**Worship from Home**

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

**Third Sunday after Epiphany, January 21, 2024**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit *“Beautiful Life”*

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 calls to us - and reminds us that time is of the essence. Don't complicate your lives unnecessarily. The present world is passing.

**Many: The world that we see around us is on the way out. A new world is coming.**

**One:** Keep things as simple as possible. Turn away from things that distract you. The Kin-dom of God is closer than you think. Prepare for it.

**Many: God is even now among us to work God’s gracious will. God calls everyone to repent and believe in the good news.**

**One:** God calls us to walk in the way of his Chosen and to announce by word and deed God’s righteous judgments.

**All: God makes new all who come to God in faith and trust, the Lord shows favor to all who heed God’s word.**

Hymn #609 NCH *“Now is the Time Approaching”*

Now is the time approaching, by prophets long foretold,

When all shall dwell together, secure and manifold.

Let war be learned no longer, let strife and tumult cease,

All earth a blessed garden that God shall tend in peace.

Let all that now divides us remove and pass away,

Like mists of early morning before the blaze of day.

Let all that now unites us more sweet and lasting prove,

A closer bond of union, in blessed lands of love.

O long expected dawning, come with your cheering ray!

Yet shall the promise beckon and lead us not astray.

O sweet anticipation! It cheers the watchers on

To pray, and hope, and labor till Christ’s new realm is come.

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**God of Glory, Lord of Love, Mother and Father of us all, You sent Your Son into the world to proclaim Your kingdom and to teach with authority, and to open the way of peace and wholeness to all people. Anoint us in this time of worship with the power of Your Holy Spirit, that we, too, may bring good news to the afflicted, that we may be empowered to bind up the broken hearted and to fearlessly proclaim liberty to the captive. Bless us with your word, shine upon us with your wisdom, and bring us into deeper communion with you and one another through our Christ Jesus. Amen**

Children’s Message

Psalm 62 p.659 NCH Psalm 62: 5-12

A Reading from the Epistles 1 Cor. 7:29-31

A Reading from The New Testament Mark 1:14-20

Sermon *“Just Around the Corner?”*  Pastor Lisa

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

Pastoral Prayer

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

Invitation to Give

OffertoryAnthem *“Sing to Me of Heaven”*

Prayer of Dedication

**In gratitude to you, O God, for all your gifts to us, and especially for all the benefits we experience in this beautiful land, we dedicate these gifts and our lives to do your work in the world. In Jesus' name, Amen**

Hymn Insert *“Soon and Very Soon”*

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King; (x3)

Hallelujah, hallelujah! We’re going to see the King.

No more crying there, we are going to see the King; (x3)

Hallelujah, hallelujah! We’re going to see the King.

No more dying there, we are going to see the King; (x3)

Hallelujah, hallelujah! We’re going to see the King. Hallelujah! (x2)

Hymn #608 NCH *“Christ Will Come Again”*

Christ will come again, God’s justice to complete,

To reap the fields of time and sift the weeds from wheat:

Then let us passionately care for peace and justice here on earth,

And evil’s rage restrain with love, ‘til Christ shall come again.

Christ will come again and life shall be complete.

The waters from the throne shall wash the nations’ feet:

Then let us passionately care for health and wholeness here on earth,

And ease our neighbor’s pain with love, ‘til Christ shall come again.

Christ will come again, and joy shall be complete

As flames of lightning love bedeck the judgment seat:

Then let us passionately share the whole great gospel here on earth,

Until all things attain their end, when Christ shall come again.

Benediction

Postlude

Our prayers this morning come from Moira Laidlaw of the Uniting Church in Australia.