**Worship from Home**

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

**The Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 7, 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:** We gather in this sacred and holy space

**Many: To become the people that proclaims the Risen Christ.**

**One:** We gather after having traveled from our broken spaces

**Many: To experience the healing love of the Risen Christ.**

**One:** We gather as one, even though we are diverse and unique.

**Many: We gather as one, because God calls each and every one of us.**

**One:**  Come, Let us worship God!

*\**Hymn #371NCH *“God, Creation’s Great Designer”*

God, Creation’s great designer, architect and artisan,

Dreamer, builder and refiner—how we marvel at your plan.

You have formed us to reflect you, filled us with your Spirit’s breath

Freed us to accept, reject you, and in Christ, defeated death.

Hear our thanks for those who founded in this place a church for praise.

Firm in Christ their faith was grounded as they lived their earthly days.

Builders, they, in brick and stonework, walls supporting roof and floor,

Praising you in all their own work—solid steeple, open door.

Shape us as your congregations, called together, sent afar,

So as people or as nations we can serve you where we are.

O accept the praise we bring you, bless the work of human hands.

Hear the hymns our voices sing you, echoing through years and lands.

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**God of love and unity, open our hearts and our lives so we may receive your Spirit. Help us to see beyond the differences that separate us. Help us to see beyond the limitations that keep us apart. We invoke your Spirit of Love through the Risen Christ so we may become the church of hope that welcomes an entire community, celebrating our diversity.**

Children’s Message

# 640 NCH Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

A Reading from the Epistles 1 Peter 2:2-10

A Reading from the Gospels John 14:1-14

Message *“A House with Many Rooms”* Pastor Lisa

*\**Hymn#279 NCH *“O God in Heaven”*

O God in heaven, grant to your children
mercy and blessing, songs never ceasing
grace to invite us, peace to unite us,
O God in heaven, author of love.

Jesus, Redeemer, help us remember
your pain and passion, your resurrection,
Your call to follow, your love tomorrow,
Jesus, Redeemer, savior and friend.

Spirit unending, give us your blessing:
strength for the weary, help for the needy;
Hope for the scornful, peace for the mournful
Spirit unending, comfort and guide.

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

**God, bless these tithes and offerings, that they may heal and make whole the lives of all your children. And bless those who give and those who long to give, that we may become living stones of mercy, grace and justice in the house of your creation. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

Invitation

Consecration

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**We thank you God because you have invited us to this table. Here we are strengthened for the task ahead of us: the loving of the world. Here we receive all Christ’s gifts.**

**Strengthen our faith. Help us love one another and your creation more. Teach us to pray, share, sing, teach, feed, heal, call and welcome as you have done to us. Make our lives a form of praise for your love shown to us through Jesus Christ. Amen**

*\**Hymn #400 NCH *“Christ is Made the Sure Foundation”*

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone;
chosen of our God and precious, binding all the Church in one;
holy Zion's help forever, and our confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call you, come, O God of Hosts, today!
With your constant loving kindness hear thy people as they pray,
Give your fullest benediction: grace to follow Christ the Way.

Here renew your servants vision, that by faith they may attain

Peace and hope, renewed compassion, strength to comfort those in pain,

Tears and grief transformed to gladness in your everlasting reign.

Benediction

Benedictory Response

Postlude

\* indicates where the congregation may stand as they are able