**Worship from Home**

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

**Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time, August 28, 2022**

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship (from a poem by Judy Dunbar)

**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:** Reach out to one hurting, when we see they are in need.

**Many: We forget our own heartache, and thus both souls are freed.**

**One:** If a soul in sorrow your path should cross, a smile may be all they need.

**Many: But just in case, a warm embrace in your mind’s eye helps, indeed.**

**One:** God’s love is everywhere and in each person’s soul,

**Many: So giving back what we all share, should simply be our goal.**

Hymn *“Morning Has Broken”*

Morning has broken like the first morning  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird  
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning  
Praise for them springing fresh from the world

Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven  
Like the first dewfall on the first grass  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden  
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning  
Born of the one light, Eden saw play  
Praise with elation, praise every morning  
God's recreation of the new day

Unison Prayer of Invocation (from UCC Worship Ways)

**God, we come to this gathering of community where there are no barriers, and all our abilities are celebrated as gifts. We come to receive your hospitality of caring for each one of us and to learn from you how to offer such a celebration to stranger, friend, chosen family, those whose faces are unfamiliar to us, and the face who meets us in the mirror. Amen.**

Stewardship Moment

A Reading from the Epistles Romans 12:9-13

A Reading from The Hebrew Bible Psalm 19

Hymn *“Rejoice in God’s Saints”* vs. 1-2Fred Pratt Green

Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days!

A world without saints forgets how to praise.

Their faith in acquiring the habit of prayer,

Their depth of adoring, Lord, Help us to share.

Some march with events to turn them God's way;

Some need to withdraw, the better to pray;

Some carry the gospel through fire and through flood:

Our world is their parish: their purpose is God.

A Reading from the Gospels Matthew 22:37-39

Message *“Perhaps”* Lin Parker

Hymn *“Rejoice in God’s Saints” vs. 3-4* Fred Pratt GreenRejoice in those saints, unpraised and unknown,

Who bear someone's cross, or shoulder their own:

They share our complaining, our comforts, our cares:

What patience in caring, what courage, is theirs!

Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days!

A world without saint forgets how to praise.

In loving, in living, they prove it is true:

Their way of self-giving, Lord, leads us to you.

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

The Lord’s Prayer

Invitation to Give

Musical Reflection Anne Parker

Prayer of Dedication

**God, we bring these gifts, our response to your invitation. In this giving, we find ourselves not lessened, but newly joyful, truly honored, and deeply fed by your blessing. Amen.**

Hymn #631 NCH  *“There is a Balm in Gilead”*

Refrain: There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.  
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work’s in vain  
but then the holy spirit revives my soul again

If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul  
you can tell the love of Jesus, and say, ‘He died for all.’

Don’t ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend;

And if you lack for knowledge he’ll ne’er refuse to lend.

Benediction

Postlude *“Angels Watchin’ Over Me”*