**Worship from Home**

**First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC**

**Second Sunday of Easter, April 27, 2025**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship (from John Philip Newell)

**One:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Many: And also with you.**

**One:**  Christ is risen! Alleluia!

**Many: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**One:** It is because we long for peace that we pray.

**Many: It is because we hope for wholeness that we hunger.**

**One:** It is because we need forgiveness that we seek new beginnings.

**Many: So we come, entering the depths of our soul--**

**One:** To plead for peace, to summon wholeness, to beg forgiveness of ourselves and one another, and thus of You, Soul within our soul, Light within our longings.

**Many: Be still and aware.**

*\**Hymn #230 NCH *“Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain”*

Come, you faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness!
God has brought all Israel into joy from sadness,
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters,
led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.

Spring has dawned on earth today; Christ has burst from prison,
and from three days' sleep in death as the sun hath risen;
all the winter of our sins, long and gray, is flying
from the Light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.

Now the joyous season, bright with the day of splendor,
with the royal feast of feasts, comes its joy to render;
Comes to glad Jerusalem who with true affection
Welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection!

Neither might the gates of death, nor the tomb’s dim portal,

Nor the watchers, nor the seal hold you as a mortal;

But today amid the twelve you still stand, bestowing

Peace and joy which evermore passes human knowing.

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**Breathe the breath of new life into us, O Lord, that we may fully feel the power of your love and the awesome glory of the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ. Prepare us to receive your blessing and then to go from this place to be a blessing to others in your name.**

Children’s Message

Psalm 150, NCH p. 723 Psalm 150

A Reading from the New Testament Revelation 1:4-8

Anthem

A Reading from the Gospels John 20:19-31

Message *“The Alpha and the Omega”* Pastor Lisa

*\**Hymn#256 NCH *“We Live by Faith and Not by Sight”*

We live by faith, and not by sight; no gracious words we hear
From Christ who spoke as none ne'er spoke, who still we know is near.

We may not touch His hands and side, nor follow where Christ trod;
But in confessing we rejoice: our Savior and our God!

Help then, O Christ, our unbelief; and may our faith abound,
To call on you when you are near, and seek where you are found.

That when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light,
We may behold you as you are, with full and endless sight.

Prayers of the People *(sharing of joys and concerns)*

The Lord's Prayer *(debts and debtors)*

Choral Response

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above, you heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen**

Prayer of Dedication

**(From Moira Laidlaw)**

**Gracious and loving God, you raised Jesus from the dead, disclosing forever your love for the world. Such a generous act not only showers us with grace, it begs a response. We respond with these gifts and our lives - praying your blessing on them. As you sent Jesus, so send us in the power of your Spirit to reveal your love in all we do and say. We pray in the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen**

*\**Hymn Insert *“Soon and Very Soon”*

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King (x3)
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King

No more crying there we are going to see the King (x3)

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King

No more dying there, we are going to see the King (x3)

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King (x3)
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King

Benediction

Postlude

Our prayer of invocation this morning comes from Cokesbury’s online Worship Resources.