**Worship from Home**

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

**Third Sunday of Lent, March 3, 2024**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit *“There’s a Quiet Understanding”*

Call to Worship (Adapted from Ann Weems)

**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:** Holy is the time and holy is this place,

**Many: and there are holy things that must be said.**

**One:** Let us say to one another what our souls whisper

**Many: O Holy One, cast your tent among us; come into our ordinary lives and bless the living!**

**One:** These days of Lent stretch before us, and those of us who believe year to feel Your presence, year to be Your people;

**Many: And yet, the days fill with ordinary things with no time left for seeking the holy.**

**One:** Where, O Holy One, can we find you in the unholy mess that is our ordinary lives?

**Many: How, O God, can we find the holy in the ordinary?**

**All: Come, let us let us together worship the Lord, our God, and remember that holy is God’s name!**

Hymn #386 NCH *“The Church’s One Foundation”*

The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;

We are Christ’s new creation by water and the word.

From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;

With precious blood Christ bought us for all eternity.

Elect from every nation, yet one o’er all the earth,

One charter of salvation, one God, one faith, one birth,,

One name together blessing, one holy food we share,

To one hope we are pressing, at one in work and prayer.

‘Mid toil and tribulations, and tumult of our war,

We wait the consummation of peace forevermore;

Till with the vision glorious, our longing eyes are blessed,

And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet we on earth have union with God, the Three-in-One,

And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.

O happy ones and holy! God, give us grace that we,

Like them the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

Unison Prayer of Invocation (from Leo Piguet)

**Christ, our light, we are all blind sinners. Come with your vision, your insights, your perceptions, and heal our darkness. As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of your dying and rising, heal our shortsightedness. Reconcile us to those we have judged; turn our very lives around. May you dwell in our hearts and awaken us to follow you more deliberately. In the power of your Spirit we pray. Amen.**

Children’s Message

Psalm 19 p. 630 NCH Psalm 19

A Reading from The New Testament 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Sermon *“These Foolish Things”*  Pastor Lisa

Hymn #311 NCH *“Renew Your Church”*

Renew Your church, our ministries restore: Both to serve and adore.  
Make us again as salt throughout the land, and as light from a stand.  
’Mid somber shadows of the night, where greed and hatreds spread their blight,  
O send us forth with power endued. Help us, Lord, be renewed.

Teach us Your Word, reveal its truth divine, on our path let it shine;  
Tell of Your works, Your mighty acts of grace, from each page show Your face.  
As You have loved us, sent Your Son, and our sal­va­tion now is won,  
O let our hearts with love be stirred. Help us, Lord, know Your Word.

Teach us to pray, for You are ever near, your still voice let us hear.  
Our souls are restless till they rest in You, this the goal we pursue.  
Before Your presence keep us still that we may find for us Your will,  
And seek Your guidance every day. Teach us, Lord, how to pray.

Teach us to love, with strength of heart and mind, each and all, humankind;  
Break down old walls of prejudice and hate, leave us not to our fate.  
As You have loved and giv’n Your life, to end hostility and strife,  
O share Your grace from Heav’n above. Teach us, Lord, how to love.

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

Pastoral Prayer

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

Invitation to Give

OffertoryAnthem *“Gather Us In”*

Prayer of Dedication (From David Bell)

**Living God, your love for us is so unfathomable.  Open our ears to hear the cries of your neediest children.  Open our eyes to see human injustice.  Open our minds to think about compassion in all circumstances.  Continue to increase our willingness to give so that we may lead lives fully focused on ministry to others.  We place these offerings upon your altar in gratitude for your guidance and love.  In Jesus’ name, we pray.  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**

**THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

**Invitation**

**Consecration**

**Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Loving and gracious God, we give you thanks for the bounty of this table, and for your abundant love, shared with all people. As we gather with the members and friends of this church, we thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit among us, drawing us together in your name, and sending us out to serve you. May we be sustained by this meal and by your life giving Spirit in all that we do. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

\*Hymn #407 NCH (vs. 1-3) *“How Firm a Foundation”*

How firm a foundation for you has been laid, by God in the Word, in the sacrifice paid!

What more can God say than to you has been said, to you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed, for I am your God, I will still give you aid;

I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand.”

“When through the deep waters I call you to go, the rivers of woe shall not over you flow;

For I will be with you, your troubles to bless, delivering you from your deepest distress.”

Benediction

Benedictory Response

Postlude