**Worship from Home**

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

**Presentation of the Lord, February 2, 2025**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit *“From All That Dwell Below the Skies”*

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:** God gives us the gift of the incarnation. With one voice, let all people…

**Many: Praise God!**

**One:** Today, the Christ Child is presented in the Temple. With one voice, let all people…

**Many: Praise God!**

**One:** Today, Anna and Simeon and all see God in Christ Jesus. With one voice, let all people…

**Many: Praise God!**

*\**Hymn #60 NCH *“O Spirit of God”*

O Spirit of God, O lifegiving breath! You comfort us in life and death.

When humans gasp in pain and grief, you breath assurance and relief:

O Spirit of God, O lifegiving breath!

O Spirit of God, O holiest flame! Ignite our love, our hearts reclaim,

That we, a blessed community, may loving Christian servants be:

O Spirit of God, O holiest flame!

O Spirit of God, O lifegiving power! Increase our faith, bring it to flower.

Without that strength which you supply, our life in Christ will fade and die:

O Spirit of God, O lifegiving power!

O Spirit of God, O holiest light! Illumine by your Word, our night.

Our Maker’s power and glory show, and Jesus, whom we joy to know:

O Spirit of God, O holiest light!

O Spirit of God, In life, in death closer by our side:

For this, we honor you with son, expressing thanks our whole life long:

O Spirit of God, our comfort and guide.

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**Loving God, we come together this morning to celebrate the gift of your Son, Jesus, and his dedication at the temple. Come to us in this time, as well, so that we also may be made holy through our relationship with you. Purify our hearts, refine our thoughts, and bring us ever closer to you and to one another. Amen.**

Children’s Message

Psalm 84 NCH p.675 Psalm 84

A Reading from the Epistles Hebrews 2:14-18

Anthem “*All Beautiful the March of Days”*

A Reading from the Gospels Luke 2:22-40

Message *“Midway Points and Presentations”* Pastor Lisa

*\**Hymn #585 NCH  *“O God, We Bear the Imprint of Your Face”*

O God, we bear the imprint of your face: the colors of our skin are your design,

and what we have of beauty in our race as man or woman, you alone define,

Who stretched a living fabric on our frame and gave to each a language and a name.

Where we are torn and pulled apart by hate because our race, our skin is not the same,

while we are judged unequal by the state and victims made because we own our name,

humanity reduced to little worth, dishonored is your living face on earth.

O God, we share the image of the One whose flesh and blood are ours, whatever skin;

In Christ’s humanity we find our own, and in your family our proper kin:

Jesus our brother we still crucify; love is the language we must learn, or die.

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

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

Choral Response

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Doxology

Unison Prayer of Dedication

**God of all goodness and grace, receive the gifts we offer; and grant that our whole life may give you glory and praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

INVITATION

CONSECRATION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Loving God, as we have received these gifts of bread and wine, you have fed us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love, and that we are members of his body. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son, and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*\**Hymn #77 NCH *“Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing”*

Lord, dismiss us with your blessings; fill our hearts with joy and peace;

Let us each your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace:

Oh, refresh us, oh, refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.

We give thanks and adoration for your gospel’s joyful sound;

May the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound:

Ever faithful, ever faithful to the truth may we be found.

So that when your love should call us, Savior, from the world away,

Fear of death shall not appall us, glad your summons to obey:

May we ever, may we ever live with you in endless day.

**\***Charge and Benediction

Postlude

\* indicates where the congregation may stand, in mind or in spirit.