

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:30am • Sunday • June 2, 2024

Mission Statement: As a community of faith, we welcome all who seek understanding. • As a community of hope, we offer friendship and comfort to those in need. • As a community of love, we provide caring support and shared fellowship to all.

WE ARE A COMMUNITY CHURCH. OUR FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND MEMBERS COME FROM MANY PLACES AND MULTIPLE FAITH TRADITIONS. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO FIND A SPIRITUAL SANCTUARY HERE.

— ANNOUNCEMENTS & PASSING the PEACE —

— WELCOME —

CENTERING MUSIC

DellaValla Trio

CALL TO WORSHIP

adapted from Colossians

One: We are told of the hope laid up in heaven.

People: *We have heard of this hope before
in the word of the truth that has come to us.*

One: Just as it is bearing fruit and
growing in the whole world

People: *So it has been bearing fruit among us in each generation...*

One: For this reason, we have not ceased praying and asking

People: *To be filled with the knowledge of God's will
in all spiritual wisdom and understanding*

All: *We pray to walk in the Way, worthy and pleasing to
Holy Love, as we bear fruit in every good work and
as we grow in the knowledge of God.*

*SONG #515

Simple Gifts

Acapella

— PRAYING —

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

LORD'S PRAYER

Adaptation from New Zealand Prayer Book

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. *Amen.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

DellaValla Trio

— REFLECTING —

SCRIPTURE

*Ezekiel, Esdras and
writings of Dalai Lamas (excerpts)*

REFLECTION

LIMINAL SPACES: BETWEEN
GARDEN & WILDERNESS *Autumn Verran*

BLESSING OF GRADUATES

Deacons & Rev Gail Doktor

— OFFERING —

*SONG #44

Doxology

Acapella

PRAYER of DEDICATION

— COMMUNION —

CONFESSION

One: We admit that sometimes we wish to stay
in our cultivated gardens,

People: *Rather than to dare the wilderness.*

One: We confess that we choose to plant familiar seeds,

People: *Rather than risk growing something unknown.*

One: You walk with us wherever the journey may take us,
especially into the between places and liminal spaces.

People: Yet we recognize that we often turn aside from the places you invite us to experience, since we prefer well-defined roadmaps with clear goals, scheduled times of departure and arrival, guiding us toward safe destinations and assured homecomings. Your path offers no such promises.

All: You create a Way and walk with us beyond our illusions of control and attachment to plans: in and out of gardens, through the wilderness, along rivers, up mountains, down valleys, among fruiting trees, under flourishing vines, across deserts, beyond shadows, into a deeper Dark and a wiser Light.

ASSURANCE of PARDON & INVITATION TO TABLE

THE SURSUM CORDA and SANCTUS

One: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the skies.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give thanks and praise.

One: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks to you, almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth, from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

People: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Early in the morning, our song shall rise to thee; Holy, holy, holy, Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity. — Nicaea 351

One: Holy are you, and blessed is your greatest gift, Emmanuel, in whom you revealed yourself, as a child born of Heaven's light and come as our salvation. You sent a star to guide wise ones to where the Christ was born; and in your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world, you have led your people from far places to Love's light.

BLESSING & SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

STATEMENT OF THANKSGIVING

One: We are not alone, God made us.

People: We are not alone; we have each other.

One: Can anything separate us from the love of Christ?

People: Can trouble, pain, or persecution?

One: No. In all these things we win an overwhelming victory through the one whose love for us has been proven.

All: Neither death, nor life, neither messenger of heaven nor ruler on earth, neither what happens today nor what may happen tomorrow, neither power from on high nor power from below, nor anything else has power to separate us from the love of God! Thanks be to God! Amen!

*SONG # *Amazing Grace* *DellaValla Trio*

*— CLOSING —

*BENEDICTION

May the love of God live in us today, may the love of God live in us today.

May the warmth we feel within us show in all we do and say.

May the love of God live in us today. May the peace of God be with us today,

May it guide us and protect us as we go our separate ways.

May the peace of God be with us, May the love of God live in us,

May the love of God shine through us today.

POSTLUDE

DellaValla Trio

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE: *For* PEOPLE

Annie, Allan, Anjali, Annie, Arden, Alexis, Barbara, Bob, Cindi, Cheryl, Corey, Deb, Darlene, Dean, Don, George, Jan, Jean, Joan, Joyce, Jonathan, Judy, Kathy, Ken (KC), Irene, Laurie, Marcia, Matteo, Mary, Maureen, Meg, Parker, Phaedra, Sarah, Scamp, Spencer Elizabeth, Tom, Robert, Val, Lori's niece & nephew, Dawson's sister, Tish's mother & family and the Stam family.

For those in need of the essentials of life: dignity, work, education, food, water, shelter, freedom of thought and expression and belief and self-direction, sense of belonging and purpose, a place to call home.

For people with new diagnosis, undergoing treatment, seeking healing and recovery in body, mind or spirit. For those with cognitive, mental, and emotional challenges and changes. For those holding vigil until the end of life, and for those who are grieving, including the families of Jim Dunwell.

For those serving in the military and for their families. For those in caring roles and professions. For emergency responders: firefighters, police, EMTs and ambulance, medical health, social health, and mental health, disaster relief, crisis intervention, and others. For those in leadership positions making choices that affect other people.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE: *For* PLACES

For climate-related occurrences around the world. For places affected by natural disasters: earthquakes, floods, fires, droughts, famine, eruptions, storms and other phenomena. For places struggling with conflict, systemic oppression, or violence such as Israel, Gaza, Palestine, and the Ukraine. For places with which we have partnership, including Chikanga Church in Mutare, Zimbabwe and communities in Honduras.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:30am • Sunday, June 2, 2024



JACKSON COMMUNITY CHURCH, UCC
JACKSON, NH

LITURGY for GRADUATES

adapted from liturgy by John Ballenger

EZEKIEL 17: 22-24: Thus says the Lord God: “I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender shoot from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will transplant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel I will transplant it and it will produce boughs and bear fruit and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind.”

EZEKIEL 47: 12: On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing.

2 ESDRAS 8:6: O Lord above us, grant to your servant that we may pray before you, and give us a seed for our heart and cultivation of our understanding so that fruit may be produced, by which every mortal who bears the likeness of a human may be able to live.

From the DALAI LAMA: We must cultivate our hearts as well as our brains. Because when we bring the brain and heart together, then we can have real altruism... We can reject everything else: religion, ideology, all received wisdom. But we cannot escape the necessity of love and compassion...

This, then, is my true religion, my simple faith. In this sense, there is no need for temple or church, for mosque or synagogue, no need for complicated philosophy, doctrine or dogma. Our own heart, our own mind, is the temple. The doctrine is compassion. Love for others and respect for their rights and dignity, no matter who or what they are: ultimately these are all we need.

So long as we practice these in our daily lives, then no matter if we are learned or unlearned, whether we believe in Buddha or God, or follow some other religion or none at all, as long as we have compassion for others and conduct ourselves with restraint out of a sense of responsibility, there is no doubt we will be happy.

CALL & RESPONSE

One: We gather this day,
to acknowledge a threshold moment—

People: *A thin place—
between what's been and what's to be—*

One: Between what's been studied, learned, and
accomplished,

People: *And all the more there is to study and learn and do.*

One: It is so very good to mark growth in celebration,

People: *And then so very good as well,
to celebrate having further to grow—*

One: To note a mile-marker on the longer way

People: *And to take joy both in the distance traveled
and the distance yet ahead.*

One: Bless this liminal time and space

People: *And those who stand in thresholds
looking back and looking ahead.*

One: May it be with a sense
of both gratitude and anticipation.

People: *May it be with an awareness
of how we grow our life long with our whole person—*

One: Our minds, bodies, spirits, and emotions.
And may it be with a profound sense

All: *Of what it means to place our way
(where we've been and where we're going)
within the Way of Jesus.*

GIFTS

BLESSING