**Worship from Home**

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

**The Season of Epiphany, February 5, 2023**

Prelude *“This is My Father’s World”*

Welcome & Announcements

Introit *“Sweet Hour of Prayer”*

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**:** We have come at Christ’s own bidding to this high and holy place,

**Many: Where we wait with hope and longing for some token of God’s grace.**

One: Here we pray for new assurance that our faith is not in vain,

**Many: Searching like those first disciples for a sign both clear and plain.**

One: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Come, let us worship God.

*\**Hymn #181 NCH *“You Are Salt for the Earth, O People”*

You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the reign of God!

Share the flavor of life, O people: life in the City of God!

Refrain: Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;

Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!

You are a light on the hill, O people: light for the City of God!

Shine so holy and bright, O people: shine for the City of God! Refrain

You are a seed of the Word, O people: bring forth the reign of God!

Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the City of God! Refrain

We are a blessed and a pilgrim people: bound for the reign of God!

Love our journey and love our homeland: love is the City of God! Refrain

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**Gracious God, we come before you this morning with great expectation. We expect you to be here, and we expect you to leave here with us. We thank you for your grace and the promise of your reassuring presence now and always. When our expectations of ourselves and of others are not met, please help us to keep trusting in the possibility of renewal and regeneration. As we gather together on this Communion Sunday, please guide us to know what are *your* expectations of us, and give us the strength and wisdom to meet them.**

Children’s Message

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible Isaiah 58:1-9a

A Reading from The Gospels Matthew 5:13-20

Message *“Loosening and Tightening Bonds”* Pastor Lisa

*\**Hymn #588 *“Let Justice Flow Like Streams”*

Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water, pure,

Enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure.

Let righteousness roll on as others’ cares we heed,

An ever-flowing stream of faith translated into deed.

So may God’s plumb line, straight, define our measure true,

And justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life through.

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

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

Invitation to Give

Offertory

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

**Merciful God, of whose bounty we have all received, accept, we pray, the offering of your people. Remember in your love those who bring it and those for whom it is given; and follow it with your blessing so that it may promote peace and goodwill among all people and advance your realm on Earth. Amen**

**THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

**Invitation**

**Consecration**

**Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

*“Father, I Adore You”*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Almighty God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*\**Hymn#524 NCH *“This Little Light of Mine”*

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine (x3).

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

This joy I have, the world didn’t give it to me (x3).

No, the world didn’t give it, the world can’t take it away.

Everywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine (x3).

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

This hope I have, the world didn’t give it to me (x3).

No, the world didn’t give it, the world can’t take it away.

All through the night, I’m gonna let it shine (x3).

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

This peace I have, the world didn’t give it to me (x3).

No, the world didn’t give it, the world can’t take it away.

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine (x3).

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Benediction

Choral Benediction *“Where Charity and Love Prevail”*

Postlude *“Fugue”* Pachelbel