

NEWFANE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION
of the United Church of Christ*



"The earth is the Lord's
and all that is in it,
the world,
and those who live in it"

Psalm 24:1



The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021, at 10:00 in the Morning

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE Zoom Hosts: Linda Bastian & Chas Baker

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Stan Adams

PRELUDE "Prelude in C Major" J.S.Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

One: We gather in the presence of God to encounter Love that sets free.

All: We seek not the crumbs of justice, but a way of life that liberates.

From the dust of the earth, the Holy One breathed us into life.

Through the breath of God we are all connected.

The Creator formed us with a purpose:

To create

To serve

To tend

To protect

To love

That life may flourish in all its forms,

May the Spirit of the Living God be manifest in us!

HYMN # 667 – God Has Spoken By the Prophets

1 God has spoken by the prophets, spoken the unchanging Word,
Each from age to age proclaiming God, the one, the righteous Lord.
Mid the world's despair and turmoil, one firm anchor holding fast:
God eternal reigns forever, God the first and God the last.

2 God has spoken by Christ Jesus, Christ, the everlasting Son,
Brightness of the Father's glory, with the Father ever one;
Spoken by the Word incarnate, God of God, ere time was born;
Light of Light, to earth descending, Christ, as God in human form.

3 God is speaking by the Spirit, speaking to our hearts again,
In the age-long Word declaring God's own message, now as then.
Through the rise and fall of nations one sure faith yet standing fast:
God abides, the Word unchanging, God the first and God the last.

A PRAYER FOR THE JOURNEY OF HEALING

God who feels,

God who pays attention,

God who forms webs of life entangled,

Help us to notice today...

To notice our bodies – what they're telling us they need and want.

To notice our neighbors – who they are and how they are.

To notice the creatures and creations around us – each as a valuable life of their own.

You know our limitations – what is enough or too much
To be aware of at once. To connect with. To feel. To hold.
Do not allow us to rush past what needs or deserves our attention.
Neither let us be overwhelmed by trying to bear more than our share.
Just help us to be alive to what is,
alive to you within and around.

— Rev. M Barclay, *enfleshed*

THE PROMISE OF GRACE

THE PEACE (*You may exchange a sign of God's peace with each other.*)

The peace of God be with you. ***And also with you.***

SCRIPTURE - Daniel 4:28-37 (NRSV)

Nebuchadnezzar's Humiliation

²⁸ All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. ²⁹ At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, ³⁰ and the king said, "Is this not magnificent Babylon, which I have built as a royal capital by my mighty power and for my glorious majesty?" ³¹ While the words were still in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven: "O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: The kingdom has departed from you! ³² You shall be driven away from human society, and your dwelling shall be with the animals of the field. You shall be made to eat grass like oxen, and seven times shall pass over you, until you have learned that the Most High has sovereignty over the kingdom of mortals and gives it to whom he will." ³³ Immediately the sentence was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven away from human society, ate grass like oxen, and his body was bathed with the dew of heaven, until his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers and his nails became like birds' claws.

Nebuchadnezzar Praises God

³⁴ When that period was over, I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me.

I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored the one who lives forever.

For his sovereignty is an everlasting sovereignty, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation. ³⁵ All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does what he wills with the host of heaven and the inhabitants of the earth. There is no one who can stay his hand or say to him, "What are you doing?"

³⁶ At that time my reason returned to me; and my majesty and splendor were restored to me for the glory of my kingdom. My counselors and my lords sought me out, I was re-established over my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me. ³⁷ Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are truth, and his ways are justice; and he is able to bring low those who walk in pride.

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYERS

OUR 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 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.

HYMN #51 – How Great Thou Art

1. O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hands hath made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art, how great thou art!

2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; *[Refrain]*

3 And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin; *[Refrain]*

4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" *[Refrain]*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *“Blest Are They”* David Haas
“Our Worship has ended -- Now our Service begins.”

Welcome!

We are glad to be in worship together. If you are a guest, new to this gathering, we hope you feel the welcome we want to extend and find the service meaningful.

Special thanks to our Zoom hosts, Linda Bastian and Chas Baker. Thanks to Guest Preacher; Matt Deen, Lay Reader; Stan Adams, and to all of those working together so that we could all see each other and worship together! Thanks to the Deacons and all who help to keep us connected.

Birthdays this week: April 27 - Cheryl Liston

From the IT Committee - We are actively seeking people who are willing to help with zoom church and the transition to in person church. Up until now, it has been handled by only a few people. We need to spread out the work. This would include being a host on zoom and welcoming in attendees, recording of the service and getting the audio file to the google drive. In person church has been done with iPhone technology. Anyone interested in learning or helping out, please contact Linda Bastian at 610-496-1342 or lbast33461@aol.com

April Mission: For many years, our April mission has supported the Brattleboro Area Interfaith Youth Group's summer service trips to the Cheyenne River American Indian Reservation to participate in the "Simply Smiles" service project there. The COVID-19 pandemic has interrupted that annual service trip with the expectation for continuation in the coming years. In lieu of supporting the BAIYG trip this year, the Mission Outreach Committee will direct funds towards . . . The Lise Sparrow Youth Service Fund of Guilford Community Church. This fund supports giving young people the opportunity to learn about other communities and cultures, encouraging them to find their own voice, and helping them know that they can make a difference towards making the world a better place. Proceeds from the Fund will pay the expenses for youth who otherwise would not be able to participate in the Interfaith Youth Service trips. The Youth Service trips led by the former pastor of Guilford Community Church have had an indelible and positive effect on the youth, the community groups they come from, and the people who they served. Our support of this fund will provide seed money toward future BAIYG mission trips.

Rev. Hamm's office is closed due to the pandemic.

If you would like to speak to Rob, please call him at home at 603-357-4822.

Church Phone: 802-365-4079

Office Hours: Mon: 8:30-3:30 Tues: 1-4

Weds: 8:30 – 3:00 Thurs: Noon -3:00 Closed Fridays

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