**Worship from Home**

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

**The Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 26, 2023**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship (Psalm 130: 5*-6)*

**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 wait for the LORD,  
**Many: my soul waits, and in God’s word I hope;**   
**One:** my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning,  
**Many: more than those who watch for the morning.**

*\**Hymn #251 NCH (vs. 1, 3, 5) *“I Greet You, Sure Redeemer”*

I greet you, sure Redeemer, with my heart, glad for the saving love that you impart,

Who pain did undergo for my poor sake; I pray you from our hearts all cares to take.

You are the life, by which alone we live, and all our substance and our strength receive.

Sustain us by your faith and by your power, and give us strength in every trying hour.

Our hope is all in you and you alone; we trust the promise that your word makes known.

O dear Redeemer, make us calm and sure, that in your strength we evermore endure.

Unison Prayer of Invocation (from Richard Fairchild)

**Most holy and gracious God, send your Spirit upon us in power this morning and show us once again those things that you have prepared for those who love you. Pour out upon us the realization of just how wonderful is the inheritance that we receive from you; how immediate your presence is; and how able and willing you are to help us each day. Give us eyes of faith to see, and hearts that trust enough to praise you even when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Children’s Message

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible Ezekiel 37:1-4

A Reading from the Gospels John 11:1-45

Message *“A Church of Spirit and Bone”* Pastor Lisa

*\**Hymn#417 NCH *“This Is a Day of New Beginnings”*

This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember, and move on,

time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.

For by the life and death of Jesus, love's mighty Spirit, now as then,

can make for us a world of difference as faith and hope are born again.

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past, and leave behind

our disappointment, guilt and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do.

This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.

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

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

Choral Response

Invitation to Give

Offertory*“Lay Me Low”* Shaker Traditional, Arr. John Tams

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 Richard Fairchild)

**Bless these gifts, O God. Send your Spirit upon them and upon us so that new life might arise out of old, and your saving love and healing work be made evident to all. We ask it in the name of Christ. Amen**

*\**Hymn #288 NCH *“Let it Breathe On Me”*

Let it breathe on me, let it breathe on me, let the breath of the Spirit breathe on me.

Let it breathe on me, let it breathe on me, let the breath of God now breathe on me.

While I’m working, God, in your vineyard here, I cannot serve without you near;

O come, blessed Spirit, so close to me that I may feel you breathe on me.

When the pathway, God, I cannot see, when the way is hard, O breathe on me;

Give me grace to know when you are near, then, I pray, O Spirit, breathe on me.

Benediction

Benedictory Response *“I Want To Be Ready”*

Refrain:

I want to be ready, I want to be ready, I want to be ready to walk in Jerusalem just like John.

Postlude