**Worship from Home**

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

**The Season of Epiphany, January 8, 2023**

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

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:** O Lord our God, your love is forever! God’s love is steadfast and sure!
**Many: How precious is your unfailing love, O God!**
**One:** God continues to pour out love and mercy, and offers shelter in the shadow of God’s presence.
**Many: We are secure in God’s love and light.**
**One:** God’s love and faithfulness is beyond measure, and is like an overflowing fountain of life and love,
**All: Our God is the light by which we can safely travel. Come, let us worship our loving God. Amen.**

*\**Hymn #168 NCH (melody 100, vs. 1, 2,4) *“O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word”*

O radiant Christ, incarnate Word, eternal love revealed in time:

Come, make your home within our hearts, that we may dwell in light sublime.

Our bartered, busy lives burn dim, too tired to care, too numb to feel.

Come, shine upon our shadowed world: your radiance bathes with power to heal.

O Light of Nations, fill the earth; our faith and hope and love renew.

Come, lead the peoples to your peace, as stars once led the way to you.

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**Holy, merciful and loving God, we, your children, long for your presence. We, who sit in darkness, have hope in you. By the light of your Christ, the presence of your Anointed One, illuminate our lives. Let your Chosen One, Jesus, dispel our blindness, open our eyes, free us from the dungeons of despair, and open every prison of oppression. Amen**

Children’s Message

A Reading from the Epistles James 5:13-16

Anthem

A Reading from The Gospels Matthew 4:23-24

Sermon *“A Woman Named Heal”*  Karen Frangoulis

*\**Hymn #179 NCH *“We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness”*

We yearn, O Christ, for wholeness and for your healing touch;

Too long have we felt helpless; our burdens seemed too much.

Forgetting all pretenses we make our pleadings heard,

In hope and expectation await your gracious Word.

We long to have companions who travels by our side,

Strong friends to call and answer with whom we are allied;

As we lift up each other when struggles lay us low,

Community develops; our faith and caring grow.

We need your living presence, O Christ of Galilee,

A presence that revives us and sets our spirits free.

No longer are we fearful, your love pervades each place.

Empower us with courage to claim your healing grace.

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

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

Invitation to Give

OffertoryAnthem

Prayer of Dedication (From Moira Laidlaw)

**O God, you have blessed our lives by revealing your love for us in Jesus - your beloved Son.  We offer these gifts as expressions of our joy and gratitude, and pray that through them - and our witness and service - others may come to recognize and experience your presence in the world.  Amen**

*\**Hymn *(insert, vs. 1,2,4) “Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”*

Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy's perfect deed,
we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart,
consecrating to your purpose every gift that you impart.

Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, your deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
use the love your Spirit kindles still to save and make us whole.

Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants Lord, in freedom may your mercy know, and live.

Benediction

Postlude