ORDER OF WORSHIP

UNION CHURCH OF VINALHAVEN

May 5, 2024

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*Opening Hymn: “We Gather Together”

1. We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing;  
   He chastens and hastens His will to make known;  
   The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing;  
   Sing praises to His Name; He forgets not His own.
2. Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
   Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;  
   So from the beginning the fight we were winning;  
   Thou, Lord, were at our side, all glory be Thine!
3. We all do extol Thee, Thou Leader triumphant,  
   And pray that Thou still our Defender will be  
   Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;  
   Thy Name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

**Call to Worship**

**Call to Worship with Confession**

Leader: Lord God, we are here today to offer to you our sacrifice of worship. We are here to listen to your Word, to bring to you the concerns of our hearts, and to join together in fellowship. Speak to us: through Scripture, hymns, prayer, and silence. Grant us ears to hear, hearts to listen, and lives prepared to do your will. Amen

**All:   
Reveal yourself, Gracious God, within this time of worship. Speak to us through songs we sing, prayers we speak, words we hear.  
Reveal yourself Gracious God, within your family here. In our speaking and listening, tears and laughter, love that’s shared.  
Reveal yourself, Gracious God, within these coming days. In the places we live, the lives we live, people we meet.  
Amen.**

Dear friends in Christ, here in the presence of Almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

Celebrant: The Lord Be with you

People: And also, with you

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holly Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

PRAYERS AND JOYS OF THE PEOPLE followed by the Lord’s Prayer

CHOIR: “Love Grows Here”

OFFERTORY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

HYMN: “In Memory of Our Saviors Love”

1 In memory of the Savior's love,  
We keep the sacred feast.  
Where every humble, contrite heart  
Is made a welcome guest.

2 By faith we take the bread of life  
Withy which our souls are fed,  
The cup in token of His blood  
That was for sinners shed.

3 In faith and memory thus we sing  
The wonders of His love,  
And thus anticipate by faith  
The heavenly feast above.

FIRST READING: Acts10: 44-48 Ruthe Philbrook

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 28 (people read the bold)

1.Sing a new song, to the Lord  
    who has done marvelous things;  
Whose right hand and his holy arm  
    have won the victory.  
**2O Lord have made known your victory  
    You have revealed his righteousness in the sight of nations.  
3**You remember your steadfast love   
    and faithfulness to the house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen  
    the salvation of our God.

**4Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands,  
    lift up your voice, rejoice and sing;  
5** Sing to the Lord with the harp,  
    with the harp and the voice of song,  
**6with trumpets and the sound of the horn—  
    shout with joy before the King, and the Lord.**

**7**Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,  
    the world, and all who dwell there in.  
**8Let the rivers clap their hands,  
    let the hills ring out together for joy before the Lord, who comes to judge the earth;  
9** the Lord will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity ,

EPISTLE: 1 John 5: 1-6 Ruthie Philbrook

SPECIAL: Candi Barton

\* GOSPEL: John 15: 9-17

SERMON: Reverend Jeffrey Lewis

SILENCE

COMMUNION

PRAYERS OF THANKS

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we you give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

***BLESSING: Reverend Jeffrey Lewis***

CLOSING HYMN: “When is Awe of God’s Creation”

When is awe of God’s creation, we view earth from outer space,

This mysterious, floating marble, strewn with clouds and bathed in grace.

How can we not pause in wonder seeing earth as one and whole?

As we heal our proud divisions, may earth’s healing be our goal.

Blue and tan with lace clouds swirling, flung in space and circling there,

Habitat for myriad creatures meant for land and sea and air!

Must we draw our lines of hatred marking nation, class and race?

God forgive us, we entreat you, for all pride of self and place.

Living now, this is the picture we no longer can deny,

For we see no angry boundaries when our view is from the sky.

Rivers, deserts, forests, snowfields, oceans lakes, and mountains too,

But no fences built for barring you from me or me from you.

Now we face the unknown future, challenged by the work at hand.

Still the God of all creation summons us with one command,

“Love each other” will we do it, “Love each other?” Wars might cease.

“Love each other” Justice follows. “Love each other” there is peace.

DISMISSAL: Let us go forth into the world in rejoicing.

***Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!***