



**THE BAR HARBOR CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**29 Mount Desert Street**  
**Bar Harbor, Maine 04609**

September 6, 2020

10:00 AM

**PRELUDE**

**SILENT REFLECTION** *(by Anne Lamott)*

It's funny: I always imagined when I was a kid that adults had some kind of inner toolbox, full of shiny tools: the saw of discernment, the hammer of wisdom, the sandpaper of patience. But then when I grew up I found that life handed you these rusty, bent old tools – friendships, prayer, conscience, honesty – and said, Do the best you can with these, they will have to do. And mostly, against all odds they're enough.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The altar flowers this morning have been given by Jan Varnum in loving memory of her husband of 58 years, Don.**

- gather elements - it's Communion Sunday!!
- if you'd like to participate in our upcoming worship services, let me know
- **Open Table take-out / delivery Tues. 4-6pm**
- **Tues AM prayer @8:30, Thurs PM prayer @7** via FB live
- **Thursday morning BHCC Saunter @10am** – meet at church
- **Fresh Food Friday @ BHFP** from 9 to noon– **ALL ARE WELCOME**
- **Bible study Friday @ 11am** via Zoom+ (outside in-person option)

- **Remembrance Rocks**
- Special mission offering this month: **Open Table MDI**
- **If you're not receiving the BHCC weekly messenger**, please contact the church office, and with any Q's / Tech Help, to get on email / mailing list.
- *Need anything? Call Pastor Rob @ 266-9026.*

## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

### INTROIT *This Is the Day*

*This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.  
This is the day that the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.  
This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.*

### CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 119)*

Leader: Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end.

**People: Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.**

Leader: Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

**People: Turn my heart to your decrees, and not to selfish gain. Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; give me life in your ways.**

People: Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who love you.  
**I have longed for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life.**

### HYMN *Seek Ye First*

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,  
And all these things shall be added unto you – allelu, alleluia!*

*Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find,  
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you- allelu, alleluia!*

### PRAYER OF INVOCATION *(unison, from RCL Prayers)*

**God among us, we gather in the name of Christ to learn love for one another. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to your grace. Teach us the undivided law of love, that we may love as you do, love you with all our will and strength, and find our freedom in this service. Amen.**

### CHILDREN'S TIME

## **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 'debts'*)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **PRAYER RESPONSE**

*I Want Jesus To Walk With Me (v. 1)*

*I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me;  
All along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*Romans 13:8-14*

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

*Matthew 18:15-20*

"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in

heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

## **MEDITATION**

*Rev. Rob Benson*

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**      *(posted on Fight the Bees)*

Holy One, You call us to wake from sleep, to become aware to our surroundings. The dawn of a new time of preparation is upon us. Forgive us when sleepiness takes its toll, when our discussions become battles, when our judgement and self-judgement outweigh our faith. Let us put on the light of Christ and live as You have called us in respect, in mutual dialogue, and in healthy living. Help us so that everything we do reflects Christ’s light. Amen.

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*Let us share a sign of God’s peace, however we can, with whomever we can.*

## **SHARING OF PEACE**

## **SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### *Sursum Corda*

Leader: May God be with you all.

**People: Any also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to God.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

## **Words of Institution**

### **Eucharistic Prayer**      *(from the Iona Community)*

God of new life, send your Holy Spirit upon us and on these gifts of bread and cup, that they may become for us heaven’s food and drink: healing, forgiving, making us whole; and that we may become your body, loving and caring in the world until your kingdom comes.

Leader: These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

**People: All are welcome to this feast of grace.**

### **Sharing of bread and cup**

*The body of Christ, the bread of heaven.*

*The cup of Christ, for our reconciliation.*

### **Prayer after communion**

Bountiful God, we give thanks that you have refreshed us at your table with the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

### **HYMN**                    *Arise Your Light Is Come*

*Arise your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;  
Show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.*

*Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;  
Proclaim the captives' liberty, good tiding to the poor.*

*Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,  
Bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.*

*Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.*

### **BENEDICTION AND BLESSING**    *(by Nathan Nettleton)*

Go now and walk in the light of God.

Put on the armor of light and pray for peace for all God's people.

And may God clothe you in the light of Christ;  
May Christ Jesus walk alongside you, hand-in-hand;  
And may the Holy Spirit inspire you, both now and always.

Leader: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

### **SUNG RESPONSE**                    *God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again – verse 1*

*God be with you till we meet again; by his counsels guide, uphold you,  
With his sheep securely fold you: God be with you till we meet again.*

**POSTLUDE**

**ZOOM COFFEE HOUR**