



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

September 12, 2021

10:00 AM

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

SILENT REFLECTION *(by Madeline L'Engle)*

There is only one criterion to use in deciding whether or not the image of God we are finding within us is really God's image, or a projection of ourselves. The one thing we know about God for certain is that God is love. Where there is not love, even if there is righteousness, or justice, it is not God.

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Special Thanks to Yvonne Tabb, Liturgist, and Pat and Mike DiZazzo,
welcome table, assisting today.**

**The flowers this morning are given by Sarah and Grover Nevells in memory
and honor of all the teachers who have graced our lives.**

- **Sign up to help** w/ welcome table / liturgist on the whiteboard
- **Special mission offering** this month: Friends of Haiti
- **Open Table Tuesday @4-6pm** for take-out or delivery

- **Burial service for Allan & Mary Ellen Kimball** – Wednesday, 9/15 @ 1pm @ Holy Redeemer Cemetary
- **Morning prayer Tues @8:30, evening prayer Thurs @7pm** - both in-person or via BHCC Facebook Live
- **BHCC Bible study** Friday @ 11am: in-person or on Zoom
- **Shaving Cream Whiffle Ball** – Friday 9/17 @ 5:30pm, right here on the church lawn: all ages welcome !
- **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 *Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn, verse 1*

Awake! Awake and greet the new morn,
 for angels herald its dawning.
 Sing out your joy, for Jesus is born,
 behold! the Child of our longing.
 Come as a baby weak and poor,
 to bring all hearts together,
 to open wide the heavenly door,
 and lives now inside us forever.

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Spill the Beans)*

Leader: In the name of Christ: bread-breaker, light-gatherer, cross-carrier – welcome.

People: May the peace of Christ: peace-maker, temple-disturber, friend of sinners and companion on the road – be with us all.

Leader: Let us draw close to Christ: savior, healer, teacher – to listen and pray, to sing and praise.

People: Let us join our hearts together in worship.

HYMN *Earth and All Stars*

Earth and all stars, Loud rushing planets
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Hail, wind, and rain, Loud blowing snowstorm
Sing to the Lord a new song!

*Refrain: God has done marvelous things.
We too sing praises with a new song!*

Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellos!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Limestone and beams, Loud building workers
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Classrooms and labs, Loud boiling test tubes
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Athlete and band, Loud cheering people
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Knowledge and truth, Loud sounding wisdom
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Beloved of God: Zoom and in-person
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION *(by Thom Shuman, adapted)*

All around us, O God, your creation preaches a sermon filled with your abundance and beauty. The orange moon declares your constant watchfulness; the morning mist over a schoolyard speaks your steadfast love; the cool breeze through slowly changing leaves whispers your grace. Our companion Christ invites us to participate in a love beyond our comprehension. And your Spirit of Wisdom stands in the midst of busy days and stressful times, stretching out a hand to point to the One who walks with us at every step. God in Community, Holy in One, may we hear you in the silence and the songs, and discover you in the people around us, whom you join together as the body of Christ: broken yet whole, called Beloved. 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 'trespasses')*

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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 *Bless the Lord, My Soul (sung twice)*

Bless the Lord, my soul
And bless God's holy name
Bless the Lord, my soul
Who leads me into life

SCRIPTURE READING *Mark 8:27-38*

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?"

And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

MEDITATION

"Who Is This?"

Rev. Rob 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** (*from The Minor Keys*)

Loving God, you call us to shoulder the cross and follow you. Today we ask that you give us open hearts and open hands. Make us eager to hear your voice and seek your guidance. Open us to your ever-present spirit that is always moving within and around us. Open our spirits to your nudging and open our lives to your love. In your name we pray, Amen.

HYMN *Community of Christ*

Community of Christ, who make the Cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life for God alone:
the God who wears your face, to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race and every song.

Community of Christ, look past the Church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry, and the poor.
Take hands with the oppressed, the jobless in your street,
take towel and water, that you wash your neighbor's feet.

Community of Christ, through whom the word must sound --
cry out for justice and for peace the whole world round:
disarm the powers that war and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy.

When menace melts away, so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun;
our currency be love and kindness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one forevermore.

BENEDICTION AND BLESSING *(by Steve Garnaas-Holmes)*

Let us abandon the illusion that we're self-contained, and become a part of this wounded world to find ourselves with Christ. Give ourselves fully for others; be the hands and heart of Jesus.

Let us renounce self-protection, accept our brokenness, and reach out for love.

Let us let go of our plans. Join in the healing of the world. We are not alone.

Let us follow soul, not ego: follow it into the depths of suffering; follow it right into the heart of God.

Let us pour ourselves out; let the world pour in; then we are one with the Beloved.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SUNG RESPONSE *Shalom Cheverim*

Shalom cheverim, shalom cheverim

Shalom, shalom

'til we meet again, 'til we meet again

Shalom, shalom

CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE