**Worship from Home**

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

**Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost, October 13, 2024**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 90)

**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:** Lord, teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

**Many: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**

**One:** Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

**Many: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands– O prosper the work of our hands!**

\*Hymn #251 NCH (vs. 1-3) *“I Greet You, Sure Redeemer”*

I greet you, sure Redeemer, with my heart, glad for the saving love that you impart,

Who pain did undergo for my poor sake; I pray you from our hearts all cares to take.

You are the source of mercy and of grace, reigning omnipotent in every place;

So rule in us and our whole being sway. Shine on us with the light of your pure day.

You are the life, by which alone we live, and all our substance and our strength receive.

Sustain us by your faith and by your power, and give us strength in every trying hour.

Unison Prayer of Invocation (from Shelley Cunningham)

**Almighty God, we long to rest in your gentle arms. We need your compassion as we face the challenges and disappointments of life. When our hearts are hard, and our concern is only for ourselves, turn us back to you. Remind us of your saving love and keep us close to you, Lord. Love us as only you can love, in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Reception of New Members (Insert)

Psalm 22, p. 632 NCH Psalm 22: 1-15

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible Job 23:1-9, 16-17

A Reading from The Epistles Hebrews 4:12-16

Sermon *“I Have a Bone to Pick with You, O God”* Pastor Lisa

\*Hymn #515 NCH *“O God, My God”*

Refrain: O God, my God, O gracious God, why do you seem so far from me, O God, my God, O gracious God?

Night and morning I make my prayer: Peace for this place and help for there;

Waiting and wondering, waiting and wondering, does God care? Does God care? Refrain

Pain and suffering unbound and blind plague the progress of humankind,

Always demanding, always demanding, does God mind? Does God mind? Refrain

Why, oh, why do the wicked thrive, poor folk perish, the rich survive;

Begging the question, begging the question, is God alive? Is God alive? Refrain

Turn again as you hear my plea; tend the torment in all I see:

Loving and healing, loving and healing, set me free. Set me free.

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

Pastoral Prayer

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

Invitation to Give

Offertory *“The Spacious Firmament on High”*

The spa­cious fir­ma­ment on high, With all the blue ethe­re­al sky,  
And span­gled hea­vens, a shin­ing frame Their great Orig­in­al pro­claim.  
Th’unwearied sun, from day to day, Does his cre­at­or’s pow­ers dis­play,  
And pub­lishes to every land The work of an al­migh­ty hand.

Soon as the ev­en­ing shades pre­vail The moon takes up the won­drous tale,  
And night­ly to the list­en­ing earth Repeats the sto­ry of her birth;  
While all the stars that round her burn And all the plan­ets in their turn,  
Confirm the tid­ings as they roll, And spread the truth from pole to pole.

What though in so­lemn si­lence all Move round the dark ter­res­tri­al ball?  
What though no real voice nor sound Amid the ra­di­ant orbs be found?  
In rea­son’s ear they all re­joice, And ut­ter forth a glo­ri­ous voice,  
Forever sing­ing as they shine, The hand that made us is di­vine.

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 (from Shelley Cunningham)

**With open hands and thankful hearts, we offer to you all that is already yours, O Lord.  
Everything we possess is a gift from you. You so freely give us what we need, and you promise even greater treasures that await us in heaven. Take what we offer and use it for the goodness of your kingdom. Help us share generously with others all that you so graciously give to us. Amen.**

\*Hymn #531 *“God, Speak to Me”*

God speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of your tone;

As you have sought, so let me seek your erring children lost and lone.

O lead me, God, that I may lead some wanderers along life’s way;

O feed me so that I may feed your hungry ones without delay.

O fill me with your fullness, God, your overflowing love to know;

In glowing word and kindling thought, your love to tell, your praise to show.

O use me, God, use even me just as you will, and when, and where, until your blessed face I see, your rest, your joy, your glory share.

Benediction

Postlude