

Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
Sunday, July 18, 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship (From Thom Shuman)

One: Neighbors and newcomers, families and strangers,

Many: we gather in this place built by God's steadfast love.

One: Strugglers and stragglers, pilgrims almost at the end of the journey,

Many: each of us is seeks to follow Jesus, the compassionate One.

One: Builders of bridges in fractured communities,

those who stand on either side of walls of fear,

All: the Spirit of faithfulness calls us to live as one people – God's people!

*Hymn

"Morning Has Broken"

Morning has broken like the first morning

Blackbird has spoken like the first bird

Praise for the singing, praise for the morning

Praise for them springing fresh from the world

Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven

Like the first dewfall on the first grass

Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden

Sprung in completeness where His feet pass

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning

Born of the one light, Eden saw play

Praise with elation, praise every morning

God's recreation of the new day

Unison Prayer Of Invocation (From Nancy Townley)

Lord, we gather here this morning with lives that are filled with activity and movement. We rush from one thing to another as though we are going to run out of time to accomplish everything. Help us to let go of the hectic times and the stresses and find our rest in you. Relax our spirits and refresh our souls.

Remind us that there will always be things to do and places to go, but that we need the rest of spirit that you provide. AMEN.

Children's Message

A Reading from The Hebrew Bible **2 Samuel 7:1-14a** (New International Version)

¹ After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ² he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a palace of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent."

³ Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you."

⁴ That night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying:

⁵ "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? ⁶ I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. ⁷ Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ' "

⁸ "Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. ⁹ I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹ and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders ^[a] over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.' "The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: ¹² When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he will be my son.

A Reading from The New Testament

Ephesians 2:11-22 (NIV)

¹¹Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men)— ¹²remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

¹⁹Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²²And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Sermon

"God's Household"

- Pastor Lisa

*Hymn

"Help Us Accept Each Other"

Help us accept each other
as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother,
each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, 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 hope 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.

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

Pastoral Prayer

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

Invitation to Give

Offertory

*Prayer of Dedication

Because you have compassion on us, Steadfast Love, you do not hold anything back, but fill us with your good gifts. May we share from our abundance, as well as from our need, so our offerings might be an enduring witness to your hope, your peace, and your healing for all. Amen.

*Hymn *"How Firm a Foundation"*

How firm a foundation, for you has been laid
By God in the Word, in the sacrifice paid.
What more can God say than to you has been said
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed
For I am your God; I will still give you aid
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand
Upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand

When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply
The flame shall not hurt you, for I have designed
Your soul to make pure just as gold is refined.

**Charge and Benediction*

Pastor: Now go, to greet stranger and dear friend equally.

People: **We will share God's steadfast love as we seek to live in faithfulness.**

Pastor: Now go, to share Christ's compassion with everyone.

People: **We will tear down dividing walls and build bridges of hope.**

Pastor: Now go, to live as one as the Spirit gathers you with others.

People: **We will build communities that welcome all, especially the outsiders.**

Pastor: And may the blessing of God, the Almighty, be with you and remain with you always.

All: Amen!

Except where noted, our morning prayers are from Thom Shuman of the Presbyterian Church, USA.