**Worship from Home**

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

**Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost, November 12, 2023**

Prelude Chimes Choir

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship(adapted from Amos 5:24)

**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 this morning to worship God in this place.

**All: God cares for us in every morning and in every place of our lives.**

One: God speaks to us today as a community of justice and peace: “Let justice roll down like waters,

**All: “and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”**

One: Our presence this morning is a prayer of thanksgiving and praise,

**All: And our lives each day are an offering to God.**

One: From many different places, from many circumstances and stories,

**All: We come to worship the God of grace and glory!**

*\**Hymn #410 NCH *“If You But Trust in God to Guide You”*

If you but trust in God to guide you with hopeful heart through all your ways,  
you will find strength with God beside you to bear the worst of evil days;  
for those who trust God's changeless love build on the rock that will not move.

Only be still and wait God’s pleasure in cheerful hope with heart content.  
trusting that grace which knows no measure will by unbounded Love be sent;  
Nor doubt our inmost wants are clear to One who holds us always near.

Sing, pray, and keep God’s ways unswerving, offer your service faithfully,  
and trust God’s word; though undeserving, there find the truth to set you free.  
God will not fail to guide and bless those who embrace God’s faithfulness.

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**Your abiding love sustains us, O God, in every moment and every circumstance, in good times and in bad, in struggle and in victory, in loss and in gain. Your grace is the ever-present source of our very lives: grant us this morning a deep awareness that you are near. Grow in our hearts a childlike trust that enables us to feel your love underneath our struggles and beyond our doubt. Lead us today, we humbly pray, into deeper and greater faith in you, and set our hearts on the things of your own heart. We ask this grace on days of uncertainty and on days of firm resolve, in every hour of our lives. Amen**

Children’s Message

Psalm 78, NCH p. 669 Psalm 78:1-7

Chimes Interlude

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible Amos 5:18-24

A Reading from the Epistles 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Message *“Ready for the Joy”* Pastor Lisa

\*Hymn #588 *“Let Justice Flow Like Streams”*

Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water, pure,  
enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure.

Let righteousness roll on as others' cares we heed,  
an ever-flowing stream of faith translated into deed.

So may God's plumb line, straight, define our measure true,  
and justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life through.

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

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

Choral Response

Invitation to Give

Offertory *“Grace Alone”*

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**

Unison Prayer of Dedication

**Generous God, we hear your voice in the words of Amos, and we long to respond with deep gratitude and commitment, gratitude rolling down like waters and commitment like an everflowing stream in the life of this world. Thank you for giving us the power and the opportunity to share with one another. Thank you for giving us all that we have and all that we are; we offer back to you our gifts this day as a sign of our gratitude for your generosity in every season. Bless these gifts, and strengthen us in the giving, we pray. Amen.**

*\**Hymn #60 PH *“Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name”*

Savior, again to thy dear name we raise  
with one accord our parting hymn of praise.  
Once more we bless thee ere our worship cease,  
then, lowly bending, wait thy word of peace.

Grant us thy peace upon our homeward way;  
with thee began, with thee shall end the day.  
Guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
that in this house have called upon thy name.

Grant us thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;  
turn thou for us its darkness into light.  
From harm and danger keep thy children free,  
for dark and light are both alike to thee.

Grant us thy peace throughout our earthly life,  
our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife.  
Then, when thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,  
call us, O Lord, to thine eternal peace.

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Postlude

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

Many of our worship resources this morning come from the UCC Church Vitality website.