

May 24, 2020



97-year-old Brazilian Gina Dal Colleto being released from the hospital after surviving COVID-19

First Congregational Church
Waterville United Church of Christ
7 Eustis Parkway
Waterville, ME 04901

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www.watervilleucc.org

WATERVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
WATERVILLE, MAINE
May 24, 2020
9:30 a.m.

Seeking to walk in the Way of Jesus, we are an Open and Affirming church, faithfully using who we are and what we have to serve those on the margins of our community. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Words of Greeting and Announcements

Prelude David Dean, Piano

Call to Worship (*responsively*) Rev. Thom Shuman

By God's grace, we are who we are:

**People who are called,
but afraid to follow.**

By God's grace, we are who we are:

**People who are called,
and gifted with courage.**

By God's grace, we are who we are:

**People who are called,
and given good news to share.**

Hymn

Abide with Me

Bulletin Insert

Prayer of Invocation (unison)

RCL Prayers

**Loving God,
 you have called forth disciples and prophets
 to live and speak your word.
 Give us ears to hear,
 lives to respond,
 and voices to proclaim the good news of salvation,
 which we know in our Savior Jesus Christ,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Song of Praise

Glory to God in the Highest

Anna Beth Rynders

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to all peo ple on earth. Glo-ry to Christ, the
 light of the world, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it, now and for - ev - er, A - men.

Storytime

It Will Be Okay

Lysa TerKeurst

PRAYERS

Pastoral Prayer

Prayers from our Prayer Book

Prayers of the People - Response: "**This is our prayer.**"

Silent Prayers

Prayer of our Savior (say the one that is in your heart)

A Traditional Version

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

A Contemporary Version

Our Creator in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Do not lead us into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Dedication of Offerings

1 Corinthians 15:1-26, 51-57

1 Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, 2 through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. 3 For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, 4 and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. 11 Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe. 12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; 14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. 15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we

testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. 17 If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. 19 If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. 20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. 21 For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; 22 for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 24 Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

51 Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 54 When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." 55 "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be

to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon *We Will Not All Die* Rev. Mark D. Wilson

Hymn *When Peace Like a River* Bulletin Insert

Benediction

Postlude

Notes on the Text: 1 Corinthians 15

Here we have one of the earliest confessions of faith in the New Testament. Paul is writing about two decades after the resurrection of Jesus, but also about two decades before the first Gospel is written, too. In a text like this, we hear Paul at his most poignant ("as to one untimely born"), prophetic ("we will not all die, but we will all be changed"), powerful ("O death, where is your victory?"), and, sadly, all twisted up and convoluted, too (verses 12-20 come to mind). Such is Paul; such are we, sometimes, as well.

It may have been that some at the Corinthian church denied the resurrection. Paul writes to refute those folks.

Here are some helps for making sense of what Paul is trying to say.

15:3 - Paul may be speaking of a scripture like one of the "Suffering Servant" passages from Isaiah, like Isaiah 53:5-12 ("He was wounded for our transgressions . . . he poured himself out to death").

15:4 - Paul may be speaking of a scripture like Psalm 16:10: "For you did not give me up to Sheol."

15:5 - "He appeared to Cephas." That would be Peter, called here by his Aramaic name. Both mean "the rock." There is no direct Gospel account of a post-resurrection appearance of Jesus to Peter, singularly. That honor goes to Mary Magdalene. It is alluded to in Luke 24:34, but never confirmed. More likely, we are hearing the early church, "built upon the rock," claiming primacy for Peter.

15:6 - There is no other telling of this story.

15:7 - James. He may be the person named as "The Lord's brother" in Galatians 1:19 (see also Mark 6:3), which would make him the leader of the early Jerusalem church (see Acts 15 or Acts 21). Hard telling not knowing. The fact that the next clause says "then to all the apostles" might point to this James being John's brother or "James the Less," another apostle. In the context of the New Testament, an apostle usually refers to the original Twelve Disciples, or, literally another "one who is sent" by Jesus. Paul's encounter with the risen Jesus in Acts 9:3-6 would put him in this category.

15:9 - See Acts 8:3 as a for instance.

15:21-22 - Paul would deepen this idea later in Romans 5:12-18

15:24 - Ruler: in Greek, *arche*, the first person to do something; the head, the leader. Authority: in Greek, *exousia*, "influence, privilege, government, judgments and those who make them." Power: in Greek, *dunamis*, "strength, inherent power, power from riches, power arising from force."

15:25 - See Psalm 8:6, or Hebrews 2:8, quoting the same.

15:51 - For Paul, to "sleep" was to die before Jesus's coming. See 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17, probably the only letter earlier than this one.

15:52 - ". . . in a moment." Jesus alludes to that day coming quickly as well in Luke 12:39 ("a thief in the night"), or the way labor pains come upon a woman about to give birth (John 16:21). In Matthew 24:31 Jesus speaks of the trumpet heralding his coming. In Isaiah 27:13 the prophet speaks of a trumpet calling all the Jewish diaspora back to Jerusalem. The trumpet is also part of 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

15:54 - Paul quotes Isaiah 25:8, "God will swallow up death forever."

15:55 - Hosea 13:14, "O death, where are your plagues? O Sheol, where is your destruction?"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Zoom Sunday Worship password, effective this Sunday, May 24

My experience has been the safest and most effective way to connect to a Zoom meeting is to manually enter the Meeting ID, in this case 360 970 974 - and then the password - **835873**

If you want to try just clicking on this link with the password embedded, it should also work:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/360970974?pwd=OFU2aHJyWWgxdncyL3d5aFNjVnlDUT09>

And you can always call in 1 929 205 6099

And then enter the

Meeting ID: 360 970 974

Password: 835873

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Our daily 10:00 Zoom check in/prayer gatherings continue.

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Meeting ID: 360 970 974

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2020 Budget, July - December

If you are a Committee Chair or Team Leader it is time to think about submitting your budget requests for the second half of 2020. Those should be ready by June 7. You will remember that we only voted on a 1/2 year budget last fall. In light of both our pending move and the coronavirus, this course of action has proven to be a sound one. It is likely the Congregation will meet June 28 to discuss and vote on the budget for July-December of this year. Thank you!

The church keeps operating even if we aren't here to worship. Please mail your donations to us at 7 Eustis Parkway, Waterville, 04901 or take advantage of our convenient online giving by starting

here: <https://www.watervilleucc.org/donate>

Church office hours are 8:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Our Church Life: This Coming Week
May 24, 2020

Today, May	24	8:15 Church Council on Zoom 9:30 a.m. Worship Service broadcast on the church's Facebook page and on Zoom
Monday	25	10:00 a.m. Daily prayer/check-in time on Zoom
Tuesday	26	10:00 a.m. Daily prayer/check-in time on Zoom
Wednesday	27	9:00 a.m. Essentials Closet 10:00 a.m. Daily prayer/check-in time on Zoom 11:30 a.m. Study group on Zoom 6:00 p.m. Study group on Zoom
Thursday	28	10:00 a.m. Daily prayer/check-in time on Zoom 5:00 p.m. Essentials Closet
Friday	29	9:00 a.m. Essentials Closet 10:00 a.m. Daily prayer/check-in time on Zoom
Saturday	30	10:00 a.m. Daily prayer/check-in time on Zoom
Sunday	31	9:30 Worship Service on church's Facebook page and on Zoom