**Worship from Home**

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

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, July 30, 2023**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship BJ Harris

**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:** Our God has gathered us here, among the treasures of the Kingdom, to rejoice in faith.

**Many:  Our hearts are open to the life-giving possibilities faith can bring.**

**One:** Let none of us be afraid.  The harvest of faith belongs to God the Giver.

**Many:  Thanks be to God.  Our confidence is in the One who made heaven and earth!**

*\**Hymn #4 NCH *“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”*

Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, God of love;  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You, Opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!

All Your works with joy surround You, Earth and heaven reflect Your rays,  
Stars and angels sing around You, Center of unbroken praise;  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, teach us what our praise should!

Always giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother, all who love belong to you;  
Teach us how to love each other, by that love our joy renew.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus, Which the morning stars began;  
Boundless love is reigning o’er us, reconciling race and clan.  
Ever singing, move we forward, faithful in the midst of strife;  
Joyful music leads us onward in the triumph song of life.

Unison Prayer of Invocation (From Kym Harris)

**Loving God, you have given us a glimpse of your Kin-dom. Send us your Spirit that hearts may be filled with its joy and hope. Living by the teachings of Jesus may our lives witness to that Kin-dom, even now in our broken and glorious world. We ask this in Jesus’ name confident that you will hear us. Amen.**

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible Psalm 105:1-11; 45b

A Reading from the Epistles Romans 8:26-35; 37-39

Message *“The Quiltmaker’s Gift”* Jeannie Warren

*\**Hymn #28 NCH “*For the Beauty of the Earth”*

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies.

Refrain: God of all, to you we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light, [Refrain ]

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild, [Refrain]

For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude,  
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed. [Refrain]

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

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

Invitation to Give

Offertory

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

**Generous God, we know that it is not the size of our gifts that count, but the spirit in which they are given. Accept these gifts we pray, and our devotion to you and your kin-dom. We offer them in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

*\**Hymn #485 (vs. 1-3) NCH *“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”*

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in you.  
I give you back the life I owe, that in your ocean depths its flow  
may swell with ardor true.

O Light that follows all my way, to you I yield my flickering flame.  
Renew my spirit’s feeble ray, that from your brilliant sunlit day

it may new brightness claim.

O Joy that seeks me through my pain, to you I cannot close my heart.  
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and know the promise is not vain,  
that you will ne’er depart.

Benediction

Postlude

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

Our thanks to our neighbor Clair Maxwell for filling in on organ and piano for us today!