

The experience of eternity right here and now is the function of life. Heaven is not the place to have the experience; here is the place to have the experience. *Joseph Campbell, 20th c.*

If you are a Christian, you are not a citizen of this world trying to get to heaven; you are a citizen of heaven making your way through this world. *Vance Havner, popular American evangelist, 20th c.*

I've come to believe that how we choose to live with pain, or injustice, or death... is the true measure of the Divine within us. *Alan Brennert, American screenwriter and author, Moloka'i, 21st c.*

Our task must be to free ourselves... by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty. *Albert Einstein, theoretical physicist, d. 1955*

It is not enough to be compassionate. You must act. There are two aspects to action. One is to overcome the distortions and afflictions of your own mind, that is, in terms of calming and eventually dispelling anger. This is action out of compassion. The other is more social, more public. When something needs to be done in the world to rectify the wrongs, if one is really concerned with benefiting others, one needs to be engaged, involved. *His Holiness the Dalai Lama, 21st c.*

From the point of view of a Christian spirituality, it is important to stress that every human being is called to be a healer. Although there are many professions asking for special, long and arduous training, we can never leave the task of healing to the specialist only.... We all are healers who can reach out to offer health, and we all are patients in constant need of help. *Henri Nouwen, 20th 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 Prelude** *Spring Fancies* Rob Roy Peery

### The Centering Silence

**The Introit** *They'll Know We are Christians* Peter Scholtes

\* **The Gathering Hymn** *For the Beauty of the Earth* # 56

\* **The Call to Worship** *Fyodor Dostoevsky, Russia, 19th c.*

L: Love all God's creation, the whole and every grain of sand in it.

P: **Love every leaf, every ray of God's light.**

L: Love the animals, love the plants, love everything.

P: **If you love everything, you will perceive the divine mystery in things.**

L: Once you perceive it, you will begin to comprehend it better every day.

P: **And you will come at last to love the whole world with an all-embracing love.**

### The Gathering Prayer (*unison*)

**O God, through our love and study of the teachings of Jesus in the Gospel narratives, we strive to know and to understand the spark of divine creation in each living being. When even one person suffers pain and loss, God weeps. All humanity weeps. This is what we have been taught. This is what we trust, and this is some of what has brought each of us here to worship this morning. But there is more.**

**We worship trusting that in the darkness there is light. At the altar, our Candle for the Common Good signifies our affirmation that this place of worship is part of a worldwide community seeking to articulate and reaffirm the good of all life, the value of every living thing. We know the Holy Spirit is acting to create this kind of world. To listen and to learn are our sacred duties in considering the spiritual, social and relational needs of others. May we be attentive to seeing and discerning what the Presence of God is doing, to follow it, and to add to it without fear. Amen.**

**The Anthem** *Flower Carol* arr. Peter Amidon

### Time for the Child in Each of Us

**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 Prayer Hymn** (*seated*) *All Things Bright and Beautiful* # 61

### The Silent Prayer and Pastoral Prayer

**The Lord's Prayer** 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 echoes through the universe.**

**May the way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth.**

**May your heavenly will be done by all created beings.**

**May 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 test, 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.**

**The Congregational Response** *Confitemini Domino* Taize Community

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O God, are holy.**

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace, allelu-u-u-u-ia!**

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O God, are holy.**

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace, allelu-u-u-u-ia!**

**The Offering Prayer of Dedication** (*unison*)

**Walk among us, God of Peace. Help our church to find the joy that comes through involvement and sharing, so that we participate in the changes taking place in the world and are a part of making all persons free. Amen.**

**The Offering and The Offertory** *In Remembrance* Donald Lee Moore

\* **The Doxology** # 715, vs 3

**All praise and thanks to God our Father and our Mother,  
to Christ and to the One who binds us to each other,  
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

**The Scripture Reading** *Acts 11:1-18* Ginny Gallant, *Liturgist*

**The Sermon** *Worldwide Diaspora* Reverend Grenfell

**The Parting Hymn** *Help Us Accept Each Other* # 487 vs 3-4

\* **The Benediction**

\* **The Choral Benediction** # 230, vs 4

**When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
your touch can call us back to life again,  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.**

\* **The Postlude** *Spring Song* Esther S. Higgins

## Today's Plate Offering

marked gifts

PLEDGE or

Orono to Africa

Mozambique:

### Medical Tuition Assistance

Former Orono school nurse Emily Wesson and her husband Dr. Peter Millard mentor and financially support medical students in Beria, **Mozambique**. One of these students is Bigiruhiriwe Rehnovat (Big). Big and his family are refugees and the area has just suffered through a tremendous cyclone disaster. Our church has helped Big through his medical education, and he is beginning his residency.

Malawi:

### Support for Women, Children, Sustainability

This area, too, suffered from Cyclone Idai in March. Marquita Hill, wife of John Hassler, a former CUF choir member, has traveled to **Malawi** – one of the poorest countries in the world—for many years using her own funds and church donations. Her efforts to help improve conditions in Malawi include: opening and supporting YWCA programs, adult literacy and health education classes, microloan programs, the building of “rocket stoves” and drinking water wells, planting trees, planned parenthood and much more. Our church continues to help in all these endeavors!

**Along with your support of CUF's  
Annual Church Picnic,  
please make checks payable to:  
The Church of Universal Fellowship.**

**Memo your check or mark your  
envelope:**

Pledge or

Orono to Africa

*(unmarked gifts will support  
Open Doors)*

April Benevolences:

Partners for Peace \$243  
Bangor Area Homeless Shelter \$190  
Thank You!