

9th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
 Worship from Home
 First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
 August 2 2020

GATHERING & WELCOME

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Iona Community Worship Book)

Leader: The God of Heaven has made God's home on earth.

People: Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

Leader: Highest in all creation, he lives among the least,

People: He journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.

Leader: Come now all who thirst

People: and drink the water of life.

Leader: Come now all who hunger

People: and be filled with good things.

Leader: Come now all who seek

People: and be warmed by the fire of love.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE "The Fragrance of Christ" (*David Haas*)

Refrain:

Lord, may our prayer rise like incense in your sight,
 may this place be filled with the fragrance of Christ.

I will thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
 you have heard the words of my mouth.
 In the presence of the Lord I will bless you,
 I will adore before your holy temple.

Refrain:

I will thank you, Lord, for your faithfulness and love,
 beyond all my hopes and dreams.

On the day that I called you answered;
 you gave life to the strength of my soul.

Refrain:

All who live on earth shall give you thanks
 when they hear the words of your voice.
 And all shall sing of your ways;
 "How great is the glory of God!"

INVOCATION

Loving God, you meet us in our greatest need and satisfy us with your Presence and Provision. In gratitude we gather to worship. Bless us that we might multiply your blessings to others, through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 32:22-31

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him.

Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

Matthew 14:13-21

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

MEDITATION "... you give them something to eat" - Rev. Dr. Deborah M. Jenks

SHARING

A TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Debts)

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

CHORAL RESPONSE “Sanctus (Seraphic Hymn)

Holy, Holy, God of heavenly host;
Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God,
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF COMMUNION

SONG OF THANKSGIVING “Help Us Accept Each Other” (*Fred Kaan, 1974*)

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, God among us, and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O God, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for love and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

BLESSING & SENDING

SHARING OF CHRIST’S PEACE

Vocalists for “The Fragrance of Christ”: Paul McNulty, John Merrifield, Sarah Schneider, Joy Avery Webb.

Piano and Sound Engineer: Ann Boudreaux