**Worship from Home**

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

**The Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 30, 2025**

Prelude *“When the Night Becomes Dark”*

Chimes Choir

Welcome & Announcements

Introit *“Lenten Acclamation”*

Chimes Choir

Call to Worship (from Kimberley Bracken Long, from Isaiah 55, Matt. 5, and Ps. 63))

**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:** Everyone who thirsts:

**Many: Come to the waters, seek the Lord, repent and return so that you may live.**

**One:** All who are hungry for righteousness:

**Many: Come to the waters, seek the Lord, repent and return so that you may live.**

**One:** All who need the help of God:

**Many: Come to the waters, seek the Lord, repent and return so that you may live. Amen**

\*Hymn #295 PH *“Christ for the World We Sing!”*

Christ for the world we sing; the world to Christ we bring
with loving zeal: the poor and them that mourn, the faint and overborne,
sin-sick and sorrow-worn, for Christ doth heal.

Christ for the world we sing; the world to Christ we bring
with fervent prayer: the wayward and the lost, by restless passions tossed,

redeemed at countless cost from dark despair.

Christ for the world we sing; the world to Christ we bring
with one accord: with us the work to share, with us reproach to dare,
with us the cross to bear, for Christ our Lord.

Christ for the world we sing; the world to Christ we bring
with joyful song: the newborn souls whose days, reclaimed from error's ways,
inspired with hope and praise, to Christ belong.

Unison Prayer of Invocation and Confession (from Kimberley Bracken Long)

**Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit open our minds and bodies to the re-creating power of your Word, that we may see the world through the mind of Christ and live in the world as a foretaste of your new creation.**

**Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from your ways. Like the Prodigal Son, we have wasted our inheritance. You gave us the earth for our home, but we squander earth’s resources and hoard its bounty. You gave us neighbors to love, but we pursue selfish ambitions. You have us the commandments that lead to human flourishing, but we break your law and forsake your love. Forgive us our sin and bring us to repentance. Draw our wandering hearts back to you that we may find freedom in obedience to your love. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Children’s Message

Psalm 32, p. 642 NCH Psalm 32

A Reading from the Epistles 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Anthem *“In the Midst of New Beginnings”*

A Reading from the Gospels Luke 15:1-32

Sermon *“The Older Brother”* Pastor Lisa

\*Hymn #23 NCH *“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”*

There’s a wideness in God’s mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
There’s a kindness in God’s justice, which is more than liberty.

There’s no place where earthly sorrows are more felt than in God’s heaven;

There’s no place where earthly failings have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of our minds;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God’s word,
and our lives would show thanksgiving for the goodness of our God.

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

Pastoral Prayer

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

Prayer Response *“Ah, What a Shame I Have To Bear”*

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 (from Richard Fairchild)

**Bless, O God, the offering of these gifts. Use them in your work. You call us, O God, to a ministry of reconciliation. You ask us to reach out to the world around us with your message of friendship and peace through Christ Jesus. You call us to judge one another by his standards and to allow you to make your appeal to the world through us. Work in us, we pray, that we may have the heart and mind of Christ, and with all our words, thoughts, and actions, do what you, in love, have asked us to do. Make this the offering of our lives. We ask this in the name of Christ Jesus, our crucified redeemer. Amen**

\*Hymn #43 NCH *“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”*

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, on earth be found.

Fix in us a humble dwelling, all your faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, you are all compassion; pure, unbounded love impart.

Visit us with your salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit into every troubled breast.

Let us all in you inherit, let us find your promised rest;

Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;

End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Finish, then, your new creation; pure and spotless may we prove;

Let us see your great salvation perfectly restored in you;

Changed from glory into glory, ’til in heaven we take our place,

Crowned as saints, we ever shall be lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Benediction

Postlude “*Christ is the Mountain of Horeb”*

Instrumental Consort