**Worship from Home**

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

**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 29, 2024**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit *“In the Midst of New Beginnings”*

Call to Worship (from Thom Shuman)

**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:**  We have walked with you, O God, from many parts of the world to this time and place.
**Many: And we will walk with you, O God, into the world to serve all people.**
**One:**  We leave behind our old securities; we leave behind our reliance on worldly goods.
**Many: And we will walk with you, O God, into the world to live with all people.**
**One:**  We leave behind all which holds us back; we leave behind all which keeps us from following you.
**Many: And we will walk with you, O God, into the world to work with all people.**
**One:**  We leave behind the fears which bind us; we leave behind the hurts which damage us.
**All: And we will walk with you, O God, into the peace you offer to all people.**

Hymn #436 NCH (vs. 1-3, 5) *“God of Grace and God of Glory”*

God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient Church’s story, bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

From the evils that surround us and assail the Savior’s ways,
From the fears that long have bound us-- free our hearts for faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

Cure your children’s warring madness; bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, make our broken spirits whole, make our broken spirits whole.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
let the search for your salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage serving you whom we adore, serving you whom we adore.

Unison Prayer of Invocation (The Rev. Tim Graves)

**You who have created us and sustain us: we come with thanksgiving for these moments when we can ease the pace of our lives and listen for your voice. Create a spirit within us that truly draws us toward you and toward our brother and sisters; a spirit deep, perceptive, gentle and bold. Clear our minds, open our hearts and touch us with your presence and your power. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Children’s Message

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

A Reading from The Epistles James 5:13-20

A Reading from The Gospels Mark 9:38-50

Sermon *“The Stories We Tell and Those We Don’t”* Pastor Lisa

\*Hymn #552 NCH *“From the Crush of Wealth and Power”*

From the crush of wealth and power something broken in us
all waits the spirit’s silent hour pleading with a poignant call,
bind all my wounds again.

Even now our hearts are wary of the friend we need so much.
When I see the pain you carry, shall I, with a gentle touch,
bind all your wounds again?

When our love for one another makes our burdens light to bear,
find the sister and the brother, hungry for the feast we share;
bind all their wounds again.

Every time our spirits languish terrified to draw too near,
may we know each other’s anguish and, with love that casts out fear,
bind all our wounds again.

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

Pastoral Prayer

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

Invitation to Give

Offertory *“Unsettled World”*

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

**Bless these gifts, O God, for we offer them and our lives to be used to proclaim the good news of Jesus in ways that empower people’s lives. May our faith be so evident through our deeds and our words that others are brought to faith and lives are transformed. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen**

\*Hymn Insert *“Put Peace into Each Other’s Hands”*

Put peace into each other's hands and like a treasure hold it;

protect it like a candle flame, with tenderness enfold it.

Put peace into each other's hands with loving expectation;

be gentle in your words and ways, in touch with God's creation.

Put peace into each other's hands, like bread we break for sharing;

look people warmly in the eye: our life is meant for caring.

As at communion, shape your hands into a waiting cradle;

the gift of Christ receive, revere, united round the table.

Put Christ into each other's hands, he is love's deepest measure;

in love make peace, give peace a chance and share it like a treasure.
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Benediction

Postlude