**Worship from Home**

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

**Fourth Sunday of Easter, May 8, 2022**

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

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:** We hear the voice of God calling,

**Many: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”**

**One:** We feel the Spirit moving among us,

**Many: Moving us to acts of compassion and justice.**

**One:** We know the love of Jesus.

**Many: We love because Christ first loved us.**

**One:** Come, worship God together.

**Many: Come, let us serve our God, who calls us by name.**

Hymn #301 NCH *“Crown With Your Richest Crown”*

Crown with your richest crowns the Lamb upon the throne.  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for you,  
and to your risen Savior bring your thanks for life made new.

Crown Christ the truth, the life, who triumphed o'er the grave,  
and rose victorious in the strife this fallen world to save.  
Christ’s glories now we sing, Christ’s name we magnify,  
who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown Christ who holds the years, embracing space and time,

Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime:

All hail, Redeemer, hail! For you have died for me;

Your praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**Lord God, we need you; we need you every hour of every day. We need your support, your love, your helping hand. We need, O God, your word to guide us, your Spirit to inspire us, your strength to hold us up. Be present with us at this hour of worship. Help us to bless your holy name. Make us the people you want us to be. We ask it in the name of the risen one, Christ Jesus. Amen.**

Children’s Message

A Reading from The Hebrew Bible Psalm 23

A Reading from the Gospels John 10: 22-30

Sermon *“What To Do About The Sheep”* Pastor Lisa

Anthem *“Love Rescue Me”* Bob Dylan/U2

Love rescue me Come forth and speak to me Raise me up and don't let me fall No man is my enemy My own hands imprison me Love rescue me

Many strangers have I met On the road to my regret Many lost who seek to find themselves in me They ask me to reveal The very thoughts they would conceal  
Love rescue me

And the sun in the sky Makes a shadow of you and I Stretching out as the sun sinks in the sea I'm here without a name In the palace of my shame Said, love rescue me

In the cold mirror of a glass I see my reflection pass See the dark shades of what I used to be See the purple of her eyes The scarlet of my lies Love rescue me

Yeah, though I walk In the valley of shadow Yeah, I will fear no evil  
I have cursed thy rod and staff They no longer comfort me Love rescue me

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

Litany for Mother’s Day (from Isaiah 66:7-9, 12-13; 42:14; 54:13; 54:1), Mindi Welton-Mitchell

**Leader:** Midwifing God, the Prophet Isaiah declared that You are the one who delivers us.

**People: We remember that You are Mother and Father to all of us, all of us are Your children.**

**Leader:** Mothering God, You bring forth new life in our midst.

**People: We honor the mothers around us, and all who care for and love children.**

**Leader:** Grandmother God, You comfort us in our time of grieving and sorrow.

**People: We remember our mothers and grandmothers who have passed on, for all those we miss on this day.**

**Leader:** Teaching God, You have taught us to honor our mothers and fathers and have taught us the ways of love.

**People: We remember those who have been like mothers to us, giving wisdom and guidance in our lives.**

**Leader:** Creator God, we remember that we are all created in Your image

**People: We honor and respect all women in our midst, mothers and aunts and sisters and friends.**

**Leader:** We honor and remember these great women, loving God, whom You have sent into our lives.

**People: Mothering God, guide us into ways of honoring and respecting women around our world, working towards justice and liberation, health and safety for all women and girls. We offer these prayers in the name of Christ, who like a mother hen desires to gather us together, and with whom we now pray:**

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

**Our Father [and Mother], who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Choral Response

Invitation to Give

Offertory “Psalm 23” God is my Shepherd Dvorak

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above the heavenly host. Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

**O God, you have poured out upon your people in this place the riches of both the world and of your grace. Help us to share these riches. Bless what we offer here today so that it may be worthy of us and of what you have done for us. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen**

Hymn #407 NCH  *“How Firm a Foundation”*

How firm a foundation for you has been laid,  
by God in the Word, in the sacrifice paid!  
What more can God say than to you has been said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed,  
for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow,  
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,  
delivering you from your deepest distress.

When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace all sufficient shall be your supply;  
the flames will not hurt you for I have designed

Your soul to make pure just as gold is refined.

The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not, desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake!”

Benediction

Postlude

The **Call to Worship** is by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, published in her online blog, *Rev-o-lution.* Our **Prayer of Invocation** and **The Prayer of Dedication** by Richard Fairchild, published online in his lectionary resources.

Our Choir includes Tom Bjorkman, Lisa Durkee, Charlie Ferden, Gina Grogean, BJ Harris, Bill MacDowell, Paul McNulty, Sarah Schneider and Becky Wentworth.