SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, MAY 22, 2022

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, BLUE HILL

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

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: In these darkening days

**MANY: We come seeking peace.**

ONE: We seek serenity within ourselves.

**MANY: We come seeking harmony within our families.**

ONE: We seek goodwill among our neighbors.

**MANY: We seek a ceasefire among all nations.**

ONE: We seek not just the absence of conflict,

**MANY: But the presence of shalom**---

ONE: The abiding peace.

**MANY: The healing life,**

ONE: The unrelenting justice

MANY: That God calls us to in Christ

ALL: PEACE! Adapted from Rev. Joanna Harader

HYMN # 438 NCH *When Peace Like a River*

When peace like a river, upholds me each day,

When sorrows like sea billows roll,

Whatever my lot, you have taught me to say,

“It is well, it is well with my soul.”

CHORUS

It is well, it is well, it is well, it is well it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though evil should tempt me, though trials should come,

Let this blest assurance control.

That God has regarded my helpless estate,

And has paid life and blood for my soul. CHORUS

Oh God speed the day that is filled with your light

When clouds are rolled back as a scroll;

The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall appear.

Even so, it is well with my soul. CHORUS

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Dear Lord, we come to you, knowing that while we yearn to have lives that never** **experience pain or trouble, we can ask for your presence and guidance when those unpleasant things do occur. We ask for your presence and guidance right here, now, in this worship service, as we see SO much pain and trouble swirling about. You are an amazingly awesome God, who is able, if we can accept it, to give us peace, calmness, and assurance that you are in control and that all things will ultimately work out for our best. Help us to hear you speak to us through music, scripture, prayer, even through the thoughts that you can put into our minds. We pray these things in the name of Christ, our brother. AMEN.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

A READING FROM THE HEBREW BIBLE Psalm 27

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS John 14:23-29

SERMON: Peace, Come and Get It

ANTHEM: “Peace Call” Woody Guthrie

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*sharing of joys and concerns)*

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*debts and debtors)*

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY: “Dona Nobis Pacem” (Give us peace) Traditional

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Thank you, Lord for everything that you have given us, people to love and who love us, music that delights us, the beauty of the world in which we live, the laughter that we share, the homes we live in, and the food we eat. What we have to offer in return seems small and pitiful in comparison, but we bring these offerings earnestly and with love, in order that we facilitate doing the work of the church. Help us to use the gifts in the ways that you know best. We pray this in Jesus’ name. AMEN.**

HYMN #249 “Peace I Leave With You, My Friends”

CHORUS

Peace I leave with you, my friends. Shalom my peace, in all you do.

Peace I leave with you my friends. I give to you so you can give to others too.

VERSES

1. To share God’s love is why I came. To show God’s kindness without end.

Go now my friends and do the same, until I come again. CHORUS

1. Take my hand and be at peace. The spirit of our love I send.

And with this love you will be free, until I come again. CHORUS

1. With this love now all will know that loneliness is at an end.

Rejoice my friends, although I go for I will come again. CHORUS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE