**Worship from Home**

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

**Reign of Christ Sunday, November 26, 2023**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit  *“This is a Time to Remember”*

This is a time to remember the greatness of the Lord;

He has so faithfully led us as promised in his Word;

He has so bountifully given his grace like freshening rain;

He has so lovingly pardoned and made us whole again.

This is a time to remember the Church is his, not ours;

This is a time to surrender ourselves, our wealth, our powers;

This is a time to be servants—to give ourselves away;

Building the Church of the future until the coming day.

Call to Worship(Thom Shumann)

**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 come, for God gathers us here, with that community called faith:  
**Many: where the hungry are served first, where the thirsty drink life's water.**  
**One:** We come, for God welcomes us here into that home called grace:  
**Many: where the naked are clothed in robes of hope;  
where the stranger is embraced as the long-lost prodigal.  
One:** We come, for God reunites us here, sisters and brothers in that family called love:  
**Many: where the imprisoned model justice, where the sick are cradled in God's peace.**

**All: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Come, let us worship God!**

*\**Hymn #300 (vs. 1, 3, 4 and 5) NCH *“Jesus Shall Reign”*

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run;  
God’s realm shall stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.

People and realms of every tongue dwell on God’s love with sweetest song,  
and infant voices shall proclaim their earliest blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er Christ reigns: the prisoners leap to lose their chains,  
the weary find eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blessed.

Let every creature rise and bring tributes of praise for all to sing;  
Angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen.

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**Glorious God, shine your light on us this day that we might see the pathways you have prepared for us. Guide us in your service, and help us be faithful witnesses to your mercy and love. Amen**

Children’s Message Pastor Lisa

Psalm 100, NCH p. 688 100: 1-5

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible Ezekiel 34:11-24

A Reading from the Gospels Matthew 25:31-46

Message *“A Most Ingenious Paradox”* Pastor Lisa

\*Hymn #302 NCH *“Eternal Christ, You Rule”*

Eternal Christ, you rule keeping company with pain;  
enduring ridicule, rejected, still you reign.

Eternal Christ, you rule speaking pardon from the cross;  
forgiving pounded nails; death did its worst and lost.

Eternal Christ, you rule taking children by the hand;  
the proud return to school; the meek receive the land.

Eternal Christ, you rule fasting forty days along;  
the tempter played the fool, expecting bread from stone.

Eternal Christ, you rule keeping company with pain;  
with love and truth as tools, come build in us your reign.

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

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

Choral Response

Invitation to Give

Offertory *“Thankful”* Foster, Sager and Page

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

**Loving God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us -- ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.  Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.  Amen**

*\**Hymn Insert *“Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”*

Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,  
Who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy’s perfect deed:  
We, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart;  
Consecrating to your purpose every gift that you impart.

Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;  
Still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As you, Lord, in deep compassion, healed the sick and freed the soul,  
Use the love your Spirit kindles still to save and make us whole.

As we worship, grant us vision, till your love’s revealing light  
In its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight,  
Making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,  
Stirring us to tireless striving, your abundant life to share.

Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go,

To the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;

Hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,

That your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Postlude

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