



**THE BAR HARBOR CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**United Church of Christ  
29 Mount Desert Street  
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609**

September 18, 2022

10:00 am

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**PRELUDE**

**SILENT REFLECTION** *(by John Powell, SJ)*

If you knew me yesterday, please do not think that it is the same person that you are meeting today.

There is no fixed, true and real person inside of you or me, precisely because being a person necessarily implies becoming a person, being in process.

## GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Special Thanks to our worship assistants today: Scott Hammond, liturgist; Debbie Hammond, welcome table; Chloe Bolt, Kathe Simons, Al Simons, Steve Grubb, Cristy Benson and Jim Brown, worship technicians.**

**The flowers today are given by Martha Hobbs in loving memory of Don.**

- **BHCC Saunter** Thursdays at 10:00 AM
- **BHCC Bible study** Friday @ 11:00 in-person or on Zoom
- **Friday Night Grace!** September 23rd @ 5:30
- **The flower Committee needs volunteers** to provide flowers for our altar during worship. There are openings for October Sundays.
- **Ladies' Luncheon** - Saturday, Oct. 15, 12:00 PM, at the church - \$10.00 per person (collected at the door.)

We will discuss the future of the Ladies' Auxiliary and the Christmas Fair. Your opinions are needed, so please plan to come and participate!

Sign up sheets will be at the church welcome table. Or you may call Pat DiZazzo at 203-770-0063, or Jan Varnum, 288-3857, prior to 8:00 PM, to sign up. Email at: [pgdizazzo@yahoo.com](mailto:pgdizazzo@yahoo.com) or [1janetva@gmail.com](mailto:1janetva@gmail.com)

Please sign up and indicate your preference of sandwich by Oct. 13.

- **You're invited to share your offering** in the offering plates either at the welcome table or on your way out after worship

Pastor Bruce's contact info is as follows:

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[pastor@barharborucc.org](mailto:pastor@barharborucc.org)

207-331-4672 (cell)

## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

**INTROIT**        *Take Time to be Holy (verse 1)*

Take time to be holy, speak oft with our God.  
Abide in the Holy and feed on God's Word.  
Make friends with God's children, Help those who are weak;  
Forgetting in nothing, God's blessing to seek.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**        *Adapted from Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 & Psalm 19:14*

Leader: My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick: hear the cry of my  
poor people of the land,

**People: "Is our God not in Zion? Is her Sovereign not in her? The harvest is  
past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."**

Leader: For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn. Is there no balm in  
Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my people  
not been restored?

**People: "O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of  
tears, so that I might weep day and night for my poor people."**

**ALL: May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be  
acceptable to you, Giver of grace, and our rock and redeemer.**

**HYMN**        *Come and Find the Quiet Center (sung to the tune 'Beech Spring')*

Come and find the quiet center  
in the crowded life we lead,  
find the room for hope to enter,  
find the frame where we are freed:  
clear the chaos and the clutter,  
clear our eyes, that we can see  
all the things that really matter,  
be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us,  
cools the heat and slows the pace,  
God it is who speaks and names us,  
knows our being, touches base,  
making space within our thinking,  
lifting shades to show the sun,  
raising courage when we're shrinking,  
finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel,  
open to each other's pain,  
let our loves and fears unravel,  
celebrate the space we gain:  
there's a place for deepest dreaming,  
there's a time for heart to care,  
in the Spirit's lively scheming  
there is always room to spare!

## **PRAYER OF APPROACH**

**Holy Healer, like Jeremiah we lament the hurting of your people and the abysmal conditions found in far too many places across this planet Earth. May we find in your presence and guidance both purpose and some small sense of peace as we continue to engage in the struggle for justice and peace on Mount Desert Island and anywhere we might reach with like-hearted sisters and brothers of all faiths. Help us dream your deepest dreaming that it may be ours in this life. In Christ. Amen.**

## **GLORIA PATRI**

Glory to the Almighty,  
to Jesus Christ,  
and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning  
Is now and ever shall be  
World without end.  
Amen, amen.

## **CHILDREN'S TIME**

## **PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

### **Joys and Concerns**

*Text prayer requests in the chat box.*

### **Pastoral Prayer**

#### **The Lord's Prayer** (*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, forever. Amen.

#### **Prayer Response**

*Bless the Lord, My Soul*

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

*A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke Chapter 16, verses 1-13.*

Jesus said to his disciples, "There was once a rich man who had a manager. He got reports that the manager had been taking advantage of his position by running up huge personal expenses. So he called him in and said, 'What's this I hear about you? You're fired. And I want a complete audit of your books.'

"The manager said to himself, 'What am I going to do? I've lost my job as manager. I'm not strong enough for a laboring job, and I'm too proud to beg. . . . Ah, I've got a plan. Here's what I'll do . . . then when I'm turned out into the street, people will take me into their houses.'

"Then he went at it. One after another, he called in the people who were in debt to his master. He said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?'

"He replied, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.'

"The manager said, 'Here, take your bill, sit down here—quick now—write fifty.'

“To the next he said, ‘And you, what do you owe?’

“He answered, ‘A hundred sacks of wheat.’

“He said, ‘Take your bill, write in eighty.’

“Now here’s a surprise: The master praised the crooked manager! And why? Because he knew how to look after himself. Streetwise people are smarter in this regard than law-abiding citizens. They are on constant alert, looking for angles, surviving by their wits. I want you to be smart in the same way—but for what is right—using every adversity to stimulate you to creative survival, to concentrate your attention on the bare essentials, so you’ll live, really live, and not complacently just get by on good behavior.”

Jesus went on to make these comments:

If you’re honest in small things,  
you’ll be honest in big things;  
If you’re a crook in small things,  
you’ll be a crook in big things.  
If you’re not honest in small jobs,  
who will put you in charge of the store?  
No worker can serve two bosses:  
He’ll either hate the first and love the second  
Or adore the first and despise the second.  
You can’t serve both God and the Bank.

## **MEDITATION**

“The Struggle to Serve”

*Bruce Burnham*

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

There Is a Balm in Gilead

*BHCC Choir*

## **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**

May the treasure of our faith that you have offered - and continue to help us to develop - grow where you see it is needed, that your will is done here on earth as it is in heaven, all to your glory, gracious God. Amen

### **HYMN**

#### *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

O Jesus, I have promised  
To serve thee to the end;  
Be thou forever near me,  
My teacher and my friend;  
I shall not fear the battle  
If thou art by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway  
If thou wilt be my guide.

Oh, let me hear thee speaking,  
In accents clear and still,  
Above the storms of passion,  
The murmurs of self-will;  
Oh, speak to reassure me,  
To hasten, or control;  
Oh, speak, and make me listen,  
Thou Guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised  
To all who follow thee  
That where thou art in glory  
There shall thy servant be;  
And Jesus, I have promised  
To serve thee to the end;  
Oh, give me grace to follow,  
My teacher and my friend.

## **BENEDICTION AND BLESSING**

In our opening hymn the words: Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see all the things that really matter... When we do worship well, and I'm not talking just about my part, or Kiah's part or Robin's part; but this work that we do as a community of Christ whose mission extends with us out into the day and days ahead – together we clear clutter and chaos for each other and our self, as a community we clear our Christ-centered vision to see the things that God tells us matter, and together we pray and work to make these happen. What a joy, what a celebration, what a gift to everyone when this comes together. May it be so. Halleluiah!

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## **SUNG RESPONSE**     *They'll Know We are Christians By Our Love (verse 1)*

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.

And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

## **CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD**

## **POSTLUDE**