**Worship from Home**

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

**Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost, October 29, 2023**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit *“Without Seeing You, We Love You”*

Call to Worship(From Moira Laidlaw, *Based on Psalm 106: 1-6,19-23)*

**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:**  Let us praise God whose goodness and steadfast love are everlasting.
**Many: With joy we praise God’s wonderful deeds.**
**One:** Happy are those who act justly and whose lives reflect God’s righteousness at all times;
**Many: so look on us with favor, O God, for we rejoice in all your faithful dealings with those who have gone before us.**
**One:** Like them, we have sinned; we fall far short of your goodness.
**Many: Like them, we forget you and replace you with idols of our own making.**
**One:** Yet, as you heard Moses’ prayer for his people and delivered them from certain death and destruction,
**Many: so you hear Jesus’ prayers for us, and graciously grant us the gift of salvation.**
**All: Let us together praise God whose goodness and steadfast love are everlasting.**

*\**Hymn #25 NCH *“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”*

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home!

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**You are here with us in this place, gracious God, here with us every moment of our lives. We are here this morning because of the one true thing that guides our lives and steadies us in every circumstance: your love. We believe that underneath every difference we experience is one great Spirit of love. Hold us together, we pray, in this place and hour of worship, and then hold us together in spirit when we leave this time, nourished by prayer and fellowship, to go out into your world and be a blessing of hope for all people. Amen.**

Chimes Interlude

Children’s Message

Psalm 1, page 621 TNCH Psalm 1

A Reading from the Gospels Matthew 22:34-46

Message *“Judgment Free Loving”* Pastor Lisa

Chimes Interlude

\*Hymn #456 NCH *“More Love To You, O Christ”*

More love to you, O Christ, more love to you!
Hear now the prayer I make faith to renew;
Refrain: In all I say and do, more love, O Christ, to you,
More love to you, more love to you!

Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest;
Now you alone I seek, give what is best: Refrain

Then shall my latest breath whisper you praise;
This be the parting cry my heart shall raise: Refrain

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

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

Choral Response

Invitation to Give

Offertory *“Peace, Salaam, Shalom”*

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

**Our hearts are full with gratitude and hope this day: we are deeply grateful for all of your blessings in our lives, O God, and we are hopeful that our own gifts will be a blessing for the world. We set our hearts this day on sharing your abundance in our lives. Make our gifts a blessing to the world, and a prayer of praise and thanks-giving for your boundless goodness and overflowing grace. Amen**

*\**Hymn insert *“Get Together”* The Youngbloods

Love is but a song we sing; fear’s the way we die.

You can make the mountains ring or make the angels cry.

Though the bird is on the wing and you may not know why

Chorus: Come on, people now, smile on your brother.
Everybody get together, try to love one another right now.

Some may come and some may go, we will surely pass
When the one that left us here, returns for us at last
We are but a moment's sunlight fading on the grass. Chorus

If you hear the song I sing you will understand:
You hold the key to love and fear all in your trembling hand.
Just one key unlocks them both it's there at your command. Chorus

\* Benediction

Postlude

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

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