**Worship from Home**

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

**Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023**

Prelude *“Thine is the Glory”* G.F. Handel

Welcome & Announcements

Introit *“I Come to the Garden Alone”*

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:** Night is over; morning has broken! Jesus Christ is Risen!  
**Many: The stone that closed off death has been rolled away!  
One:** In Christ we have the promise of resurrection! It has been declared to us: Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. **Many: Hallelujah!**

**One:** Hallelujah! Christ is Risen!

**Many: Christ is Risen Indeed!  
One:** Let us worship and celebrate our Risen Lord; **All: Let us celebrate the resurrection, and the gift of eternal life with God.**

*\**Hymn #233 NCH *“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”*

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing glad heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Let the Victor’s people sing, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!  
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!  
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!  
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!

Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!

Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**Holy One, you come to us with power beyond all knowing. You lift all things out of the dust, you breathe love into every cell, you call us into communion with you, and you claim victory over death. Open our eyes and soften our hearts, O God, through the work of your Holy Spirit, that in the hearing of your Word we may receive new life. We pray in Jesus’ holy name. Amen.**

Children’s Message

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible Job 19:25-27

Anthem *“Redeemer”* Nicole C. Mullen

Who taught the sun where to stand in the morning?  
And who told the ocean, you can only come this far?  
And who showed the moon where to hide 'til evening?  
Whose words alone can catch a falling star?

Refrain: Well, I know my Redeemer lives; I know my Redeemer lives  
All of creation testifies; This life within me cries  
I know my Redeemer lives, yeah

The very same God that spins things in orbit runs to the weary, the worn and the weak.  
And the same gentle hands that hold me when I'm broken  
They conquered death to bring me victory Refrain

He lives to take away my shame and He lives forever, I'll proclaim  
That the payment for my sin was the precious life He gave  
But now He's alive and there's an empty grave... Refrain

A Reading from the Gospels John 20: 1-18

Message *“I Know My Redeemer Lives”* Pastor Lisa

*\**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 has 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!

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

**Holy God, we give you thanks and praise for light and life and love, and—above all—the presence of the living Lord among us. By your Spirit who breathes within us, strengthen our faith, use our gifts, and work in our lives to bear witness to the resurrection of Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

*\**Hymn #245 NCH *“The Day of Resurrection”*

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;  
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,  
our Christ hath brought us over, with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright  
the Christ who reigns eternal in resurrection light;  
We listen for the teachings, once heard so calm and plain,  
for we, too, want to follow and raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin,  
the whole world keep triumph, and all that is therein!  
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,  
for Christ again has risen, our joy that has no end.

Benediction

Benedictory Response *“Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day”*

Postlude *“Toccata from Symphony No. 5 in C Major”* Charles-Marie Widor

Clair Maxwell, Organ

This morning’s liturgy comes from *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion*, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor, with the exception of the Call to Worship, which comes from the Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell.