

Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
Sunday, July 25, 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude *"Finlandia" by Sibelius*
 Ann Boudreaux, horn & Lisa Durkee, trumpet

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 your spirit.

One: The foolish say, "There is no God! We are alone, on our own."

Many: We gather to declare the glory of God in our lives.

One: The foolish say, "It is your life; you are accountable to no one." **Many: We gather, strengthened by the Spirit, trusting that Christ dwells in our hearts.**

One: The foolish say, "Everything I have is mine; I owe nothing to anyone."

All: We gather to praise the One who calls us to serve others in love.

*Hymn *"Joyful, Joyful"*

Joyful, joyful, we adore You,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You,
Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

All Your works with joy surround You,
Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,
Stars and angels sing around You,
Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Praising You eternally!

Always giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Loving Father, Christ our Brother,
Let Your light upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
Joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

Unison Prayer Of Invocation

Your glory flows through all generations, as you name every family in heaven and on earth. And so we come to you this day, O God. Your grace is higher than the farthest star; your peace is deeper than our greatest emptiness; your love spans the abyss of death; your hope stretches into all eternity. And so we come to you this day, O Christ. When our lives bottom out, your grace is still our bedrock; when our spirits run dry, you fill us with your joy; when we falter in our faith, you strengthen us to serve with hope and peace. And so we come to you this day, O Spirit. God in Community, Holy in One, we come to you this day, trusting that you meet us here. Please make your presence known to us as we pray and sing your praises. In Jesus' name, Amen

Children's Message

A Reading from The Hebrew Bible **Psalm 145: 8-18**

A Reading from The New Testament **Ephesians 3:14-21**

A Reading from The Gospels **John 6:1-14**

Sermon *"Christ in the Church; the Church in Christ"* *-Pastor Lisa*

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

In our hands, the gifts seem so paltry, but in yours, they can bring plentitude of grace to those who are so hungry for hope. In our hearts, we wonder how effective our ministries might be, but joined with yours, we can indeed bring healing, community, peace, and joy to our struggling communities. Bless us and our gifts, multiply our hopes and our efforts, that your wonders might come into the world around us. Amen.

*Hymn *"Here I Am, Lord"*

I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and 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?

Chorus: 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

I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame

I will set a feast for them
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord
Chorus

*Charge and Benediction

Pastor Lisa: Let us go now, foolish enough to believe in God.

All: We will see God in everyone we meet.

Pastor Lisa: Let us go now, foolish enough to follow Jesus.

All: We will share grace with those who need it the most.

Pastor Lisa: Let us go now, foolish enough to be filled with the Holy Spirit, **All: We will serve with the Spirit in calming the fears of the world.**

Pastor Lisa: And may the blessing of God, the fellowship of the Holy Spirit and the peace of Jesus Christ go with you and abide with you always. Amen