

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be pleasing in your sight, O God, my Rock and my Redeemer.

*Psalm 19:14*

We are to speak what is needed, what God needs spoken, for the sake of those who might otherwise perish. The principle of divine authority in this *can* be an opening for arrogance, but it can and should be instead a caution to use our speech with holy responsibility, both with compassionate care and with urgent attention, not to our own feelings and interests but to what God wants spoken. *John K. Stendahl, Lutheran Church of the Newtons, Newton, MA, 21<sup>st</sup> c.*

If you bring forth what is within you, what you bring forth will save you.

If you do not bring forth what is within you, what you do not bring forth will destroy you.

*Jesus of Nazareth, The Gospel According to Thomas*

. . . people receive countless opportunities to be reverent before whatever is set before them. Sometimes it's a wedding, sometimes a funeral. It could be a sunny spring morning; it could be a cancer ward. You don't get to choose the event. You only get to choose whether or not you will be reverent. *Rabbi Lawrence Kushner, Kabbalah: A Love Story, 21<sup>st</sup> c.*

One person with a belief is a social power equal to ninety-nine who have only interests.

*John Stuart Mill, British philosopher, 19<sup>th</sup> c.*

If you deny yourself commitment, what can you do with your life?

*Harvey Fierstein, American actor, 21<sup>st</sup> c.*

Prayer Candles: Is there a person or relationship that needs a prayer?

Please come forward and light an individual prayer candle before our worship begins.

### Greeting One Another in Peace and Friendship Welcome and Announcements

**The Introit**     *The Day of Resurrection*     Henry Smart, arr. F. L. Callahan  
Bodwell Memorial Hand Bell Choir; Rachel Dobbs, *Director*

\* **The Gathering Hymn**     *Rise Up, O Saints of God!*     # 611

#### \* **The Call to Worship**

**L:**     *On this day and in days to come, we remember that there are times when  
God restates the joyful Easter proclamation.*

**P:**     **Abilities faded and forgotten are channeled toward new creativity—  
this is the presence of God.**

**L:**     *Friendships once killed by frosty misunderstandings bloom again in warm  
reconciliation—this is the presence of God.*

**P:**     **Hopes glimmering and gone are rekindled by expressions of  
caring— this is the presence of God.**

**L:**     *Faith, dulled by lack of exercise, dances again to God's everyday  
rhythms— this is the presence of God.*

**P:**     **Come, let us worship the God whose resurrecting power lives on and  
renews us to be open to the presence of grace in our lives.**

**The Gathering Prayer:** *(unison)*

**Gracious God, we have faith in you who created and claimed all creatures  
and who enters our lives with hope and redemption and the courage to act  
on our beliefs. Together we find our faith in Jesus who lives among us,  
whom we continue to experience as your grace, and who calls us together  
to understand life and love as radical commitment to others. O God, we  
know that your presence comes to us in community wherever we seek to  
know you by doing justice and loving mercy. Because all things are possible  
through you, we proclaim to the world that you are still creating and  
redeeming and making things whole. We speak these words in the power of  
your name. Amen.**

### The Anthem

*Faith, Hope, and Love*     Jason W. Krug  
Bodwell Memorial Hand Bell Choir; Rachel Dobbs, *Director*

**Time for the Child in Each of Us**     Craigen and Bob Healy, Cever School, Honduras  
*As per the choice of our children and youth, CUF's Christmas Benevolent funds went  
to support The Cever School in Honduras. The Healys have been going there to work  
for fourteen years as part of the Maine United Church of Christ partnership with the  
Evangelical and Reform Church of Honduras. We welcome them here today!*

**Sing Our Children to Sunday School** *(seated)*     *Go Now In Peace* #437(twice)  
Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of God surround you  
everywhere, everywhere you may go.

**The Offering Prayer of Dedication** *(unison)*     J.P.Newell *(alt.)*

**O God, we are grateful for the gift of this day, for the gift of this moment,  
for the mystery of time and eternity bound together.**

**May we be attentive to the sacred hopes and longings that have never before  
happened, to visions of earth's peace and prosperity, and  
to all opportunities to be a part of all that is good and whole. Amen.**

**The Offering and The Offertory**     *Behold a Host*     Grieg

\* **The Doxology**     **Let the whole creation cry, Alleluia!**     # 21  
**"Glory be to God on high!" Alleluia!**  
**Sun and moon, lift up your voice, Alleluia!**  
**Night and stars in God rejoice, Alleluia!**

**The Gospel Message**     *John 20:19-31*     Reverend Grenfell

## The CUF Search Committee

Presentation

and

All Church Discussion

Do not be silent.

There is no limit to the power that may be released through you.

*Howard Thurman, American author, philosopher, theologian, d. 1981*

Ed Brazee, *co-chair*

Rachel Dobbs

Stefanie Egenhofer

Tricia Griffith

Dewey Hasbrouck

John Mascetta

Brian McGill, *co-chair*

Barbara Turner

Irene von Hoffmann

\* **The Parting Hymn**     *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*     # 602 vs 3,4

\* **The Benediction**     Rachel Dobbs, *Trustee*

\* **The Postlude**     *Prince of Denmark March*     Clarke

## Today's Plate Offering

marked gifts  
(check or envelope)

PLEDGE

or

Partners for Peace

(formerly Spruce Run)

Partners for Peace is a private, non-profit organization in Bangor dedicated to serving people affected by domestic abuse and working to end personal, institutional, and cultural violence. Partners for Peace offers support, feedback and information about options, with the firm belief in a person's right to make their own decisions and act on their own behalf. Partners for Peace offers shelter, support groups, education, children's services, and training for members of the community on dealing with domestic abuse.

or

Bangor Area Homeless Shelter

The mission of BAHS is to provide emergency shelter and supportive services to the homeless and economically disadvantaged of the Bangor area. The facility is open 24/7 providing overnight shelter as well as a Day Program. It serves homeless adults and other low-income members of our community. The BAHS's primary purpose is to offer a form of crisis stabilization and then develop a support system to enable people to move beyond homelessness.

Please make checks payable to  
The Church of Universal Fellowship.  
Memo your check or mark your envelope:

Pledge

or

Partners for Peace

or

Bangor Area Homeless Shelter (BAHS)

*(unmarked gifts will support Open Doors)*