



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

November 21, 2021

10:00 AM

Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

SILENT REFLECTION *(by Macrina Wiederkehr)*

In the middle of my morning's work I break for blessings: a deep breath, a glance out the window, a graceful stretch, a remembrance of God, a brief reflection on the nobility of work, an encouraging word, a grateful thought, a smile, a short prayer, a remembrance of who I am, a sip of freshly brewed coffee. I honor the wisdom of pausing. This is the Spirit's hour. I sense the overshadowing presence of all that is holy, and I remember that I am God's temple on earth, a channel for loving service.

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Thanks to our worship assistants today: Debbie Dyer, Liturgist, and Chloe Bolt, Cristy Benson, Kathe Simons, Al Simons, Steve Grubb, and Jim Brown, worship technicians.

The flowers this morning are given by Kathy MacLeod in loving memory of Jim and Jane MacLeod.

- **Sign up to help** w/ welcome table / liturgist on the whiteboard.
- **Special mission offering** this month: Thanksgiving Basket Project.
- **This Sunday, November 21** - Recognition of 50 year members, and Thanksgiving basket pack-up after worship.
- **Open Table Tuesday @4-6pm** for take-out or delivery.
- **Morning prayer Tues @8:30** via BHCC Facebook live, or in person. No evening prayer this week.
- **No Saunter this week** - resumes Dec. 2 at 10:00 am.
- **Greening the Church** after worship Nov. 28.
- **You're invited to share your offering** in the offering plates either at the welcome table or on your way out after worship.
- *Need anything? Contact Rob at 266-9026*

INTROIT *All Beautiful the March of Days*

All beautiful the march of days, As seasons come and go.
The hand that shaped the rose has wrought The crystal of the snow,
Has sent the hoary frost of heav'n, The flowing waters sealed,
And laid a silent loveliness On hill and wood and field.

O you, from whose unfathomed Law The year in beauty flows,
Yourself the vision passing by In crystal and in rose,
Day to day does utter speech, And night to night proclaim,
In ever changing words of light, The wonder of your name.

CALL TO WORSHIP *(by Christine Longhurst)*

Leader: Grace and peace to you from God, who blesses us with every spiritual blessing:

People: who knew us and loved us before the world began;

Leader: who loves us so much that we are called beloved;

People: who has brought us from shadow into light and filled us with joy;

Leader: who has prepared an inheritance that will never spoil or fade;

People: who encourages and strengthens us in every good deed and word;

Leader: who comforts us in our troubles so that we can comfort others.

People: This is our God, the One in whom we live.

HYMN *Come, Ye Thankful People Come*

Come, ye thankful people, come, Raise the song of harvest home;
All is safely gathered in, Ere the winter storms begin;
God our Maker doth provide For our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come, Raise the song of harvest home.

All the blessings of the field, All the stores the gardens yield,
All the fruits in full supply, Ripened 'neath the summer sky,
All that spring with bounteous hand Scatters o'er the smiling land,
All that liberal autumn pours From her rich o'er-flowing stores.

These to thee our God we owe, Source whence all our blessings flow;
And for these our souls shall raise Grateful vows and joyful praise.
Come, then, thankful people, come, Raise the song of harvest home;
Come to God's own temple, come, Raise the song of harvest home.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION *(from RCL Prayers)*

God both gracious and generous: with creatures great and small we sing your goodness, for in the harvest of land and ocean, in the cycles of the seasons, and in the wonders of each creature, you reveal your loving-kindness. Rekindle in us the gratitude that dispels worry, that we may honor each gift as you cherish creation, and praise you with our lips and in our lives. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF 50 YEAR MEMBERS

Gertrude Riddell

Gloria Soule

Debbie Dyer

Kathy MacLeod

Crystal Beam Dow

Laurie Riddell

Cecil Sprague (in memoriam)

Martha Hobbs

Dottie Robins

Richard Fox

Lois Wade

Richard Rechholtz

Vickie Bence

Norma Spurling

Connie Shea

Donna Byrd Hutton

Jefferson Hobbs

Marjorie Beam

Robert Rechholtz

LITANY OF AFFIRMATION

We gather to celebrate the diverse gifts and years of service given by the members of Bar Harbor Congregational Church. Each person has contributed their time and talents, their wisdom and prayer to our ministry together – to the work of Christ in this church, in our communities, and in God’s world.

Leader: We have different gifts, but the same God gives ability to each of us. The Spirit’s presence shines in and through each of us, for the good of all.

People: We are called together as Christ’s body: one body, with many parts. If one part suffers, all suffer with it; if one part is praised, all share its joy.

Leader: All of us are Christ’s body, and we each are a part of it.

People: For all the gifts and abilities and services, for years of dedication and faithfulness, we say Alleluia and Amen.

PRESENTATION

HYMN For Living Saints Who Labor Bravely On

For living saints who labor bravely on,
Who keep the faith and lift love’s banner strong,
To Christ, our light – we join in joyous song:
Alleluia, Alleluia!

(continued...)

In days of joy, in suff'ring's deepest night,
Be thou, O Christ, our lantern shining bright,
That all may live in Thy redeeming light:
Alleluia, Alleluia!

O may all Christians be so true and bold,
That in our time the Good News may be told,
And all God's people Christ-light will behold:
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Bind all together in love's service strong,
Supporting all 'gainst ev'ry human wrong,
That hearts may join the resurrection song:
Alleluia, Alleluia!

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Joys and Concerns

Text prayer requests in the chat box.

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 *Dona Nobis Pacem*

1



Do-na no-bis pa-cem, pa-cem. Do-na no-bis pa-cem.

2



Do-na no-bis pa-cem. Do-na no-bis pa-cem.

3



Do-na no-bis pa-cem. Do-na no-bis pa-cem.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Matthew chapter 6, verses 25-33

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith?

Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

MEDITATION

“Blest Be the Tie that Binds”

Rev. Robert S. Benson

SPECIAL MUSIC

THE OFFERING

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication (by Rev. Michael Mair)

Giving God, Source of every good thing: light and love come from You. You breathe life into us through the power of Your Holy Spirit. In response to your generosity we dedicate these gifts to the work of Your kin-dom here on earth; may they be blessed and directed wisely, that Your love may be known widely. As we dedicate this offering, we dedicate ourselves as well. Bless and direct us, that our hands may reach out in service, our feet may walk in paths of reconciliation, and that our words may sow peace. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

HYMN *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

*Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. *[Refrain]*

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. *[Refrain]*

BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

May the eyes of our hearts be open to all the blessings which surround us;
may this awareness produce a harvest of generosity in our spirits.

May thankfulness rise up within, not just during this short season,
but day after day, from the early morning watch until we rest at night.

May our prayers reflect gratitude, while acknowledging the needs of others
whose situations may be so different.

May the compassion of Christ fill our minds, and thirst for God inspire our
souls, and love for Lord guide our speech and our actions.

And may the grace, peace, and love of God protect, defend, and strengthen
us to run with perseverance the race set before us.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SUNG RESPONSE

Go Now in Peace

Go now in peace ... Go now in peace
May the love of God surround you
Everywhere ... everywhere ... you may go.

CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE