**Worship from Home**

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

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, June 23, 2024**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit *“I Woke Up This Morning with Jesus on My Mind”*

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:** In the midst of life’s storms, God is there.

**Many: What have we to fear?**

**One:** In the darkness and terror, God is with us.

**Many: Of whom shall we be afraid?**

**One:** Rise up, people of God, for you are loved and saved.

**Many: Thanks be to God who cares deeply for us. AMEN.**

Hymn #439 NCH *“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”*

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
our present help, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe;  
With craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,  
on earth without an equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,  
But there is one who our side, the One of God's own choosing.  
You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, sets us free;  
With mighty power to save, victorious o’er the grave,  
Christ will prevail triumphant.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
we will not fear, for God has willed the truth to triumph through us.  
The powers of evil grim, we tremble not for them;  
his rage we can endure, for lo their doom is sure;  
one little word shall fell themm.

That Word beyond all earthly power forever is abiding;  
the Spirit and the gifts are ours for Christ is with us siding..  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
the body they may kill:;God's shall triumph still;  
God’s reign endures forever!

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**O God, through our worship today may we be drawn closer to you and to each other in a spirit of love and compassion. In this time of reverence, focus our minds and hearts on Christ, whose love knows no boundaries and whose compassion extends to all. Amen**

Children’s Message

Psalm 9, p. 625 NCH Psalm 9:9-20

A Reading from the Epistles 1 Corinthians 6:1-13

A Reading from the Gospels Mark 4:35-41

Sermon *“We Commend Ourselves”* Pastor Lisa

Hymn Insert (vs. 1-3, 5) *“Stand By Me”*

When the storms of life are raging, Stand by me;  
When the storms of life are raging, Stand by me.  
When the world is tossing me Like a ship upon the sea,  
Thou who rulest wind and water, Stand by me.  
  
In the midst of tribulations, Stand by me;  
In the midst of tribulations, Stand by me.  
When the hosts of hell assail, And my strength begins to fail,  
Thou who never lost a battle, Stand by me.  
  
In the midst of faults and failures, Stand by me;  
In the midst of faults and failures, Stand by me.  
When I do the best I can, And my friends misunderstand,  
Thou who knowest all about me, Stand by me.  
  
When I’m growing old and feeble, Stand by me;  
When I’m growing old and feeble, Stand by me.  
When my life becomes a burden, And I’m nearing chilly Jordan,  
O Thou Lily of the Valley, Stand by me.

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

Pastoral Prayer

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

Invitation to Give

Offertory *“Lord, I Want To Be a Christian”*

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 (From Moira Laidlaw)

**We dedicate these gifts and our lives to you, O God, in thanksgiving for your great gift of Jesus in whom we know an inner peace which is beyond our human understanding. Strengthen and empower us with the Holy Spirit to be bearers of this peace wherever we go. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen**

\*Hymn Insert *“As Water to the Thirsty”*

As water to the thirsty, As beauty to the eyes,  
As strength that follows weakness, As truth instead of lies;  
As song-time and springtime and summertime to be,  
So is my Lord, my living Lord, So is my Lord to me.

Like calm in place of clamor Like peace that follows pain,  
Like meeting after parting, Like sunshine after rain;  
Like moonlight and starlight and sunlight on the sea,  
So is my Lord, my living Lord, So is my Lord to me.

As sleep that follows fever, As gold instead of grey,  
As freedom after bondage, As sunrise to the day;  
As home to the trav’ler and all he longs to see,  
So is my Lord, my living Lord, So is my Lord to me.

Benediction

Postlude

Prayer Selections for this morning’s service are from the Cokesbury Worship Connection, from the UCC’s *Worship Ways,* and from Moira Laidlaw of the Uniting Church in Australia.