**Worship from Home**

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

**Second Sunday of Easter, April 7, 2024**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit *“Without Seeing You”*

Call to Worship (from Psalm 148)

**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:**   Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise God in the heights above.

**Many: Praise God, all the angels. Praise God all the heavenly hosts. Praise God, sun and moon. Praise God, all you shining stars.**

**One:** Praise God, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.

**All: Praise the name of the Lord, for God’s name alone is exalted. God’s splendor is above the earth and the heavens.**

Hymn #253 NCH *“Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One!”*

Yours is the glory, Resurrected one! Endless is the victory you o’er death have won.

Angels clothed in radiance rolled the stone away,

Conquered is the grave, in which your body lay.

Refrain: Yours is the glory, Resurrected one! Endless is the victory you o’er death have won.

See, it is Jesus, Jesus has appeared; do not doubt at all for nothing you will fear.

Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,

Tell it without ceasing, Death has lost its sting. Refrain

Am I still frightened? One whom I adore, Jesus lives again, gives peace for evermore.

Jesus is my victory, life and strength and Head;

Jesus is my glory, nothing shall I dread. Refrain

Unison Prayer of Invocation (from Cokesbury’s Online Resources)

**Lord of Resurrection surprises, open our hearts this day to the presence of Jesus Christ. Erase our excuses for unbelief and exchange them for strong witness to the power of your mercy and love. Give us courage and challenge us to walk the path of discipleship, knowing that Jesus goes before us, leading and guiding our steps. Amen**

Children’s Message

Psalm 133 p.712 NCH Psalm 133

A Reading from the New Testament Acts 4:32-35

A Reading from the Epistles 1 John 1:1-7

A Reading from the Gospels John 20:24 -31

Sermon *“Grafted into the Eternal Word”*  Pastor Lisa

Hymn Insert *“Lord, We Hear Your Word”*

Lord, we hear your Word with gladness: you have spoken--we rejoice:

words of love and life and freedom--help us make their truth our choice!

Now in holy celebration for your Word we worship you;

spoken, written, known in Jesus, ours today to prove anew.

May we hear with understanding, by your Spirit taught and led;

may the springs of all our being by your Living Word be fed;

may our hearts accept with meekness all the grace your light makes known;

may obedience mark our footsteps ‘til we make each word our own!

You have spoken--yours the fulness, ours the wealth of this your Word:

debtors, then, as living letters we must make your Gospel heard!

By your Spirit's power transform us; shed your saving Light abroad

till our lives by love in action show our world the truth of God!

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

Pastoral Prayer

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

Invitation to Give

OffertoryAnthem *“One Bread, One Body”*

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 Richard Fiarfield)

**Gracious and giving God - we want to thank you and to bring praise and glory to your name; we want to help you in your work in this world and to show to all the wonders of your love. Bless we pray these offerings and our very selves that these wants may be fulfilled and that the marks of your Risen Son may be evident in us. We ask it in his name. Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

**Invitation**

**Consecration**

**Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Pastor:** We thank You, O God, for Your life, pulsing in creation, revealed in Jesus, renewed in resurrection, and available to us now.

**All: Thank You for touching us again with Your life through bread and the cup; For joining our lives with Yours through Jesus; And for renewing resurrection in our hearts through your Holy Spirit.**

**Pastor:** Filled with life, we now offer ourselves to be life-bringers in the world. Touched by resurrection we pledge to resist death wherever we find it. Filled with hope we embrace the promise of eternity, and the call to make it known at every opportunity.

**All: Through us may graves continue to be opened, and may the dead continue to be awakened to new life. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.**

\*Hymn #251 NCH (vs. 1, 2, 5) *“I Greet You, Sure Redeemer”*

I greet you, sure Redeemer, with my heart, glad for the saving love that you impart,

Who pain did undergo for my poor sake; I pray you from our hearts all cares to take.

You are the source of mercy and of grace, reigning omnipotent in every place;

So rule in us and our whole being sway. Shine on us with the light of your pure day.

Our hope is all in you and you alone; we trust the promise that your word makes known.

O dear Redeemer, make us calm and sure, that in your strength we evermore endure.

Benediction

**Pastor Lisa:** Christ is risen.

**Many: Christ is risen indeed!**

**Pastor Lisa:** There is now no negative force that can finally defeat us,

**All: and no power on earth or in the heavens that can ultimately destroy us.**

**Pastor Lisa:** Leave this house of prayer confidently, walk purposefully, and travel joyfully,love generously, serve gladly, and arrive safely.

**All: For all things are ours, and we are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.**

**Pastor Lisa:** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all, and abide with you always.

**All: Amen.**

Postlude