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

July 9th, 2023

**Sixth Sunday After Pentecost**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit *“God to Enfold You”*

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 #407 NCH *“How Firm a Foundation”*

How firm a foundation for you has been laid,

By God in the Word, in the sacrifice paid!

What more can God say than to you has been said,

To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

‘Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,

For I am your God, I will still give you aid;

I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand

Upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand.”

“When through the deep waters I call you to go

The rivers of woe shall not over you flow;

For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,

Delivering you from your deepest distress.”

“When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,

My grace all-sufficient shall be your supply;

The flame shall not hurt you; for I have designed

Your soul to make pure just as gold is refined.”

“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,

I will not, I will not desert to its foes;

That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,

I’ll never, no never, no never forsake!

Unison Prayer of Invocation and Confession

God of light and life, you have called us this day to open our hearts, our minds, our spirits to hear your words of encouragement, healing, and hope. Give us patience and willingness to serve you in all that we do.

You know our inmost being. You know all that we are, all that we know, all that we think, and all that we believe. When those thoughts, beliefs and ideas turn from you, we long to be placed back on your path. We pray that our lives might be a never-ending offering to you, and that our sin might lead to more ways to learn and grow closer to your hopes for us. Cleanse us of our sin; turn our thoughts and feet ever toward your way. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Words of Assurance

Responsive Reading Psalm 32 (NCH p. 642)

A Reading from The Hebrew Bible Exodus 1:15 – 21

A Reading from the Epistles Romans 7:15-25a

Message *“Hitting the Mark”* Derek van Bever

Hymn #403 NCH *“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”*

*My hope is built on nothing less*

*than Jesus’ love and righteousness;*

*I dare not trust this earthly frame,*

*but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.*

*Refrain*

*On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;*

*all other ground is sinking sand,*

*all other ground is sinking sand.*

*When shadows veil my Savior’s face,*

*I rest upon unchanging grace;*

*In every high and stormy gale,*

*My anchor holds with in the veil.*

*Christ’s oath and covenant and blood*

*support me in the rising flood;*

*When all around my should gives way,*

*Christ then is all my hope and stay.*

*When Christ shall come with trumpet sound,*

*Oh, may I then in Love be found.*

*Dressed in God’s righteousness alone,*

*faultless to stand before the throne.*

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

The Lord’s Prayer (debts and debtors)

Choral Response *“In God Alone”*

Invitation to Give

Offertory *"I Heard the Voice"*

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 our 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 #418 NCH  *“My Faith, It Is an Oaken Staff”*

*My faith, it is an oaken staff, the traveler’s well-loved aid;*

*My faith, it is a song of trust, sustains me undismayed.*

*I’ll travel on and still be stirred by silent thought or social word;*

*By all my perils undeterred, a pilgrim unafraid.*

*My guide is Jesus Christ whose steps, when travelers have trod,*

*Other beneath was flinty rock or yielding grassy sod,*

*They carried on, their joy unspent; through pain and trial they onward went,*

*Unstayed by pleasure, still they bent their zealous course to God.*

*My faith it is an oaken staff, O let me on it lean.*

*My faith provides the ground of hope, supports a purpose keen*

*Your Spirit, God, upon me send, that I may be what you intend*

*With patient courage, we’ll contend as radiant saints serene.*

Benediction

Benedictory Response *"Walk with Me"*

Postlude