**Worship from Home**

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

**First Sunday of Lent, March 6, 2022**

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude *“Dust and Ashes Touch our Face”* Brian Wren

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:** Is God among us or not?

**Many: We need direction.**

**One:** Is God among us or not?

**Many: We need God’s help.**

**One**: Is God among us or not?

**Many: Listen—to hear God’s voice.**

**One:** Is God among us or not?

**Many: Stop—to feel God’s presence.**

**All: Come, Let us worship God.**

Hymn *“With Grateful Heart I Thank You”*

I thank you, Lord, for each new day, for meadows white with dew,

For the sun’s warm hand. Upon the earth, for skies of endless blue,

For fruit and flower, for lamb and leaf, for every bird that sings,

With grateful heart I thank you, Lord, for all those simple things.

I thank you, Lord, for wind and rain and for the silver moon,

For every daisy’s lifted face, for every lovely tune,

For winter’s white, for autumn’s gold, for harvest and for home,

with grateful heart I thank you, Lord, for each good gift I own.

I thank you, Lord, for hand and heart to offer up your praise.

I thank you, Lord, for tongue to speak of all your loving ways.

For health and strength, for work and play, for loved ones far and near,

With grateful heart I thank you, Lord, for all that I hold dear.

Unison Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Wilderness God, when the barrenness surrounds us, when the journey seems to have lost direction, when our path is rocky, and our future unclear, and our comforts gone, come to us: remind us of your presence that is wider than all distances, more ancient than all time, and more faithful than all future.

Forgiving God, we come before you now, in this season of Lent, particularly mindful of the ways that we fail you. We too often offer a cold word when warmth is what is needed; we fill ourselves to overflowing when others do not have enough. When we set our minds to pray to you, we grow distracted and inattentive to your Word. We forget to find you in every person we see and in every interaction. Forgive us, Lord, for not noticing you. Help us to see you, and to help others to know you. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Words of Assurance Pastor Lisa

Children’s Message

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible Deuteronomy 26:1-11

A Reading from The New Testament  Luke 4:1-13

Sermon *“To the Point of Gratitude”* Pastor Lisa

Hymn *“God, How Can We Forgive?”*

God how can we forgive when bonds of love are torn?

How can we rise and start anew, our trust reborn?

When human loving fails and every hope is gone,

Your love gives strength beyond our own to face the dawn.

Who dares to throw the stone to damn another’s sin,

When you, while knowing all our past, forgive again?

No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.

As you, O God, forgive our sin, may we forgive.

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

Pastoral Prayer

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

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

**Thank you, O God, for loving us and laboring with us as we seek you and as we help others in their seeking. Bless these offerings which we return to you, that in our seeking and our serving, our light might illumine someone’s path. Guide us in your wisdom and love that we may use these gifts to manifest your presence in the world in all that we do. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

**INVITATION**

**CONSECRATION**

**SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**Gracious God, we give thanks to you for bread and for the cup and for all that you touch and bless. Grant that we might always appreciate the mystery of your presence in the simple and ordinary things of life. As we have shared the body and blood of Christ Jesus - so help us to share the good news that he came to bring to all people. We offer our prayers in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Hymn *“Those Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord”*

Those who dwell in the shelter of the Lord will find safety within His wing.

God, my refuge, my fortress and my shield! All my trust, I place in You.

I will not fear the night, the pestilence that stalks in the darkness.

With You at my side, what can harm me?

I call upon Your name, and You hear me.

I will trust in You, my Salvation.

My life is made secure through Your mercy.

Those who make their dwelling with God are protected throughout their days.

Though a thousand may perish at my side, yet no harm will come my way.

God’s angels will be there, and they will lift me up and protect me!

With God at my side, what can harm me?

I call upon my God and God hears me.

I will trust in God, my Salvation.

My life is made secure because loves me.

Benediction

Postlude from “*A Clare Benediction”* John Rutter