**Worship from Home**

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

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 15, 2024**

Prelude *“Rigadon”* G.F. Handel

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

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:** Where are the teachers in our midst who will guide us as we learn?

**Many: We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!**

**One:** Where are Jesus' disciples, who thirst to know God's ways?

**Many: We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!**

**One:**  Our church school is this sacred space and our classroom is the world.

**Many: We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!**

**One:** Thanks be to God for new beginnings, for new opportunities to learn together!

**All: We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!**

Hymn #1 NCH *“Immortal, Invisible”*

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light, not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might;  
Your justice like mountains high soaring above your clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

Your life is life giving, to both great and small; in all life you’re living, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers, then wither and perish but naught dims your powers.

So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light, your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;  
all praise we now render, as your angels do: in awe at the splendor of light hiding you.

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**Holy Wisdom of God, You call to us from the depths of our hearts, where we long for connection with you and with one another. You call to us from busy streets and neighborhoods, where human pain and possibility are most urgent. You call to us from our sacred stories, where God, Christ, Spirit create, challenge, comfort. Guide us, we pray, on an adventure of hope, and help us see with your eyes the ways which lead to beloved community where Christ Jesus is at the center. We ask our prayers in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Psalm 19, p. 630 NCH Psalm 19

A Reading from The Epistles James 3:1-12

A Reading from The Gospels Mark 8:27-38

Sermon *“Who Are You If You Know Him?”* The Rev. Linette George

\*Hymn #451 NCH *“Be Now My Vision”*

Be now my vision, O God of my heart; Nothing surpasses the love you impart--  
You my best thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, your presence my light

Be now my wisdom, and be my true word, Ever within me, my soul is assured;  
Mother and Father, you are both to me, now and forever your child I will be.

Riches I need not, nor life’s empty praise, You, mine inheritance, now and always  
You and you only are first in my heart, great God, my treasure, may we never part.

Sovereign of heaven, my victory won, May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be my vision, O ruler of all

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

Pastoral Prayer

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

Invitation to Give

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

**Generous God, you have made rich and poor, powerful and vulnerable alike in your image. Please teach us to use our gifts to create greater access, insights, and wisdom for people within and outside of these walls. Bless the gifts we return today that we may use them to protect the afflicted and bring greater justice to your world. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.**

\*Hymn Insert *“Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said”*

‘Take up your cross,’ the Savior said, ‘if you would my disciple be;  
Take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow after me.

Take up your cross, let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm;  
Christ’s strength will bear your spirit up and brace your heart, support your arm.

Take up your cross, heed not the shame, and let your foolish pride be still;

For Christ did not refuse to die upon a cross on Calvary’s hill.

Take up your cross, and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down;  
For only those who bear the cross may hope to wear the glorious crown.

Benediction

Postlude *“March”* Franz Haydn

We welcome the Rev. Linette George to our pulpit this morning while Pastor Lisa is at her nephew’s wedding in N.J. Rev. George is an authorized and ordained minister in the UCC since 2013, who holds an MDiv from Bangor Theological Seminary and a Bachelor of Arts in American Public Policy of Political Science from Stanford University. She is a longtime volunteer with the Maine Conference, having served as Chair of the Board of Directors, member of the Personnel Committee, Resourcing the Local Church, and the Anti-Racism Resource Team. Having completed her call after ten years at the Dedham and Holden UCC congregations, she is a free agent, “functionally retired” and living in Glenburn with her mom and sister.

This morning’s liturgy comes from the UCC’s *Worship Ways*.