**Worship from Home**

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

**World Communion Sunday, October 6, 2024**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit *“There Will Be Bread”*

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.**

One: Today we gather around a bountiful table to celebrate the freedom of God.

**Many:  From all around the world we come, to rekindle our spirits and receive strength for our common tasks.**

One: Bread from the earth and fruit from the vine, they are gifts to us of God’s presence.

**Many: Let us be bound in love, walk together in truth, and be united in purpose.**

**All:  For the earth and all its fullness belong not to us, but to the Lord.**

Hymn # 383 NCH *“Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls”*

Come, let us join with faithful souls our song of faith to raise;  
One familyin heart are we, and one the God we praise.

Faithful are all who love the truth and perfect truth proclaim,  
Who steadfast stand at God’s right hand and glorify God’s name.

And faithful are the gentle hearts to whom the power is given  
Of every hearth to make a home, Of every home a heaven.

O God of hosts, our faith renew, and grant us, in your grace,  
To join the songs sung by the saints in every time and place.

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**God of our lives, your Word is one of communion, not division. Your gifts are gifts of abundance, peace, and freedom, not scarcity, violence, and oppression. We thank you that in Christ you have given us greatest gift: you gave us yourself. As we gather today, may your gifts and your presence be received with joy and humility. In this hour, we pray that you would open our eyes that we might see as you see, our ears that we might hear as you hear, and our minds that we might understand that hope to which you have called us. As the scripture is read and your word proclaimed, let your Spirit move within us, setting our hearts on your Kin-dom. Amen.**

Children’s Message

Psalm 8, p. 624 NCH Psalm 8

Readings from Scripture

Sermon *“World Communion”* Pastor Lisa

\*Hymn #332 NCH *“As We Gather at Your Table”*

As we gather at Your table, as we listen to Your word,  
Help us know O God Your presence, let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story ‘til we claim it as our own;  
Teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's vict'ry known  
  
Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;  
Send us forth to love and serve You, bringing peace where there is strife.  
Give us Christ Your great compassion, to forgive as You forgave;  
May we still behold Your image in the world You died to save.  
  
Gracious Spirit help us summon other guests to share that feast  
Where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.  
There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy  
As we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

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

Pastoral Prayer

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

Invitation to Give

Offertory

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 (Deborah Sokolove)

**Holy Giver of all that we need, you have filled our hearts with joy and our hands with overflowing abundance. With thanks and joy, we bring our gifts, offering ourselves in communion with you and with all creation. In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

INVITATION

Leader: We rejoice in the God of life, who gives us bread, the fruit of the earth worked with human hands, and who makes it into the bread of life.  
**People: We rejoice in the God of life** **who gives us wine and juice,** **the fruit of the vine tended with daily care,** **and puts the flavor of the new world into it.**  
Leader: As the wheat and grapes are joined on this table in bread and the cup – into a visual symbol for us –  
**People: May our church join together** **into a visual symbol for the entire world.**  *(Germany)*

RECONCILIATION

Paz, **peace,** py’aguapy.  
**I commit, God, to searching for:  
The healing of my relationship with you.  
The healing of my relationship with myself.  
The healing of my relationship with others.  
The healing of my relationship with all your creation.  
¡SHALOM! (Chile)**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Forgiveness is forgetting bad things, remembering good things. Forgiveness is accepting God’s love.*( China)*

NAMING OF COUNTRIES

Leader: In this World Communion, we pray for these particular countries.

*(People respond one at a time to name the countries they have been praying for this week or a country that comes to them in this moment. People respond individually in a time of silence).*

WORDS OF REMEMBERING

Remember, the Lord, the friend of sinners, who were the oppressed, the estranged, the weak, the sick, widow, orphans. Remember, the Lord, the one disliking of the common structure and power. Remember, the Lord, the one sharing of daily food in life. Remember, the Lord, the one liberating from a dictator. We remember your suffering, O Lord, at your Last Supper.  *(Korea)*

CONSECRATION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**We give you thanks O Lord, for all food that has arrived at our table from your generosity. Bless the people who have made it possible, from the cultivation of the earth until it arrived to us. Give bread to those who are hungry, and to those who have bread give us hunger for you. Amen***(Mexico, grace contributed from an orphanage in Colima, may not be the original source)*

\*Hymn #349 NCH *“I Come with Joy”*

I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved and free,

the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,

the new community of love in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends.

The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends.

And thus we meet and better know the Presence, ever near,

And join our hearts and sing with joy that Christ is risen here.

Together met, together bound in friendship we will stay,

And go with joy, to love the world and live the way we pray.

Benediction

Postlude

Our thanks to our new Music Director, Tina Dreisbach, and for our other guest musicians, including her husband Paul and our friend Bill Schubeck.

Our opening prayers this morning are from Michael Anthony Howard, as published in *The Pacific Pilgrim*, 2014. Our Communion liturgy is from Maren Tirabassi’s service for World Communion Sunday.