

Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
Sunday, July 11, 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship *(based on 2 Samuel and Psalm 24)*

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 come into the House of the Holy One with song and dance.

Many: We have come to worship our God, the Creator of heaven and earth, seas and rivers, and all that dwells within.

One: The Lord of the Dance beckons us to join in this time of celebration and joy...

Many: That we might know that we are gathered in God's holy place.

One: We join the psalmist with songs of the glory of the God of Hosts.

Many: We seek to know God's faithfulness and wisdom.

All: Let us enter God's rhythm of life and follow in the ways of the Word. God will bring us home where dancing and joy will never end!

*Hymn "Lift Every Voice"

Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on 'til victory is won

God of our weary years
God of our silent tears
God who has brought us thus far on the way
God who by your might Led us into the light
Keep us forever in the path, we pray

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met You
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world forget You
Shadowed beneath Your hand
May we forever stand
True to our God
True to our native land
Our native land.

Unison Prayer of Invocation (From Ministry Matters)

Lord of the dance, creator of whirling winds and shimmering flames, move in us this day. Breathe life into our songs of praise. Set our hearts ablaze to your word. May our worship bring joy to you, Lord. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Children's Message

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures **2 Samuel 6:1-5; 12-19**
-The Message (MSG)

¹⁻² David mustered the pick of the troops of Israel—thirty divisions of them. Together with his soldiers, David headed for Baalah to recover the Chest of God, which was called by the Name God-of-theAngel-Armies, who was enthroned over the pair of angels on the Chest.

³⁻⁷ They placed the Chest of God on a brand-new oxcart and removed it from Abinadab's house on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, Abinadab's sons, were driving the new cart loaded with the Chest of God, Ahio in the lead and Uzzah alongside the Chest. David and the whole company of Israel were in the parade, singing at the top of their lungs and playing mandolins, harps, tambourines, castanets, and cymbals.

¹²⁻¹⁶ It was reported to King David that God had prospered Obed-Edom and his entire household because of the Chest of God. So David thought, "I'll get that blessing for myself," and went and brought up the Chest of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David, celebrating extravagantly all the way, with frequent sacrifices of choice bulls. David, ceremonially dressed in priest's linen, danced with great abandon before God. The whole country was with him as he accompanied the Chest of God with shouts and trumpet blasts. But as the Chest of God came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, happened to be looking out a window. When she saw King David leaping and dancing before God, her heart filled with scorn.

¹⁷⁻¹⁹ They brought the Chest of God and set it in the middle of the tent pavilion that David had pitched for it. Then and there David worshiped, offering burnt offerings and peace offerings. When David had completed the sacrifices of burnt and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of God-of-the-Angel-Armies and handed out to each person in the crowd, men and women alike, a loaf of bread, a date cake, and a raisin cake. Then everyone went home.

A Reading from The New Testament

Ephesians 1:3-14

-The Message (MSG)

³⁻⁶How blessed is God! And what a blessing he is! He's the Father of our Master, Jesus Christ, and takes us to the high places of blessing in him. Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!) He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son.

⁷⁻¹⁰Because of the sacrifice of the Messiah, his blood poured out on the altar of the Cross, we're a free people—free of penalties and punishments chalked up by all our misdeeds. And not just barely free, either. Abundantly free! He thought of everything, provided for everything we could possibly need, letting us in on the plans he took such delight in making. He set it all out before us in Christ, a long-range plan in which everything would be brought together and summed up in him, everything in deepest heaven, everything on planet earth.

¹¹⁻¹²It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.

¹³⁻¹⁴It's in Christ that you, once you heard the truth and believed it (this Message of your salvation), found yourselves home free—signed, sealed, and delivered by the Holy Spirit. This signet from God is the first installment on what's coming, a reminder that we'll get everything God has planned for us, a praising and glorious life.

Sermon

“Exuberant Children”

-Pastor Lisa

*Hymn *Music by the Quinby Family*

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

Pastoral Prayer

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

Invitation to Give

Offertory

*Unison Prayer of Dedication

Beloved Jesus, you surprise us by naming us your friends. Your dance of faithfulness and life opens before us a way of unexpected justice, mutuality and joy. Take these gifts and bless them and let them serve your people at home and throughout the world, all of us, your cherished friends, for we pray in your name. Amen.

*Hymn “Fanfare for Thanksgiving”

Oh, give thanks unto the Lord (x2), call upon his name (x3)

Oh, give thanks unto the Lord (x2)

Call upon his name, call upon his name, call upon his holy name.

Sing unto him, o sing unto him, o sing unto him, o sing (x2)

Sing unto him, o sing unto him, o sing unto him, o sing.

Glory in his holy name (x5)

Let the heart of them rejoice (x2), Rejoice! Let the heart of them rejoice.

That seek the Lord (x3)

*Benediction

*Much of our liturgy this morning is taken from **God Inspired Joy: Service Prayers for Pentecost Seven**, written by the Rev. Dr. Bertrice Wood of Cleveland OH. Copyright 2009 Local Church Ministries, Congregational Vitality and Discipleship Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH*

44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.