



**First
Church**
Bridgton, ME
An Open & Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Order for Worship | July 5, 2020 | God is still speaking

Congregational responses are in bold, • means “please rise in body or spirit.”



PRELUDE & INTRODUCTIONS

Meirionydd
Lloyd

Jeremy Hill

WELCOME

Deacon Rebecca Azer

MESSAGE FROM YOUR MODERATOR

Karen Harding

• HYMN

This Is My Song
See page 6

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, you who are weary and burdened, come to our God who offers holy rest.

We come, weary and wary, we come.

Come, you who are light-hearted and grateful, come to our God who offers wellsprings of joy.

We come, hungry and hopeful, we come.

Come, you who are lonely and grieving, come to our God who offers deep peace.

We come, heartbroken and aching, we come.

Come, you who are seeking and learning, come to our God whose love changes all.

We come, open and listening, we come.

Come, you who are here for worship, come to our God who welcomes you just as you are.

We come. We come.

WE SOUND THE BELL

CENTERING POEM

“Pandemic”

Lynn Ungar

What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?

Cease from travel.

Cease from buying and selling.

Give up, just for now,

on trying to make the world
different than it is.

Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Center down.
And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.
Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.)
Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.
Promise this world your love--
for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.

WE PASS THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ANTHEM

Cradle Me, Lord (Poorman, Poorman)
Recorded on 22 September 2019

CELEBRATION OF GRATITUDE

"If the only prayer you said was thank you, that would be enough."
-Meister Eckhart

As we name the abundant blessings of our lives (anniversaries, birthdays, clean-and-sober milestones, and many more!), we offer a gratitude gift in any amount, so that the blessings we have received from God may be multiplied and shared with all who long to experience God's extravagant welcome in this church and beyond.

A MESSAGE FOR ALL CHILDREN OF GOD

*Go now in peace! Go now in peace!
May the love of God surround you
Everywhere, everywhere you may go!*

SHARING OUR SACRED STORY

Reader: Friends, hear what the Spirit is saying to the church today.

PSALM 145

I will extol you, my God, my Ruler, and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; God's greatness is unsearchable.

Generation after generation praises your works and proclaims your mighty deeds;
they'll speak of the splendor of your glorious majesty,
and I will meditate on your wondrous acts.
They'll discourse of the power of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.
They'll celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,
and I will joyfully sing of your justice.

Oh God, you are gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.
Oh God, you are good to all and compassionate toward all your creatures.
All your creatures will praise you, oh God, and your holy people will bless you.
They will tell of the glory of your reign and speak of your strength.
You make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your reign.
Your reign is a reign for all the ages, and your dominion endures from generation to generation.
You lift up those who are falling and raise up those who are oppressed.
The eyes of all look to you in hope, and you give them their food in due season.
You open your hand, and satisfy the desire of every living thing.
Oh God, you are just in all your ways, and loving toward all that you have created.
You are near to all who call upon you, all who call upon you in truth.
You fulfill the desires of those who revere you; you hear their cry and save them.
You watch over all who love you, oh God...

My mouth will speak your praise oh God, and may all creation bless your holy Name forever and ever!

MATTHEW 11:16-19, 25-30

“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Reader: This is the story of life for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Rev. Emily C. Goodnow

• **HYMN**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
See page 7

HOLY COMMUNION

As you're comfortable, you are invited to have bread and juice or wine from home this morning, trusting that the most ordinary things can become sacraments in God's presence. To that end, you are also welcome to be creative - a donut and coffee could be your communion elements if that's what's in your kitchen and would feed your spirit this morning.

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING OF THE CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O Holy One, we have come unto you with our weariness and we have let go of all in our lives that is heavy. We thank you for the rest and strength of this communion so now we can lift up all that is light and gentle, humble and easy, and learn from you how to change the world.

God who is Love, hear us now as we call out the prayers of our own hearts to You:

We name our prayers to God, aloud or in our hearts

Loving God, hear our prayers. And in one voice we join in the prayer Jesus taught us saying...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF LOVE AND PROMISE

Dianne Pennessi & Lisa Willey

OFFERTORY

Kedron

Jeremy Hill

Dare

• WORDS OF THANKSGIVING

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that Love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving and Holy God, we ask that You would pour out Your blessing on this offering today. Guide us and shape us as servants of love, and use these gifts to bless our church, community, and world with kindness, justice, joy, and peace.

Alleluia! And amen.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Sparrow
Gabriel

Jeremy Hill

Service Credits: Centering Poem written by Lynn Ungar and published on her website <http://www.lynnungar.com/poems/pandemic/>. Service written by the Rev. Emily C. Goodnow.

How to be in touch

- Our staff is mainly working remotely during this time. Here's how to reach us:

Office Manager Molly Wunderli: office@bridgtonucc.org

CE Director Sandy Wissmann: swissmann@bridgtonucc.org

Associate Pastor Lisa Burger: associatepastor@bridgtonucc.org | 890-4318

Senior Pastor Rev. Emily Goodnow: seniorpastor@bridgtonucc.org | 200-8891

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Each event is hyperlinked to the zoom meeting link, except for the livestreamed events, which links to our Online Worship page on our website.

Today, Sunday, July 5

♥ **Livestreamed Worship, 10 am**

♥ **Zoom Coffee Hour, 11:15 am**

Tuesday, July 7

♥ **Prayer Group Online, 1:30 pm**

♥ **NEAAO Book Club, 6:30 pm**

Wednesday, July 8

♥ **Bible Heroes with Sandy, 10 am - Lessons and stories for younger kids.**

♥ **Tea Time with Rev. Emily, 11 am - An informal check-in and catch up!**

♥ **High Schooler Meet Up, 3:30 pm**

Thursday, July 9

♥ **Preschool Story Time with Bailey & Wensday, 10 am - Our preschool class is invited to a special zoom story time with Bailey Crawford and Wensday Morse.**

♥ **Zoom Choir Meet Up, 5 pm, password is Bridgton's zip code**

This Is My Song

Ps. 82:8

Lloyd Stone, 1934

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions, a song of
 2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean, and sun - light

peace for lands a - far and mine. This is my home, the
 beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine; But oth - er lands have

coun - try where my heart is; here are my hopes, my
 sun - light, too, and clo - ver, and skies are ev - ery -

dreams, my ho - ly shrine; But oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are
 where as blue as mine. O hear my song, O God of all the

beat - ing with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
 na - tions, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

These stanzas, published during the period between the two world wars, express a hope for lasting peace among all nations, races, and cultures. Finlandia is derived from a "tone poem" of the same name by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius.

Tune: FINLANDIA 10.10.10.10.10.
 Jean Sibelius, 1899
 Arr. for The Hymnal, 1933

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;

there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
and the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won-der - ful - ly kind.

There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;

there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.

Of Huguenot Protestant ancestry, Frederick William Faber was influenced by the Oxford Movement and eventually became a Catholic priest. He wrote 150 hymns to correspond to the number of psalms.

Tune: IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.
Dutch melody
Arr. Julius Röntgen, 1906
Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA