, but now you have been given mercy.

**People: This is our hope, our living hope. We shall be glad.**

**God says: I will woo you and lead you into the wilderness and speak to your heart.**

\*MUSICAL INTERLUDE "You Are Mine" (*David Haas, 1991*)

I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all your fear.  
 You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice,  
 be still and know I am here.

Refrain:

Do not be afraid, I am with you.  
 I have called you each by name.  
 Come and follow me, I will bring you home;  
 I love you and you are mine.

I am hope for all who are hopeless, I am eyes for all who long to see.  
 In the shadows of the night, I will be your light, come and rest in me.

Refrain:

I am strength for all the despairing, healing for the ones who dwell in shame.  
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and all will know my name.

Refrain:

I am the Word that leads all to freedom, I am the peace the world cannot give.  
 I will call your name, embracing all your pain, stand up, now walk, and live!

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION & REPENTANCE

(Adapted from *The Pattern of Our Days*)

**God of strangeness and desire, we bless you for enticing us to the last place we wanted to be, the place where we can hide no longer, where we must face our own emptiness and see our false gods fall. We bless you for the immeasurable relief of revelation, for the miracle of survival, and for coming to us in unexpected guises.**

**But if we have turned in upon our emptiness, refused the risks you require of us, idolized our self-sufficiency and clung to our captivity, have mercy on us, O God. Shatter our illusions, feed our hope and our hunger with the adventurous faith of your Holy Spirit until grace is our only sufficiency. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### **Genesis 21:8-21**

The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring."

So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept.

And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

### **Matthew 10:24-39**

"A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!"

"So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot

kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

"Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

MEDITATION "Do Not Fear" - Rev. Dr. Deborah M. Jenks

SHARING

A TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Debts)

\*SONG OF BLESSING & SENDING "Here I Am, Lord" (*Daniel Schutte, 1981*)

I the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

\*Thank you to today's musicians:

Singers: Hunt Gressett, John Merrifield, Sarah Schneider.  
Piano: Ann Boudreaux

