**Worship from Home**

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

**World Communion Sunday, October 1, 2023**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit *“God Be in My Head”* John Rutter

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.**

Leader: Christ Jesus has made us his own!

**People: The news is good! We join in grateful worship.**

Leader: Christ Jesus has made us his own!

**People: The meal is ready! He invites us to come and share.**

Leader: Christ Jesus has made us his own!

**People: His gift is peace-- with God and with each other.**

**All: Together, let us worship God with joy!**

*\**Hymn #86 NCH *“When Morning Gilds the Skies”*

When morning gilds the sky, our hearts awaking cry: May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Alike at work and prayer one purpose I declare: May Jesus Christ be praised!

New strength comes night of day, when from the heart we say, May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Let sin and evil fear, when this sweet chant they hear: May Jesus Christ be praised!

Discordant humankind, in this your concord find, May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Let all the earth around ring joyous with the sound: May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine, May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Be this th’eternal song, through all the ages long: May Jesus Christ be praised!

Unison Prayer of Invocation (from UMC World Communion Sunday liturgy)

Communal God, thank you for the diversity of your creation and the unity of your church. As we gather around Christ’s table, we remember that it is as wide and long as your love for us. Fill our hearts with compassion and move us to be in full accord with one another. Make our joy complete so that it flows into the world. Amen.

Children’s Message

Psalm 25, page 635 TNCH Psalm 25:1-10

A Reading from the Epistles Philippians 2:1-13

A Reading from the Gospels Matthew 21:23-32

Message *“By What Authority?”* Pastor Lisa

\*Hymn Insert *“We Come, As Guests Invited”*

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

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

Choral Response

Invitation to Give

Offertory*“Sanctus”* Alonzo P. Howard

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 (From Moira Laidlaw)

**God of many blessings, we respond to your generosity with these gifts, praying that they, and the service of our lives, may be used to benefit those in need and to share the gospel of Christ.  Amen**

**THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

Invitation

Consecration

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**O God, we give you thanks that through this bread and this cup, you have made us one with you and with each other. May the unity we find at this table be a gift that we carry out into your suffering, divided world. Help us to find strength in knowing that you, the God of peace, will always be with us. Amen.**

*\**Hymn #503 *“O Savior, Let Me Walk With You”*

O Savior, let me walk with you in earthly paths of service free;  
Tell me your secret, help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love;  
Teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me your patience; let me be in closer, dearer company,  
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way,  
In peace that only you can give, with you, O savior, let me live.

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: Go out from this table, from this place of peace, to serve a hurting world.

**People: We go, knowing that the God of peace will be with us.**

Leader: Go where there is disunity among Christians, and bring God's reconciliation.

**People: We go, knowing that the God of peace will be with us.**

Leader: Go where there is injustice and brokenness, to bring God's way of peace.

**People: We go, knowing that the God of peace will be with us. Amen!**

Postlude

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

**Writers of this World Communion Sunday Resource**

Except where otherwise noted, today’s liturgical resources were prepared by Bruce and Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, Co-Pastors of the First Presbyterian Church in Pitman, NJ at the time, for the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.