



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

May 2, 2021

10:00 AM

Fifth Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE

SILENT REFLECTION *(by Elizabeth Hansen)*

Readers of Tolkien will recognize the word "eucatastrophe" – the term the great fantasy author coined to describe the sudden turn towards joy and salvation at a point in the plot when all seems lost. It's the eagles over the horizon, the echoing crack of the Stone Table, the moment in the myth when something of the power of Easter morning resounds in the realm of fantasy.

Through very simple language, Astrid Lindgren convinces a kindergartener of the depth of love that moves us to self-sacrifice and courage – a loyalty beyond blind obedience, intertwined with childlike trust in God's goodness. It's the love that moves a scared boy to mount his flying horse and fulfill a prophecy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers this morning are given by Dottie Robins in loving memory of her brother, Peter Ames, and her husband, Stan Robins.

- **Communion this morning** – Gather your materials
- **There is a need for volunteers** to be greeters and liturgists, and to provide special music ... contact Debby Hammond if you'd like to help
- **Morning prayer** Tues 8:30am, Evening prayer Thurs 7pm - FB Live
- **Open Table Tuesday**, @4-6pm: takeout / delivery
- **TLC meeting Wednesday**
- **BHCC Saunter Thursday @ 10am**
- **Evening prayer Thurs @7pm**
- **Zoom Bible study Friday @ 11am**
- **Send in photos for directory anytime!** email pastor@barharborucc.org
- *Need anything? Call Pastor Rob @ 266-9026.*

GREETING

Ann and Doug Lee

INTROIT

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (verse 1)

Come Thou fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above!
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it
Mount of Thy redeeming love.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

(from Psalm 22)

Leader: Praise the Lord, all you who worship the Holy One!

People: Children of Jacob, come and glorify God!

Children of Israel, stand and honor the Lord of Hosts!

Leader: All who hunger, come and eat your fill at the Lord's table.

People: All who seek the Lord: sing praises and worship the God of grace!

HYMN*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

Refrain:

*All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.*

Each little flow'r that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
God made their tiny wings. *Refrain*

The purple-headed mountains,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning
That brightens up the sky. *Refrain*

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them every one. *Refrain*

God gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION *(by PCUSA)*

led by Ann & Doug Lee

Almighty, all-merciful God, through Christ you have taught us to love one another, to love our neighbors as ourselves, and even to love our enemies. In times of fear and uncertainty, let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, so that we may not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good. Help us to see each person in light of the love and grace you have shown us in Christ. Awaken us to the dawning of your new creation. Establish among us a future where peace reigns, justice is done with mercy, and all are reconciled. We ask this in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Joys and Concerns

Text prayer requests in the chat box.

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 *Ubi Caritas* (*sing through twice*)

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - - mor,

The first system of musical notation is for the first part of the prayer response. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 2/4 time. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is written in a simple, accessible style. The lyrics 'U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - - mor,' are written below the treble staff. The bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment.

5 u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.

The second system of musical notation continues the prayer response. It starts with a measure rest marked '5'. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody continues with a triplet of eighth notes over the word 'i - bi'. The lyrics 'u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.' are written below the treble staff. The bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment.

(translation: where there is charity and love – God is there)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

led by Ann & Doug Lee

Acts 8:26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.

We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

John 15:1-8

Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

MEDITATION

The Decider
Rev. Rob Benson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(by James E. Janecek)*

Leader: The Divine Gardener cannot sow seeds of justice and peace arid, hardened hearts. So we acknowledge that our hearts may need tilling to uproot all that crowds out seedlings of grace planted with divine compassion.

All: God of steadfast love, you change bitter tears of remorseful hearts with raindrops of mercy: now let us germinate a new life, growing with integrity! You change the despair of contrite hearts with sunrays of mercy: now let us sprout a new life, growing with honesty! You change the stony edges of discouraged hearts into landscapes of mercy: now let us branch out into new life, growing with generosity!

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SHARING OF PEACE

SPECIAL MUSIC

Bradley Stager & Ellen Goldsberry

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

Shelter in a Time of Storm

The Lord's our rock, in whom we hide, a shelter in the time of storm;
Secure whatever ill betide, a shelter in the time of storm.

Refrain:

*O Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land.
Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a shelter in the time of storm.*

A shade by day, defense by night, a shelter in the time of storm;
No fears alarm, no fears affright, a shelter in the time of storm. *Refrain*

The raging storms may round us beat, a shelter in the time of storm;
We'll never leave our safe retreat, a shelter in the time of storm. *Refrain*

O Rock divine, O Refuge dear, a shelter in the time of storm;
Be Thou our helper ever near, a shelter in the time of storm. *Refrain*

BENEDICTION AND BLESSING *(author unknown)*

May the Christ who walks on wounded feet
walk with us on the road.

May the Christ who serves with wounded hands
stretch out our hands to serve.

May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart
open our hearts to love.

May we see the face of Christ in everyone we meet,
And may everyone we meet see the face of Christ in us.

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**