



**THE BAR HARBOR CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

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

May 28, 2023

10:00 am

Pentecost Sunday  
Recognition of 2023 Graduates

**PRELUDE**

**SILENT REFLECTION** *(by Steve Garnaas-Holmes)*

Holy One, breath of the big bang, idea of creation,  
you who make spring come forth,  
who make life out of nothing,  
breathe yourself into me.

You are the flame, I am your light.  
You are the nerve, I am your muscle.  
You are the Word, I am the story.  
You are the song, I am the singing.

I am one with you and one with all Creation.  
One Spirit, one flesh, many forms.  
In your Spirit I am we.

**WELCOME**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Special Thanks to our worship assistants today: Scott Hammond, Liturgist; Nancy Howland, Welcome Table; Chloe Bolt, Kathe Simons, Al Simons, Steve Grubb, worship technicians.**

**The Altar flowers this morning are given by Norma and Les Spurling in memory of Norma's brother, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. George Hout, and all MIAs.**

### ***BHCC This Week***

Sunday, May 28 <sup>th</sup> <b>Pentecost</b> <i>Recognition &amp; Blessing of 2023 Graduates</i>	9am BHCC Choir 10am <b>Worship Service</b> at BHCC & on Zoom 11:15am Coffee Fellowship 11:45am <b>Pastor's Picnic</b> @ 37 Glen Mary Rd. All are welcome; bring something to share if you can. 7pm <b>International Worship Service</b>
<b>ALL WEEK</b>	<b>Blessings for a busy season - see Rob &amp; Kiah</b>
Wednesday, May 31 <sup>st</sup>	11:30am <b>Jax fellowship lunch</b> @ Roscoe's 6:30pm <b>Evening prayer</b> in-person & on zoom
Thursday, June 1 <sup>st</sup>	10am BHCC <b>Saunter</b> – meet at church 6pm <b>Single Parents' Support Group</b> @ BHCC
Friday, June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	11am <b>Bible Study</b> (in-person and via Zoom)
Sunday, June 4 <sup>th</sup> <i>Communion &amp; Mask-up Sunday</i>	9am <b>BHCC Choir</b> 10am <b>Worship Service</b> at BHCC & on Zoom 11:15am Coffee Fellowship 7pm <b>International Worship Service</b>

## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

### INTROIT      Makeever Alleluia round

The image shows two systems of musical notation for an Alleluia round. Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The first system is marked with a tempo of ♩ = 80. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia' are written below the treble staff. The second system is marked with a tempo of ♩ = 80 and contains the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia'. The music is in a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat).

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP (from Christine Longhurst)

Leader: We come to worship God,

**People: who makes streams flow from rock,**

Leader: who turns the parched earth into springs of water,

**People: who makes the wilderness blossom and flourish.**

Leader: As the deer thirsts for flowing streams,

**People: so we thirst for You, O God.**

### HYMN      All Who Hunger Gather Gladly

All who hunger gather gladly;

holy manna is our bread.

Come from wilderness and wand'ring.

Here in truth we will be fed.

You that yearn for days of fullness,

all around us is our food.

Taste and see the grace eternal.

Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers;  
seeker, be a welcome guest.  
Come from restlessness and roaming.  
Here in joy we keep the feast.  
We that once were lost and scattered  
in communion's love have stood.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, sing together,  
Jesus Christ is living bread.  
Come from loneliness and longing.  
Here in peace we have been fed.  
Blest are those who from this table  
live their days in gratitude.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.

**\*OPENING PRAYER** (*from RCL Prayers*)

Fiery God of Pentecost: you kindle your Spirit in us, urging us to new visions and reawakened dreams. May the gift of your presence find voice in our lives, that our cacophony may become harmony, and the flickering of many tongues light an unquenchable fire of compassion and justice. Pour out your Spirit to the ends of the earth, that our divisions may be healed by your love and righteousness. Transform our praying and living, so that we may act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you all the days of our lives. Amen.

**GLORIA PATRI** (*You are invited to use the words that are most meaningful to you*)

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.

## **BLESSING OF THE 2023 GRADUATES**

### **BLESSING**

Gracious God, our companion and guide: bless these young people, formed in your image and called according to your purposes. Give them both joy and patience; peace in times of abundance, and restlessness in the face of injustice; compassion for themselves and for others; companionship along the way, and solitude when they need it; the grace of forgiveness and the gift of kindness. May your enduring love bless and nourish their lives, and through their lives, your world: both now and always. Amen.

### **PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

*All who wish may offer a prayer. As each prayer concludes, please join together in saying, "we walk with you in prayer."*

#### **Joys and Concerns**

*Text prayer requests in the chat box.*

#### **Pastoral Prayer**

##### **The Lord's Prayer** (*using "debts"*)

*(You are invited to use the words that are most meaningful to you)*

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, forever. Amen.

#### **Prayer Response**

Sweet Hour of Prayer (*vrs. 1*)

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!  
that calls me from a world of care,  
and bids me at my Father's throne  
make all my wants and wishes known.  
In seasons of distress and grief,  
my soul has often found relief,  
and oft escaped the tempter's snare  
by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

*A reading from the Book of Acts, chapter 2, verses 1-21*

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs--in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

*A reading from the Book of Exodus, chapter 13, verses 17-22*

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, “If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.” So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt ready for battle.

Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the Israelites swear an oath. He had said, “God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place.”

After leaving Sukkoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

**HYMN**                      Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what Thou dost love,  
and do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
until my heart is pure,  
until with Thee I will one will,  
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Till I am wholly thine,  
Until this earthly part of me  
Glows with the fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
so shall I never die,  
but live with Thee the perfect life  
of Thine eternity.

**MEDITATION**                      “Pillar of Cloud by Day, Pillar of Fire by Night”

*Rev. Robert S. Benson*

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

### **THE OFFERING**

#### **Offertory**

**\*Doxology**      *You are invited to use the words that are most meaningful to you*  
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** (*unison, from Christian Aid*)

**Creative God, source of life, blessing us body and soul; Light that goes before us, brightening the shadow: fill us with your breath, nourish us with your presence, renew us with your grace, sustain us with your love. May we share enthusiastically what you have entrusted to us so generously. Bless these gifts and our lives, O God. Amen.**

### **HYMN**

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

You are salt for the earth, o people,  
Salt for the reign of God!  
Share the flavor of life, O people:  
Life in the city of God!

#### *Refrain:*

*Bring forth the reign of mercy,  
Bring forth the reign of peace;  
Bring forth the reign of justice,  
Bring forth the city of God!*

You are a light on the hill, O people,  
Light for the city of God!  
Shine so holy and bright, O people:  
Shine for the city of God! *Refrain*

You are a seed of the Word, o people,  
Bring forth the reign of God!  
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,  
Grow in the city of God! *Refrain*



We are a blessed and a pilgrim people,  
Bound for the reign of God!  
Love our journey and love our homeland:  
Love is the city of God! *Refrain*

**BLESSING AND BENEDICTION**      *(by Rev. Nora Vedress)*

While so much of the road ahead is uncertain, as we leave this space of worship,  
we know some things are solid and sure:  
We know God is love. We know Christ's light endures. And we know the Holy  
Spirit is with us and among us, closer to us than our next breath, binding us to each  
other, until we meet we again.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**SUNG RESPONSE**      Lead me, guide me (refrain, verse, refrain)

Lead me, guide me along the way;  
For if You lead me, I cannot stray;  
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

I am weak, and I need your strength and power  
To help me over my weakest hour;  
Help me through the darkness your face to see,  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Lead me, guide me along the way;  
For if You lead me, I cannot stray;  
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

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

**POSTLUDE**

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