

Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
Sunday, June 6, 2021
Communion Sunday

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude *“Melody,” by Villemo Daneling*

Call to Worship

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

One: Come, let us worship our God with joy and thanksgiving:

Many: We give thanks to you, loving God, with our whole hearts, together with all heavenly beings, we sing your praises.

One: We do not focus on things we can see, which are temporary, we look on to those unseen things which are eternal.

Many: God will fulfill the purpose for our lives; for the Lord’s steadfast love endures forever.

*Hymn *“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”*

Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.

Before the hills in order stood
or earth received its frame,
From everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.

Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
Still be our God while troubles last,
and our eternal home!

Unison Prayer Of Invocation

O God, bind us together as your family. Swing wide the doors of our hearts and the doors of our church that we may welcome the stranger in. Give us a spirit of faith, that we may be your temples upon this earth, lovers of your law and givers of your grace. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Children's Message

A Reading from The New Testament

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

4: ¹³But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture--"I believed, and so I spoke" --we also believe, and so we speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. ¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. 5: ¹For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

A Reading from The Gospels

Mark 3:20-35

3: ²⁰and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." ²²And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." ²³And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. ²⁷But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered. ²⁸"Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"-- ³⁰for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit." ³¹Then his mother and his brothers came;

and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. ³²A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." ³³And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" ³⁴And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

Sermon

"Stuck in the Middle"

- Pastor Lisa

*Hymn

"Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

Holy God, we praise your name;
Sovereign God, we bow before you;
All on earth your scepter claim,
All the heavenly hosts adore you.
Infinite your vast domain,
Everlasting is your reign.

Holy Father, Holy Son,
Holy Spirit, Three we name you,
While in essence truly one,
Undivided God we claim you;
So we gather reverently
To adore the mystery.

Prayers of the People (*sharing of joys and concerns*)

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*debts and debtors*)

Invitation to Give

Offertory *"In the Lord," Taizé*

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,
In the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid;
lift up your voices, the Lord is near;
lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

*Prayer of Dedication (from the Rev. Susan A. Blain)

Generous God, take our gifts this day and use them so that we may be part of your great work in this world. Through our giving, bring justice and love closer to all, not just in our community but in the world beyond these walls. Strengthen our church and the whole United Church of Christ so that we grow together each day into a powerful voice for healing and peace. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

CONSECRATION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Thanks be to you, O God, for your presence and your purpose, for your loving kindness and your steadfast Spirit. May the blessings of this table strengthen our faith, increase our generosity and unify our hearts, for we pray in the name of Jesus, the Risen One. Amen.

*Hymn *“Holy, Holy, Holy”*

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty
God in three persons, Blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty
Oh thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty
God in three persons blessed Trinity

*Benediction

Postlude *“Spanish Trumpet Joy,” by Francisco de Peraza*