**Worship from Home**

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

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 17, 2023**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit *“Freely, Freely”* Carol Owens

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:** Are you hungry? Come and worship.

**Many: Are you thirsty? Come and worship.**

**One:** Are you weary, worn out and tired? Come and worship.

**Many: Are you joyous? Come and worship.**

**One:** Are you grateful? Come and worship.

**Many: Are you full, expectant and hopeful? Come and worship.**

**One:** Let us come just as we are to worship.

**All: May our honest praise be beautiful offering to our God. Amen.**

*\**Hymn #314 NCH *“Community of Christ”*

Community of Christ, who make the Cross your own,

Live out your creed and risk your life for God alone.

The God who wears your face, to whom all worlds belong,

Whose children are of every race and every song.

Community of Christ, look past the church’s door

And see the refugee, the hungry, and the poor.

Take hands with the oppressed, the jobless in your street,

Take towel and water, that you wash your neighbor’s feet.

Community of Christ, through whom the word must sound—

Cry out for justice and for peace the whole world ‘round:

Disarm the powers that war and all that can destroy,

Turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy.

When menace melts away, so shall God’s will be done,

The climate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun;

Our currency bel love and kindliness our law,

Our food and faith be shared as one forevermore.

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**O God, we still our hearts. We do not know what words you will speak to us today, but we open ourselves to receive your truth. We want to see you, to know you more and to receive your love and to respond in worship. Our songs, our words, our actions are for you and you alone. Guide us, Spirit, as we worship today. Change us because we have been in your presence. Amen.**

Children’s Message

Psalm103, page 688 TNCH Psalm 103: 1-12; 22

A Reading from the Epistles Romans 14:1-12

A Reading from the Gospels Matthew 18:21-35

Message *“Unforgiven”* Pastor Lisa

\*Hymn #452 NCH *“Savior, Who Dying Gave”*

Savior, who dying gave your love to me, that all God made me for might come to be--   
I make this solemn vow: my heart will always bow,  
when I remember how you died for me.

Give me a faithful heart guided by you, that every day may bring your love to view

Through some small kindness done, some work of love begun,

Some thread of justice spun, some life made new.

All that I am and have is yours alone, my love for you the fruit your love has sown.

Not doubt, nor fear, nor wrong, nor death can still this song:

My gifts of love belong to you alone.

Top of Form

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

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

Choral Response

Invitation to Give

Offertory*“Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive”*  Herklots, arr. A. Boudreaux

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 Bruce and Carolyn Winfrey Gillette)

**Gracious and loving God, you have given us so much, especially the gift of reconciliation through your Son Jesus Christ. You, the God of peace, have promised that you will always be with us. Now in gratitude, we bring our tithes and offerings to you. We ask your blessing on these gifts and on our lives so that your peace and justice may be furthered in your world. Amen.**

*\**Hymn #347 PH *“Lord, As to Thy Dear Cross”*

Lord, as to thy dear cross we flee, and plead to be forgiven,  
so let thy life our pattern be, and form our souls for heaven.

Help us, through good report and ill, our daily cross to bear:  
like thee, to do our Father’s will, our brethren’s grief to share.

Let grace our selfishness expel, our earthliness refine;  
and kindness in our bosoms dwell, as free and true as thine.

If joy shall at thy bidding fly, and grief’s dark day come on,  
we in our turn would meekly cry, 'Father, thy will be done.'

Kept peaceful in the midst of strife, forgiving and forgiven,  
O may we lead the pilgrim’s life and follow thee to heaven.

Benediction

Postlude

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

*Freely, Freely,* Carol Owens

God forgave my sin in Jesus’ name,

I’ve been born again in Jesus’ name,

and in Jesus’ name I come to you,

to share his love as he told me to.

Refrain: He said, “Freely, freely you have received,

freely freely give.

Go in my name, and because you believe,

others will know that I live.

All power is given in Jesus’ name,

in earth and heaven in Jesus’ name,

and in Jesus’ name I come to you,

to share his power as he told me to.

Refrain

*Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*, by Rosamond Herklots, arr. Ann Boudreaux

“Forgive our sins as we forgive,” you taught us, Lord, to pray;

But you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart

That broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:

What trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls, and bid resentment cease;

Then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.