



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

November 22, 2020

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

SILENT REFLECTION (*Robin Wall Kimmerer*)

Something beyond gratitude is asked of us. The berries trust that we will uphold our end of the bargain and disperse their seeds to new places to grow, which is good for berries and for us. They remind us that all flourishing is mutual. We need the berries and the berries need us. Their gifts multiply by our care for them, and dwindle from our neglect. We are bound in a covenant of reciprocity, a pact of mutual responsibility to sustain those who sustain us. And so the empty bowl is filled.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning have been given by Ben and Ruth Rossi in memory of loved ones.

- If you'd like to participate in our upcoming worship services, let Pastor Rob know
- **Thanksgiving Basket Project** – See barharborucc.org for ways you can contribute
- **Maine Seacoast Mission's Christmas Program is ON!** Each year BHCC supports the Mission's effort to provide gifts for our neighbors in need.

- **Your annual reports** are needed in the church office – please help out if you’ve been contacted by the office to submit one.
- **Open Table take-out / delivery Tues. 4-6pm**
- **Tues Morning prayer @8:30am, Thurs Evening prayer @7pm** via BHCC Facebook Live
- **No Bible Study this week**
- **Families** – virtual Christmas pageant – email Kate Ellis asap
- **Fresh Food Friday @ Bar Harbor Food Pantry from 9 to noon– ALL ARE WELCOME**
- Special mission offering this month: **Thanksgiving Baskets**
- **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 *Come and Fill Our Hearts With Your Peace*

CALL TO WORSHIP *(by Fred Drummond)*

Leader: In gratitude we come to worship God, source of all goodness,

People: Giver of all good gifts: love, peace, joy, patience, kindness.

Leader: Gracious and Generous God: open our eyes to see as you see;

People: Open our hearts to love the broken and care for those without hope.

Leader: Open our hands to hold what we have lightly and to share cheerfully;

People: Open our mouths to speak for the voiceless and to shout for mercy.

Leader: Open our ears to the gentle whispers of your Spirit.

People: Open our lives to the call of your voice and the cries of the needy.

HYMN *We Gather Together*

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;

To turn toward a wisdom surpassing our own;

the powers that oppress us now cease to distress us.

O God be present with us, and make your will known.

Beside us to guide us, O God we perceive you,

Ordaining, maintaining the power of life;

Yes, yours be the glory - let all tell the story.

O God be ever with us, in gladness and strife.

May all sing your praises, Redeemer triumphant,
defend us, befriend us, whatever may be.
May your congregation escape tribulation;
Your name be praised forever, O God, make us free!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (*unison, Roddy Hamilton*)

Come among us, O Christ – companion to each, Savior of all. May your presence bring good news to those who seek truth, and may we glimpse you walking along bright paths, or breaking bread, or sitting at bedsides; may we find you among the worried, wrapped in silence, with space enough to keep it; may we find you on the wrong side of the tracks, finding a place to lay your head among the lost; may we find you singing songs of justice and peace; may we find you with a comforting word that lives in the hopes of the afraid and a comforting peace that mends the broken. May we find the faith to stand with you, sovereign of life and servant of all. Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME

SPECIAL MUSIC

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 ‘sins’*)

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. 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

Love Round

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses,

and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Matthew 25:31-46

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

MEDITATION

Rev. Rob Benson

HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God - with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
to keep us full of grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills of this world in the next.

All praise and thanks to God - Creator- now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest, our help in highest heaven
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

BENEDICTION AND BLESSING *(by John Birch)*

Gracious and Generous God: you call us to service; to be your eyes and ears, hands and voice in the world; to open our eyes not only to the beauty and love which you create, but also to injustice, hate, and suffering; to open our ears not only to the chatter of this coming week, but also to the anxious yearning of those we meet; to open our hands not only to those in our bubbles of safety, but also in welcome, love, and fellowship to all who draw near; to open our mouths not only to speak platitudes, but also to share the truths You lay upon our hearts: that our words might be your Word, for this, your world.

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.

CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR