**Worship from Home**

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

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 8, 2024**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit *“Change My Heart, O God”*

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:**  Our merciful God, maker of us all, pleads the cause of the poor and afflicted.

**Many: Open our hearts to demonstrate God’s grace through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Hymn #576 NCH *“For the Healing of the Nations”*

For the healing of the nations, God, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;  
To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word,  
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase,  
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned;  
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span,  
may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,  
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find,  
earth its destiny may find.

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**Healing God, you do all things well. As we gather for worship this morning, illumine our hearts by your Holy Spirit, that we may receive your words and demonstrate your grace, walking in faith as we leave this place. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Children’s Message

Psalm 146, p. 719 NCH **Psalm 146**

A Reading from The Epistles **James 2:1-17**

A Reading from The Gospels **Mark 7:24-30**

Sermon *“To Do in Faith”* Pastor Lisa

\*Hymn Insert *“Be Doers of the Word of God”*

**Be Doers of the Word of God**

Ellacombe (“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”)

Be doers of the word of God, not simply those who hear.

Be ones who look into God’s word, obey, and persevere.

Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger, too.

Put wrath aside; instead, be meek and let God work in you.

Religion that is undefiled, religion that is pure

Will reach to help the orphaned child and welcome all the poor.

If people come here poorly dressed, to judge them is a sin.

The rich aren’t better than the rest; God welcomes poor ones in.

O Christ, you save us by God’s grace from having to obey.

Then freed to love, we can embrace a life that seeks your way.

May we be doers of the word; may faith shine through our deeds;

And as we seek to trust in God, may ethics follow creeds.

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

Pastoral Prayer

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

Invitation to Give

Offertory *“Living for Jesus”*

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, thank you for these gifts we bring from your abundance. Bless gifts and givers to show your love to all those in need, through our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, healer of the sick, advocate of the afflicted, provider for the poor. Amen.**

**s from hunger or thirst. Amen.**

\*Hymn Insert *“What Does the Lord Require?”*

What does the Lord require for praise and offering?

What sacrifice, desire or tribute did you bring?

Refrain: Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.

Rulers of earth, give ear! Should you not justice know?

Will God your pleading hear while crime and cruelty grow? Refrain:

Still down the ages ring the prophet's stern commands:

to merchant, worker, king, he brings God's high commands: Refrain

How shall our life fulfill God's law so hard and high?

Let Christ endue our will with grace to fortify.

Then justly, in mercy, we'll humbly walk with God.

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Benediction

Postlude

This morning’s liturgy comes from *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion*, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor. Our closing hymn is reprinted here by permission of the writer, Carolyn Gillette.