**Worship from Home**

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

**Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 17, 2024**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit *“Give Me a Clean Heart”*

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:** From water to wilderness:

**Many: God’s covenant continues; God’s kin-dom comes near.**

**One:** On stone and in hearts:

**Many: God’s covenant continues; God’s kin-dom comes near.**

**One:** From the ancestor of nations to the Son lifted up:

**Many: God’s covenant continues; God’s kin-dom comes near.**

**One:** We follow Jesus on the Lenten path,

**All: for where he is, we would be also.**

\*Hymn #473 NCH *“Blessed Assurance”*

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of the Spirit, washed in Christ’s blood.

*Refrain: This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long. (x2)*

Perfect submission, perfect delight! Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;

Angels descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain*

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blessed;

Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with God’s goodness, lost in Christ’s love.

*Refrain*

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**Holy God, by the cross and resurrection of Jesus, you lift the suffering world toward hope and transformation and open the way to eternal salvation. As we move ever closer to the passion of Christ, may your law of love be written on our hearts as he draws all people to himself, revealing your love for the world. In the worship of this hour, may your Holy Spirit inspire our praise in gratitude for your many gifts. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Children’s Message

Psalm 51 p. 63 NCH Psalm 51:1-12

A Reading from The Gospels John 12:20-36

Sermon *“Scattered Seed”*  Pastor Lisa

Hymn #292 NCH *“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”*

Breathe on me, Breath of God, Fill me with life anew,

That I may love the way you love, And do what you would do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,

Until with you I will one will, to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one desire,

That every earthly part of me may glow with holy fire.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,

But live with you the perfect life of your eternity.

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

Pastoral Prayer

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

Invitation to Give

OffertoryAnthem *“Lead Us from Death to Life”*

Prayer of Dedication

**Gracious God, we give you thanks for the light of love around us and the fire of faith within us. As we go forth from this place let our lives reflect the One who is the image of your glory: Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.**

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**

Hymn #202 NCH *“O God, How We Have Wandered”*

O God, how we ha e wandered and hidden from your face;

In foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.

But how, in exile dwelling, we turn with fear and shame,

As distant but compelling, you call us each by name.

And now at length discerning the evil that we do,

By faith we are returning with hope and trust in you.

In haste you come to meet us, and home rejoicing bring,

In gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.

O God of all the living, both banished and restored,

Compassionate, forgiving, our peace and hope assured.

Grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease.

Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.

Benediction

Postlude

This morning’s liturgy comes from *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion*, ed. By Kimberley Bracken.