**Worship from Home**

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

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 3, 2023**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship (From Psalm 105)

**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:** O give thanks to the Lord, call on God’s name, make known God’s deeds among the peoples.

**Many: Sing to God, sing praises to God; tell of all God’s wonderful works.**

**One:** Glory in God’s holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**Many: Seek the Lord and his strength; seek her presence continually.**

**One:** Remember the wonderful works God has done, the miracles, and the judgments God uttered,

**Many: O offspring of God’s servant Abraham, children of Jacob, God’s chosen ones.**

**All: He is the Lord our God; her judgments are in all the earth.**

*\**Hymn #273 TNCH *“Praise with Joy the World’s Creator”*

Praise with joy the world's Creator, God of justice, love, and peace,

source and end of human knowledge, Force of greatness without cease.

Celebrate the Maker's glory, power to rescue and release.

Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry, frees the captive, finds the lost,

heals the sick, up-sets religion, fearless both of fate and cost.

Celebrate Christ's constant presence: friend and stranger, guest and host.

Praise the Spirit sent among us, liberating truth from pride,

forging bonds where race or gender, age or nation dare divide.

Celebrate the Spirit's treasure: foolishness none dare deride.

Praise the Maker, Christ, and Spirit, one God in community,

calling Christians to embody oneness and diversity.

Thus the world shall yet believe, when shown Christ’s vibrant unity.

Unison Prayer of Invocation (from Cheryl A. Lindsay)

**Eternal God, when we search for you, we find you. When we seek you, we find you seeking us. Your presence among us changes our circumstances and our lives. We honor and worship you as an act of devotion and discipleship. Infuse us with your Spirit that our witness and ministry may be a testimony to your everlasting love. Amen.**

Children’s Message

Psalm 105, page 691 TNCH Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible Exodus 3:1-15

A Reading from the Epistles Romans 12:9-21

A Reading from the Gospels Matthew 16:21-28

Message *“Called to What?”* Pastor Lisa

Hymn Insert *“The Gift of Love”* Hal Hopson

Top of Form

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,

and have not love my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,

but not be giv'n by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.

Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship and are freed.

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

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

Invitation to Give

Offertory *“Jesus Met the Woman at the Well”*

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

**Lord, this money is not payment for services rendered. These aren't our dues necessary for us to belong to this church. We know you made us with a purpose, and so now we give ... on purpose, freely offering to you the best of who we are. Continue to work out your purpose in us. Make us your hands, outstretched, on purpose. Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

**Invitation**

**Consecration**

**Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**We thank you, gracious God, for your gifts of bread and wine, the symbols of Christ’s body and blood. We thank you for nourishing us, sustaining us, and empowering us to live as one body. We thank you for your most amazing love and pray that your love would abide in us always. Amen**

*\**Hymn #492 TNCH *“I Would Be True”*

I would be true, for there are those who trust me;  
I would be pure, for there are those who care;  
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;  
I would be brave, for there is much to dare. (x2)

I would be friend of all—the foe, the friendless;  
I would be giving, and forget the gift;  
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;  
I would look up, and laugh, and love, and live. (x2)

I would be prayerful through each busy moment;  
I would be constantly in touch with God;  
I would be tuned to sense God’s slightest whisper;  
I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod. (x2)

Benediction

Benedictory Response *“”*

Postlude

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