**Worship from Home**

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

**The Second Sunday of Lent, February 25, 2024**

Prelude *“God of Abraham Praise”*

Welcome & Announcements

Introit *“Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken”*

Call to Worship (From Moira Laidlaw, based on Psalm 25)

**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:** Pilgrims, we are invited to journey through this season of Lent
**Many: toward the One who calls us each by a new name.
One:** Disciples, we walk with Jesus wherever he leads us,
**Many: pulling our fears, our doubts, our longings behind us**.
**One:** Believers, we seek to trust the God who always surprises us,
**Many: whose promises take on flesh and blood in the good news called Jesus.**

\*Hymn #21 NCH *“God Reigns o’er All the Earth”*

God reigns o’er all the earth! Green hills and valleys low,

The farms and towns in golds and browns God’s grace and beauty show.

God reigns o’er all the earth! Stone banks and spreading plains,

In rainbow hues—reds, yellows, blues—of streams and country lanes.

God reigns o’er all human life! Through youth and aging years,

In death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.

God reigns o’er human life! Our inspiration still.

Through all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God’s reigning will.

God reigns o’er time and space! In history’s bygone days.

Christ’s faithful folk in reverence spoke to bring God earnest praise.

God reigns o’er time and space! O’er galaxy and sun,

Through timeless years the cosmos hears the heavenly music run.

God reigns! Emmanuel! God with us every day,

In all our past and to the last, our comfort and our stay.

God reigns! Emmanuel! Let praise to Christ be sung!

God’s presence here makes all things dear. Let joyful bells be rung.

Unison Prayer of Invocation (From Richard Fairlawn)

**Holy and Gracious God - creator of all life and source of all that is good - help us this day to come to you so that we may prove faithful to all the vows and promises that we have made before you. As we speak of your covenantal love, help us to love one another better; as we praise you for your gracious care, help us to show tenderness to each other; and as we pray to you, help us to have thankful and generous hearts. We ask this in the name of Jesus - he who died that we may live - and lives that we may never die. Amen**

Children’s Message

Psalm 22 p.632 NCH Psalm 22:23-31

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures Genesis 17:1-7; 15-16

Chimes Interlude *“Nothing Can Trouble”* Taizé

A Reading from the Epistles Romans 4:13-25

A Reading from the Gospels Mark 8:31-38

Chimes Interlude “*Gloria Patri”*

Sermon *“Keeping Covenant”*  Pastor Lisa

Chimes Interlude *“Remember Me”* Taizé

\*Hymn #204 NCH *“’Take Up Your Cross,’ the Savior Said”*

‘Take up your cross,’ the Savior said, ‘if you would my disciple be;
Take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow after me.

Take up your cross, let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm;
Christ’s strength will bear your spirit up and brace your heart, support your arm.

Take up your cross, heed not the shame, and let your foolish pride be still;

For Christ did not refuse to die upon a cross on Calvary’s hill.

Take up your cross, and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down;
For only those who bear the cross may hope to wear the glorious crown.

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

Pastoral Prayer

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

Prayer Response

Invitation to Give

OffertoryAnthem *“Peace I Leave With You”*  Donald Moore

Prayer of Dedication

**Living God, we offer these gifts as signs of our gratitude for your faith in us; as signs also of our unashamed love for Jesus, and of our belief in the Holy Spirit's power to give us the strength we need to take up our crosses and to follow Jesus, in whose name we pray.  Amen.**

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**

\*Hymn #461 NCH *“Let Us Hope When Hope Seems Hopeless”*

Let us hope when hope seems hopeless, when the dreams we dreamed have died.

When the morning breaks in brightness, hunger shall be satisfied.

One who sows the fields with weeping shall retrace the sorrowing way

and rejoice in harvest bounty at the breaking of the day.

Faith and hope in love’s compassion will survive though knowledge cease,

Though the tongues of joy fall silent, dull the words of prophecies.

Faith shall see and trust its object; Hope shall set its anchor sure;

Love shall bloom in Love eternal. Faith and hope and love endure.

Like a child outgrowing childhood, setting childhood things away,

We will learn to live in freedom, in the life of God’s new day.

Now we see as in a mirror, then we shall see face to face,

Understand how love’s compassion blossoms through amazing Grace.

Benediction

Postlude

Except where otherwise noted, the liturgy for this morning’s service comes from Thom Shuman of the Presbyterian Church, U.S. A.