**Worship from Home**

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

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Sunday, January 30, 2022**

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship (from Thom Shuman)

**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:** With powerful words and dramatic gestures, with a quiet conversation and a gentle touch,  
**Many: we respond to God’s call to offer** **healing and hope to our world.**  
**One:** With courage to face the injustices around us, with the willingness to go into the brokenness,  
**Many: we fulfill the call of Jesus** **to engage in faithful obedience.**  
**One:** With the patience of a teacher of six-year-olds, with the gentleness of a nurse helping a patient,  
**All: we become the Spirit’s refuge** **for all who live in worry and fear.**

Hymn *“The Lord is My Refuge (Psalm 71)”*

The Lord is my refuge, the rock of my soul

My fortress, deliverer to whom I go.

In the times of my trouble, since the time of my youth:

My reliance is God, my salvation in Truth.

Refrain

I will praise You, I will praise You, O God of my birth.

I will praise You, I will praise You to the ends of the earth.

I will tell of Your love; I will tell of Your deeds.

Mighty God, my sustainer, who meets all my needs.

You let me see trouble, the evil of men.

Yet from sorrow’s depth, You lift me again.

You bring hope, You bring comfort, a peace that is true.

In my joy, O my Lord, hear me sing unto You.

Unison Prayer of Invocation (from Bruce Prewer)

**God of incomparable love, you have shown us in Jesus of Nazareth that all people are embraced by your graciousness. Enable us to relax ourselves in that universal fellowship which flows from sincere worship. Living closer to you and to one another, may we touch the pulse and purpose of existence, and be enabled to live lovingly and bravely as brothers and sisters of Jesus. *Amen!***

Children’s Message

A Reading from the Epistles 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

A Reading from The New Testament  Luke 4:21-30

Sermon *“The Gift of Love”* Pastor Lisa

Hymn *“The Gift of Love”*

Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
and have the gift of all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain,  
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,  
and striving so my love profess,  
but not be given by love within,  
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,  
our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
by this we worship, and are freed. Amen

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

Pastoral Prayer

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

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

**Christ, Emmanuel, God-with-us, may you find us faithful and courageous friends, always ready to open our lives to your call. Bless these gifts we have gathered; multiply them so that they may be a blessing in the world you love. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

Hymn *“They Raged at Jesus’ Sermon”*

They raged at Jesus' sermon in Jesus' own hometown,

For in the things he taught them, he turned life upside down;

It wasn't just their neighbors who knew God's love and grace;

For Jesus said God favors the ones we don't embrace.

God saved a foreign widow and rescued her from drought,

For when she helped Elijah, God also helped her out.

In Naaman, God's own favor to others was revealed;

Though many locals suffered, that Syrian was healed.

In this world's noise and clatter, too often values shift;

We say Christ's words don't matter and throw them off a cliff.

We push aside the stranger, we walk right by the poor,

We disregard the prisoner and say we matter more.

O God, your love is wider than we can comprehend;

You reach to the outsider and call the stranger "friend."

In Christ you gave a message transcending time and place

May we your church have courage to share your love and grace.

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Benediction

Postlude