



B. H. Congregational Church

Bar Harbor, Maine

THE BAR HARBOR CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

29 Mount Desert Street

Bar Harbor, Maine 04609

September 13, 2020

10:00 am

Outdoor Worship Service

PRELUDE

Jane and Cate Pope

SILENT REFLECTION *(by Laura Grace Weldon)*

Compost Happens

Nature teaches nothing is lost.
It's transmuted.

Spread between rows of beans,
last year's rusty leaves tamp down weeds.
Coffee grounds and banana peels
foster rose blooms. Bread crumbs
scattered for birds become song.
Leftovers offered to chickens come back
as eggs, yolks sunrise orange.
Broccoli stems and bruised apples
fed to cows return as milk steaming in the pail,
as patties steaming in the pasture.

Surely our shame and sorrow
also return,
composted by years
into something generative as wisdom.

CIRCLE WELCOME & WAVES OF JOY AND PEACE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(from Psalm 103)

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all God's benefits: who forgives your iniquity, who heals your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

continued...

The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love; as far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our transgressions from us. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION *(by Thom Shuman)*

Leaders: When we look over our shoulders at fear shadowing us today, you go before us into tomorrow, making a path through the sea of yesterday's doubts. When our legs tremble from the effort of standing up for what you hope for all creation, you are at our side, offering your heart's strength. Cloud of Grace, we offer our love to you.

People: Cloud of Grace, we offer our love to you.

Leaders: When we turn our hearts into deserts of stony bitterness, you transform them into oases of joy. When we come up with all sorts of rules for those who come to us seeking to find you, you tear up the list, stretching wide your arms in welcoming grace. Servant of all, we offer our lives to you.

People: Servant of all, we offer our lives to you.

Leaders: When we would clasp old worries to our hearts, you open our eyes to that hope which paves the path ahead of us. When we spend each day consumed with doubts and fears, you remind us that this day is the time to honor God, by serving God's children. Mist of Mercy, we offer our hearts to you.

People: Mist of Mercy, we offer our hearts to you.

INSTRUMENTAL HYMN *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

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 *(using 'trespasses')*

SPECIAL MUSIC *Cate and Jane Pope*

SCRIPTURE READING

SERMON *"Manna and Wilderness"*
Rev. Robert S. Benson

SPECIAL MUSIC *Cate & Jane Pope*

REVERSE OFFERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION *Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak*

CIRCLE BLESSING

*Each circle turn to the one adjacent and bless with the words,
"Go with God; go in peace."*

POSTLUDE *Cate and Jane Pope*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning have been given by Josie Andreson in loving memory of John Dana and Carolyn Alley Coombs.

Special Thanks to those assisting with our service today:

Robin, Rene, Rob, and Paul
Steve Grubb (tech)

Kay Theede, Curt Goldsberry, Ellen Goldsberry, Scott Hammond,
Earl Brechlin

Cate & Jane Pope (special music)
Amber Charon (ASL)

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 available Tuesdays, 4-6pm, via take-out / delivery**
- **Tuesday morning prayer @8:30am** via FB live
- **Thursday evening prayer @7pm** via FB live
- **Thursday morning BHCC Saunter @10am** – meet at church (with face coverings)
- **Fresh Food Friday @ BHFP** from 9 to noon @ Bar Harbor Food Pantry
- **Remembrance Rocks** – rocks being received on the church steps.
- **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 upon 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
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