**Worship from Home**

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

**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, August 13, 2023**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit *“Give Unto the Lord”*

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:** Give thanks to the Lord! **Many: Sing praise to God’s name!
One:** The Lord has done wonderful things for us!
**Many: The Lord has heaped blessing upon blessing in our lives!
One:** Come, sing, shout, and give thanks to God.
**Many: In all our ways, we will continually thank God forever. AMEN.**

*\**Hymn #502 TNCH (vs. 1-4) *“Dear God, Embracing Humankind”*

Dear God, embracing humankind, forgive our foolish ways!
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives your service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of your word, Let us, like them, by spirit stirred
Rise up and followers be.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee! O calm of hills above,
There Jesus met you prayerfully: the silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love.

Drop your still dews of quietness, ‘til all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of your peace.

Unison Prayer of Invocation and Confession

**Lord, we come to you this day, seeking your healing and restoring love. Give us courage to reach out to you in the good and easy times as well as in the times of strain and stress. Open our hearts to receive your message of peace and hope.**

**You know how easy it is for us to come to you and to proclaim loudly of our faith when all is going well. But when the waters get rough and the waves threaten to swamp our little boats, we cry and wail in fear. We are sure that these waves will be the very things that destroy us. Over the wind and the waves you call to us to place our trust in you. That’s not so easy for us. We are so used to getting lots of reassurances and written guarantees of safety. But still you call to us. Help us take our focus off the wind and the waves and place our gaze directly on you. Attune our hearts and our lives to hear your call and to respond in faith. For we offer this prayer in the name of Jesus. AMEN.**

Words of Assurance Pastor Lisa

Children’s Message

Psalm 85:8-13, page 676

Anthem *“Blessings,”* by Laura Story

A Reading from the Gospels Matthew 14:22-33

Message *“A Buoyant Hope”* Derek Van Bever

Hymn #441 TNCH *“Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me”*

Jesus, Savior, pilot me, Over life's tempestuous sea:
Unknown waves before me roll, Hiding rock and treacherous shoal;
Chart and compass ever be, Jesus, Savior, pilot me!

As a mother stills her child, you can hush the ocean wild;
Boisterous waves obey your will when you say to them, "Be still!"
Wondrous Sovereign of the sea, Jesus, Savior, pilot me!

When at last I near the shore, and the fearful breakers roar
Keeping me from peaceful rest, then, while leaning on your breast,
May I hear your words so true, "Fear not– I will pilot you!"

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

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

Invitation to Give

Offertory *“Sing to Me of Heaven”*

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

**We have received so much from you, O God, and what we offer in return seems paltry by comparison.  But we offer these gifts and our lives to be blessed by you, rejoicing in the knowledge that you can accomplish great and wonderful things through them.  This we pray in the name of Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit.  Amen.**

*\**Hymn #361 PH *“Have Faith in God”*

Have faith in God, my heart, trust and be unafraid;
God will fulfil in every part each promise he has made.

Have faith in God, my mind, although your light burns low;
God’s mercy holds a wiser plan than you can fully know.

Have faith in God, my soul, his cross forever stands;
and neither life nor death can tear his children from his hands.

Lord Jesus, make me whole; grant me no resting place
until I rest, heart, mind, and soul, the captive of your grace.

Benediction

Postlude

\* indicates where the congregation may stand as they are able.

Much of today’s liturgy comes from ministrymatters.com, an online publication.