**Worship from Home**

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

**The Season of Epiphany, January 29, 2023**

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship (Micah 6, Psalm 15, Matthew 5, 1 Corinthians 1)

**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: People of God, who do you come to worship? Many: We come to worship the one true God. One: How will you worship? Many: Not with words alone, but by living lives of justice and love. One: Come, you who belong to God. Come, you who are foolish in the eyes of the world. All: Let us come and abide in God’s tent and in God’s heart, now and forever.

*\**Hymn #170 NCH *“Your Ways Are Not Our Own”*

Your ways are not our own, O gracious God most high,

Yet we would follow in your paths and on your love rely.

Christ teaches us to bless the ones who curse and harm,

To turn the other cheek when struck, attackers to disarm.

Yet, we cannot excuse abuse in any form,

For all are children of your care, and love must be our norm.

How shall we show your love, your pardon to believe?

You bid us share as we are blessed and give as we receive.

Forgiveness is our joy, receiving, giving, too.

Keep us from judgments hard and cruel, that we may dwell with you.*”*

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**Loving God, we come this morning seeking to abide in your presence. Open our minds to your spirit of wisdom, that we may know how to live as your people. Open our hearts to your spirit of truth, that we may love all your people with a love that speaks of justice, kindness, and radical grace. May this time of worship be authentic and pleasing to you. Amen.**

Children’s Message

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible Micah 6:1-8

A Reading from the Epistles 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

A Reading from The Gospels Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon *“Not What You’d Expect”* Pastor Lisa

*\**Hymn Insert *“Blest Are They”*

Blest are they, the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of God.

Blest are they, full of sorrow, they shall be consoled.

Refrain: Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!

Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

Blest are they, the lowly ones, they shall inherit the earth.

Blest are they who hunger and thirst, they shall have their fill. Refrain

Blest are they who show mercy, mercy shall be theirs.   
Blest are they, the pure of heart, they shall see God. Refrain

Blest are they who seek peace. They are the children of God.

Blest are they who suffer in faith, the glory of God is theirs. Refrain

Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me.

Rejoice be glad, yours is the kingdom, shine for all to see. Refrain

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

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

Invitation to Give

OffertoryAnthem *“Lord of the Dance”*

Becky Wentworth and Pastor Lisa

Prayer of Dedication

**O God, you bless us in so many areas of our lives— in places we often fail to recognize as blessing. Help us have eyes to see and hearts to understand the depth of your love and blessing. Today, we give out of that blessedness, dedicating ourselves to lives of justice and love, giving all that we are and all that we have to bring about your beloved community, here and now. Amen.**

*\**Hymn#510 NCH *“Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You”*

Grant us wisdom to perceive you, hearts awakened to receive you,

minds alert to thoughts that grieve you; God of mercy hear us.

Grant us faithfulness in praying, strength to keep our souls from straying,

sense to cease from disobeying; God of mercy hear us.

Grant us diligence in doing, patience when your truth pursuing,

eager to receive renewing; God of mercy hear us.

Grant us courage to proclaim you; Savior of our lives we name you!

May our actions never shame you; God of mercy hear us.

Benediction

Our worship prayers this morning come from Joanne Carlson Brown in *Ministry Matters*.