**Worship from Home**

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

**The Second Sunday of Lent, March 5, 2023**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

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:** Listen! Listen for the voice of God, naming us all: Holy. Beloved. Cherished. Valued.

**Many: We believe you delight in us!**

**One:** Make us people who recognize and proclaim your beauty and goodness in unexpected places.

**Many: Surprise us. Challenge us. Transform us.**

**One:** We trust in you, Holy One, to reveal to us the sacredness of every life, of every way of being, of every physical manifestation of you Spirit.

**Many: May it be so!**

*\**Hymn #24 NCH *“The God of Abraham Praise”*

The God of Abraham praise, all praises to God’s name,

Who was and is and is to be, fore’er the same!

The one eternal God, before what now appears;

The First, the Last: beyond all thought through timeless years!

God’s spirit freely flows, high surging where it will;

Go spoke of old in prophet’s word; that word speaks still.

Established is God’s law, and changeless it shall stand,

Deep written on the human heart, in every land.

God has eternal life implanted in the soul;

God’s love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.

All praise the living God! Extol that hallowed name,

Who was, and is, and ever shall be still the same!

The God of Sarah praise, all praises to God’s name,

Who was and is and is to be, fore’er the same!

The one eternal God, before what now appears,

The First, the Last: beyond all thought through timeless years!

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**Loving God, we come before you this morning with hope, trusting that when we answer your call to follow Christ, you will give us strength for the journey. In our own Lenten walk, we pray that you would fill us with your Spirit, washing us with the waters of your Grace, and uplifting us with the wind of your love. In this quiet hour, teach us to open ourselves to the breath of wisdom that is your Word, and help us to know that we are loved. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.**

Children’s Message

A Reading from the Epistles Genesis 12:1-4a

A Reading from the Gospels John 3:1-17

Message *“Unscheduled Windstorm”* Pastor Lisa

*\**Hymn#466 NCH (vs. 1,2,4) *“Unto the Hills We Lift Our Longing Eyes”*

Unto the hills we lift our longing eyes with yearning sighs.

Who will provide the help we sorely need? Who hears our cries?

From our Creator comes our certain aid.

Our help is from our God, who all things made.

God will not let our servant feet be moved; safe we will be.

God will supply, for all our nights and days, security.

God does not sleep when we are taking rest.

God’s covenant endures through every test.

From every evil, God will keep our lives, from every sin.

God will preserve and guard our going out, our coming in.

Ever around, within, we will adore

Our God who holds and guides forevermore.

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

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

Choral Response

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

**Gracious God, we dedicate to you not only these gifts, but also ourselves, in deep gratitude—for your call on our lives, your guidance in the baptismal journey, and for blessing us that we may be a blessing to others. Accept what we bring for your own good purposes. In Christ we pray. Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

**Invitation**

**Consecration**

**Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**We thank you, gracious God, for your gifts of bread and wine, the symbols of Christ’s body and blood. We thank you for nourishing us, sustaining us, and empowering us to live as one body. We thank you for your most amazing love and pray that your love would abide in us always. Amen**

*\**Hymn #451 NCH *“Be Now My Vision”*

Be now my vision, O God of my heart;

Nothing surpasses the love you impart—

You my best thought, by day or by night,

Waking or sleeping, your presence my light.

Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;

Ever within me, my soul is assured;

Mother and Father, you are both to me,

Now and forever your child I will be.

Riches I need not, nor life’s empty praise,

You, my inheritance, now and always;

You and you only are first in my heart,

Great God, my treasure, may we never part.

Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,

May I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s Sun!

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,

Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Benediction

Benedictory Response

Postlude

Our Call to Worship comes from *Enfleshed.com* (for connective liberation). Other liturgical elements come from *Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1*, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor.