**Worship from Home**

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

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, July 2, 2023**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit *“My Heart is Overflowing”*

Call to Worship (from Psalm 89)

**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:** I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord,

**Many: With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness.**

**One:**Your steadfast love is established forever,

**Many: Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

**One:** Happy are the people who shout to you in praise, O God,

**Many: Who walk in the light of your eyes.**

**One:** For you are our shield,

**ALL: You alone, O God, are holy.**

*\**Hymn #24 NCH *“The God of Abraham Praise”*

The God of Abraham praise, all praises to God’s name,

Who was and is and is to be, fore’er the same!

The one eternal God, before what now appears;

The First, the Last: beyond all thought through timeless years!

God’s spirit freely flows, high surging where it will;

Go spoke of old in prophet’s word; that word speaks still.

Established is God’s law, and changeless it shall stand,

Deep written on the human heart, in every land.

God has eternal life implanted in the soul;

God’s love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.

All praise the living God! Extol that hallowed name,

Who was, and is, and ever shall be still the same!

The God of Sarah praise, all praises to God’s name,

Who was and is and is to be, fore’er the same!

The one eternal God, before what now appears,

The First, the Last: beyond all thought through timeless years!

Unison Prayer of Invocation and Confession (inspired by Matthew 10:40-42, Psalm 13)

Holy One, we welcome your prophets and messengers. We welcome those that know that they are gifted and those that want to be. Let us find your reward in the welcome we hear together. Satisfy our thirst to feel your love here and now.

Welcoming One, who knows us each by name, we call ourselves righteous. We name ourselves as your disciples. We believe that we’ve been sent to offer your welcome, but we haven’t asked the names of those pains and sorrows. We haven’t considered those pleas and protests. We have only heard our own answers. Welcoming One, forgive us. Forgive us for the cup of water we didn’t offer. Forgive us for the name we didn’t ask. Forgive us for the generosity we didn’t share. Cool our tempers by speaking our names so that we know that we are prophets of your welcome. Trust in us to offer the hope that we have found in you. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Words Of Assurance

Children’s Message

#678 NCH Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible Genesis 22:1-14

A Reading from the New Testament 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Message *“The Ties That Bind”* Pastor Lisa

*\**Hymn#393 NCH *“Blessed Be the Ties That Bind”*

Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;

The sharing of a common life is like to that above.

Before our God we come and pour our ardent prayers;

Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share each other’s woes, each other’s burdens bear,

And often for each other flows a sympathetic tear.

When we are called to part it gives us inward pain,

But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

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

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

Choral Response

Invitation to Give

Offertory *“This is My Song”* Mary Gauthier

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

**God of grace and truth, you welcome us into your presence, and provide refreshment and renewal for our lives in Jesus, your Son, our Lord.  Receive and bless our gifts and our lives, which we offer in response to your many gracious gifts to us.  May our hands be always open to welcome people in Jesus’ name.  Amen**

**THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

Invitation

Consecration

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Loving God, we give you thanks that you have placed into our empty hands your Bread made with life and mercy, that we might take justice and peace to the outcasts of our world. We give you thanks that you have filled our parched hearts with the Cup of grace, that we might be poured out for the broken and lost in these times and places. Heal us with the peace of this joyous feast, that we might become your people of hope. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

*\**Hymn #448 NCH *“Take My Life, God, Let It Be”*

Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully.

Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love

Take my intellect and use all its powers as you choose.

Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.

Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwelling place.

Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow.

Take me now, and help me be part of Christ’s community.

Benediction

Benedictory Response

Postlude

\* indicates where the congregation may stand as they are able

Some of our morning prayers come from the UCC Worship Ways. Where noted, others come from Moira Laidlaw, of the Uniting Church in Australia.