**Worship from Home**

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

**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 17, 2025**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit  *“It is Good to Sing Thy Praises”*

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:** Sing to the Lord a new song!
**Many: We sing a song of peace and hope!
One:** Sing to the Lord a song of strength.
**Many: Our strength is in the Lord of hosts!
One** Sing to the Lord a song of joy!
**All: Our song is a song of service and faithfulness. AMEN.**

*\**Hymn #436 NCH (vs. 1-3, 5) *“God of Grace and God of Glory”*

God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient Church’s story, bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

From the evils that surround us and assail the Savior’s ways,
From the fears that long have bound us-- free our hearts for faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

Cure your children’s warring madness; bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, make our broken spirits whole, make our broken spirits whole.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
let the search for your salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage serving you whom we adore, serving you whom we adore.

Unison Prayer of Invocation

Psalm #82, p. 674 NCH Psalm 82

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible Jeremiah 23:23-29

Anthem *“At the River”* arr. Aaron Copland

A Reading from the New Testament Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Message *“Eyes on the Prize”* Pastor Lisa

*\**Hymn #299 NCH (vs. 1, 4, 5) *“For All the Saints”*

For all the saints who from their labors rest, who to the world their steadfast love confessed;
your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Ringed by this cloud of witnesses divine, we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet in your love our faithful lives entwine. Alleluia, Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long, steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

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

Choral Response

Offertory,and Anthem by Benny Woodard

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)

**Faithful God, we pause at this point of our faith journey to give you thanks for the love and care you bestow upon us—love and care revealed so fully in Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. We offer these gifts and our lives to be blessed by you as we continue our journey with perseverance and for the sake of the joy you have set before us in Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen**

Hymn #475 NCH  *“God’s Eye is on the Sparrow”*

Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heav’n and home,
When God is ever my portion? My constant Friend will be:
God’s eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me;
God’s eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.

 *Refrain:*
I sing because I’m happy, I sing because I’m free,
For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

“Let not your heart be troubled,” Christ’s tender word I hear,
And resting on God’s goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;
Though by the path God leads me, but one step I may see;
God’s eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me;
God’s eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.

*Refrain:*

Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,
When songs give place to sighing, when hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to my Savior, from care I am set free;
God’s eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me;
God’s eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.

 *Refrain:*

Benediction

Postlude

Our liturgy this morning comes from Nancy Townley, as published on *ministrymatters.com*.

Leading us in worship today are the Rev. Lisa J. Durkee, our settled pastor. Thanks to our musicians today, Clair Maxwell on the organ, guest musician Benny Woodard, and our Gallery Choir under the direction of Tina Dreisbach.