**Worship from Home**

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

**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 22, 2024**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit *“You Are My Hiding Place”* Michael Ledner

Call to Worship (from Mindy Welton-Mitchell)

**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:** The wolf shall live with the lamb, the calf shall lie down with the lion  
**Many**: **And a little child shall lead them.**  
**One:** Light shall shine in the darkness, the dawn from on high will break upon us  
**Many**: **And a little child shall lead us.  
One:** The last shall be first, and the first will be last of all and servant of all  
**Many**: **And we must become like a child.**  
**One:** Let us follow the Wisdom of God, which seems foolish to the world.  
**Many**: **Let us follow the Prince of Peace, who guides our feet, our hands and our hearts.  
All: Let us worship together.**

\*Hymn #537 NCH *“Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed”*

Christian, rise and act your creed; let your prayer be in your deed;

Seek the right, perform the true, raise your work and life anew.

Hearts around you sink with care; you can help their load to bear;

You can bring inspiring light, strengthen them to do the right.

Offer others hope and joy, and god’s worship your employ;

Giving thanks in humble zeal, learning all God’s will to feel.

Come them, law divine, and reign: faith that doubt assails in vain,

Perfect love bereft of fear, born in heaven and radiant there.

Unison Prayer of Invocation (from David von Schlichten)

**Loving God, your Son made himself last so that we could be first. Reteach us the wisdom that begets gentleness, humility, and service. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.**

Children’s Message

Psalm, 1 p. 621 NCH Psalm 1

A Reading from The Epistles James 3:13 – 4:8

A Reading from The Gospels Mark 9:30-37

Sermon *“The Very Last”* Pastor Lisa

\*Hymn #539 NCH (vs. 1, 3, 5, 6) *“Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant”*

Won’t you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.  
  
I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.  
  
I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I’ll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow ‘til we’ve seen this journey through.

Won’t you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

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

Pastoral Prayer

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

Invitation to Give

Offertory *“To Know You More”* Joe Horness

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 Moira Laidlaw)

**Gracious God, in your great wisdom you revealed your human face of love in Jesus and he gave further expression to your wisdom by putting no limits or conditions on his love. We show our gratitude by offering these gifts and our lives to be used to love and serve others as Jesus has loved and served us. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen**

\*Hymn #533 NCH *“Children of God”*

Children of God, lift hearts to one another; where pity dwells, the peace of God is there;

To worship rightly is to love each other, each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.

For God whom Jesus loved has truly spoken: the holier worship which Christ deigns to bless

Restores the lost, and binds the spirit broken, and feeds the widow and the parentless.

Follow with reverent steps the great example of Christ whose holy work was doing good;

So shall the wide earth seem a holy temple, each loving life a psalm of gratitude.

Then shall all shackles fall; the stormy clangor of wild war music o’er the earth shall cease;

Love shall tread out the baleful fire of anger, and in its ashes plan the tree of peace.

Benediction

Postlude