**Worship from Home**

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

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 25, 2024**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit “*Creator God We Sing”*

Call to Worship (from Psalm 84)

**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:**How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
**Many:  My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord;
One:**my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. **Many: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,**
One: where she may lay her young, before you O Lord of hosts.
**Many: Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.
All: For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.**

Hymn Insert *“Better Is One Day”* Matt Redman

How lovely is Your dwelling place, Oh Lord Almighty.
My soul longs and even faints for You.
For here my heart is satisfied, within Your presence.
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings

Refrain: Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere (X2)

One thing I ask, and I would seek, to see Your beauty,
To find You in the place Your glory dwells.
Refrain (X2)

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**Loving God, distant yet near, we gather as witnesses to your promise that if we seek you will all our hearts, we will find you. Be among us this day. Hear the confessions of our mouths and the yearnings of our hearts. Help us change the narrowness of our vision and the pettiness of our living. Make us new again with your holy grace. Grant to us your spirit that our worship may have integrity and energy, ever witnessing to your holy presence in our lives. We praise and give thanks to you, O Lord. Amen**

Children’s Message

Psalm 84, p.675 NCH Psalm 84

A Reading from The Hebrew Bible 1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43

Chimes Interlude

A Reading from The Epistles Ephesians 6:10-20

Sermon *“Slow Church”* Pastor Lisa

Chimes Interlude

\*Hymn Insert *“O Lord, May All We Say and Do”* C. W. Gillette

O Lord, may all we say and do reflect the faith we have in you;
For faith is meant to change the way we live our lives from day to day.

God, may we open wide the door and welcome people who are poor;
And may we share with them our bread, for faith without good works is dead.

Just as a spark can start a fire, our words can damage or inspire;
We pray for wisdom from above to speak and act in gentle love.

May we not covet earthly things or seek the riches this world brings;
May we not boast of all our plans, for, Lord, our lives are in your hands.

O Lord, possessions rust away, but your love fills us every day;
Through prayer and service in your name, may we live out the faith we claim.

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

Pastoral Prayer

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

Invitation to Give

Offertory *“All I Need is You”*

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)

**Gracious God, you hold us firm through the power of your Spirit, and in Jesus you make clear that you withhold nothing from us. You offer us strength to withstand all that threatens to weaken our faith and our witness. Bless these gifts and our lives which we offer in response to your great gifts to us. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen**

\*Hymn #185 NCH *“Called As Partners in Christ’s Service”*

Called as partners in Christ’s service, called to ministries of grace,

We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.

May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,

Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God’s chosen end.

Christ’s example, Christ’s aspiring, Christ’s clear call to work and worth

Let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.

Men and women, richer, poorer, all God’s people, young and old,

Blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ’s mission, in a small or global sense,

Help us bear each other’s burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.

Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,

Bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life

That surround each person’s sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.

Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,

Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

Benediction

Postlude