



B. H. Congregational Church

Bar Harbor, Maine

## THE BAR HARBOR CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

29 Mount Desert Street

Bar Harbor, Maine 04609

October 11, 2020

10:00 am

Outdoor Worship Service

### PRELUDE

#### SILENT REFLECTION *(by Gordon Cosby)*

*To say 'yes' to Christ is to say 'yes' to people. To know Christ as God is to be organically, integrally part of a community, and to be ultimately responsible to Christ is to be responsible to others in Christ's Body. Together we show the world who Christ is, until the entire broken human race will respond to the love of God manifested in that Body.*

### CIRCLE WELCOME & WAVES OF JOY AND PEACE

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP *(by Roddy Hamilton)*

One: The Lord is my Shepherd –  
Many: **I shall not want.**

One: I seek the grace of God –  
Many: **my cup runneth over.**

One: I seek the will of God –  
Many: **my cup runneth over.**

One: I seek the strength of God –  
Many: **my cup runneth over.**

One: I seek the peace of God –  
Many: **my cup runneth over.**

One: How great is God's love – more than the world can contain.  
Many: **The Lord is my Shepherd – my cup runneth over.**

#### PRAYER OF INVOCATION *(from Isaiah 25)*

Leaders: O Lord, our God: refuge to all who are in distress,  
*shelter from the storm and shade from the heat.*

**All: We abide in the shadow of your wings.**

*(continued...)*

Leaders: You promise to prepare for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

*You promise to destroy the shroud that is cast over all peoples, to swallow up death forever.*

**All: Because of you, O God, we rest in hope.**

Leaders: You wipe away the tears from all faces.

*On that day we will say: this is our God, for whom we have longed;*

**All: let us be glad and rejoice in God's salvation.**

**INSTRUMENTAL HYMN** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

## A TIME FOR ATTENTIVE PRESENCE

## PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

### Joys and Concerns

*Text prayer requests in the chat box or to (207) 266-9026.*

### Pastoral Prayer

**The Lord's Prayer** *(You're invited to pray aloud in a quiet voice. Using 'debts.')*

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

*Isaiah 25: 1-9*

O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

*Psalm 23 (Unison)*

**The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.**

**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

**Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

## MEDITATION

*"Pursuit"*  
*Rev. Robert S. Benson*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

## REVERSE OFFERING

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BENEDICTION** *Philippians 4:4-9*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication – with thanksgiving – let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think on these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

## CIRCLE BLESSING

Bless one another with the words, **“Go with God; go in peace.”**

## POSTLUDE

*Trees of the Field*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning have been given by Doreen and John Willett in memory of Joan, Luanne, John St., and Paul, their parents.

### Special Thanks to those assisting with our service today:

Robin, Rob, and Paul

Steve Grubb (tech), Earl Brechlin, Ellen Goldsberry, Brad Stager

Special thanks to the Bar Harbor Historical Society for the use of their lawn.

- if you'd like to participate in our upcoming worship services, let Pastor Rob know
- **Open Table meals Tuesdays, 4-6pm, via take-out / delivery**
- **Tuesday morning prayer @8:30am** via BHCC Facebook live
- **Thursday evening prayer @7pm** via BHCC Facebook live
- **Thursday morning BHCC Saunter @10am** – meet at church (with face coverings)
- **Fresh Food Friday** from 9 to noon @ Bar Harbor Food Pantry
- **Special mission offering this month:** Repairing the Church Bell
- **PLEASE** contact the church office with any questions, for Tech Help, to get on email / mailing list, or for general life inspiration: 288-3280

as you are able, the church gratefully accepts your offering in a variety of ways, including electronically on our website or by placing your gift in our offering basket as you exit.

**Need anything? Contact Pastor Rob @ 266-9026.**

## BHCC MISSION STATEMENT

Jesus tells us — ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ - Matthew 22: 37—39 (NRSV)

*In response, our mission is to be a Christ-centered community of prayer and worship, welcome and care, learning and growing, witness and service. We endeavor to embody God’s love for all people*

## OPEN AND AFFIRMING STATEMENT

*Jesus teaches us to welcome all God's children into God's covenantal community. All people are created in God's image and, thus, are loved by God. Love is the unifying and strengthening force within the Christian faith. We recognize that within this church we possess different perspectives and interpretations of Scripture; we celebrate that diversity and seek to honor it.*

*We, the members of the Bar Harbor Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, hereby declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming Christian community within the United Church of Christ, actively expressing Jesus' inclusive embrace of all people. We welcome those who seek to follow Jesus including persons of every age, gender, race, national origin, faith background, marital status and family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, mental and physical ability, economic and social status, and educational background to share in the life, leadership, employment, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, rites, responsibilities, blessings and joys of our church family.*

*As we grow together in faith and love, let us strive to celebrate the diversity in which God has created us.*

REVEREND ROB BENSON, PASTOR  
ROBIN ANN BARRON, ORGANIST AND MUSIC DIRECTOR  
REVEREND RENÉ COLSON HUDSON,  
DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION  
PAUL DICKSON, CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR  
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Friday 9 AM – 3PM  
Church Office phone: (207) 288-3280  
Office e-mail: [office@barharborucc.org](mailto:office@barharborucc.org)  
Church Web Site: <http://barharborucc.org>  
Pastor Rob's cell phone: (207) 266-9026  
Pastor Rob's email: [pastor@barharborucc.org](mailto:pastor@barharborucc.org)  
[www.facebook.com/BarHarborCongregationalChurch](http://www.facebook.com/BarHarborCongregationalChurch)