**Worship from Home**

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

**The Fifth Sunday of Lent, April 6, 2025**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit *“My Song is Love Unknown”*

Call to Worship

**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:** Come, Beloved, for the Great Giver has restored your fortunes!

**Many: Let us tell of abundance as we shout with joy!**

**One:** Come, Growers, for the Creator has brought up rivers in the desert!

**Many: Let us declare our praise as we plant our fields!**

**One:**  Come, Pilgrims, for the Righteous One has set a path through the sea!

**Many: Let us rejoice as we make our journey!**

**One:** Come, People of God, for the Holy One has done great things for us!

**All: Let us worship God!**

Hymn #190 NCH *“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”*

Beneath the cross of Jesus I gladly take my stand,

the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;

A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,

From the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus within my mind I see

The very dying form of One who suffered there for me;

And from my grieving heart with tears two wonders I confess—

The wonders of Christ’s glorious love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;

I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of Christ’s face;

Content to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,

My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

Unison Prayer of Invocation and Confession

**Come to this sanctuary, this house, this home, Holy Christ, and let us receive you with lavish welcome. You are the Restorer of our fortunes, the Promise of new life. We pour out our praise to you. Fill this room with your Spirit: The sound of wind, the warmth of flame, the scent of perfume; and fill our hearts with your compassion, not just in this time and place, but in all times and in all places, so that as we celebrate the great things you have done for us, we may also embody the love you give to all.**

**We confess, Anointed One, that we excuse ourselves from reaching out to those who need your care. We take your words – that there will always be unmet needs – as a reason not to try to meet the needs we can. Forgive us and help us to change. Renew our determination to live as faithful followers, faithful disciples, faithful Christians. Help us to work with you for the well-being of your creation, that the fortunes of all your peoples may be restored. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Children’s Message

Psalm 126, p. 707 NCH Psalm 126

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible Isaiah 43:16-21

Anthem *“Wondrous Love”*

A Reading from the Gospels John 12:1-11

Sermon *“Choices, Choices”* Pastor Lisa

Hymn #206 NCH *“A Woman Came Who Did Not Count the Cost”*

A woman came who did not count the cost of doing what she could.

She broke an alabaster flask, and sweetness spilled on Jesus’ head.

Refrain: O God, you are the Anointing One who does not count your passion’s cost,

And when we gather you will spill the sweetness of your grace on us.

Some only saw what she had spent—“Why such a waste with pour to feed?”

They served the poor well with their tongues! But she had done a lovely deed.

Refrain

You give as she, surprisingly, you give with beauty as she gave,

You give as she, not holding back, you make us Christlike with your love. Refrain

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

Pastoral Prayer

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

Prayer 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

**What we own is nothing, Valuable God –what we can gain or keep or have is worthless if it is only for our own satisfaction. All that we have and all that we are belongs to you, and the giving is a blessing in itself. We dedicate this day, not only the things we can put in a plate or write on a piece of paper, but also the things we cannot touch: our hearts, our spirits, our passion, our resolve. Use them, and us, to restore the fortunes of all your people; to seek your will, to strengthen your church, and to serve you faithfully. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

**Invitation**

**Consecration**

**Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Loving and gracious God, we give you thanks for the bounty of this table, and for your abundant love, shared with all people. As we gather with the members and friends of this church, we thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit among us, drawing us together in your name, and sending us out to serve you. May we be sustained by this meal and by your life-giving Spirit in all that we do. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

Hymn #224 NCH *“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”*

When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Christ of glory died,

My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, then, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God;

All the vain things that charm me most I sacrifice them to Christ’s blood.

From sacred head, from hands, and feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down!

Did e’er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown!

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;

Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Benediction

Postlude

**Restoring Fortune! Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday of Lent,** was written by the Rev. Mary Nelson Abbott