**Worship from Home**

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

**Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost, November 19, 2023**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship

**One:** We gather together to hear and steep ourselves your word.

**Many: We gather together to praise and adore you.**

One: We gather together to draw closer to you and to one another.

**Many: We gather together to ask your blessing on those things that we do in your name.**

**All: We gather together to give you thanks for all that you have given us that is beautiful, and sweet, and for all that is challenging or difficult. We gather together to give you thanks for EVERYTHING!**

*\**Hymn #425 NCH “For the Fruit of All Creation”

1.For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.

For God’s gift to every nation, thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping

Future needs in earth’s safe-keeping, thanks be to God.

2 .In the just reward of labor, God’s will is done.

In the help we give our neighbor, God’s will is done.

In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,

In the harvests we are sharing, God’s will is done.

3.For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.

For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,

Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**Heavenly God, we gather today trusting that your Holy Spirit is in our midst and that this same spirit that guided the prophets and the apostles guides us here today. Help us to recognize you in all of the goodness that we see in those around us and help us to live in gratitude for all that you give us. We come to worship today with Thanksgiving, recognizing that every good and perfect gift comes from you.**

Children’s Message

Psalm 136, p. 712 NCH Psalm 136 verses 1-9 and 23-26

A Reading from the Gospels Matthew. 25:14-30

A Reading from the Epistles I Thessalonians 5:16-18

Message: “Use It or Lose It and Give Thanks” Hunt Gressitt

Hymn: #563 NCH “We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky”

1. We cannot own the sunlit sky, the moon, the wildflowers growing,

For we are part of all that is within life’s river flowing.

With open hands receive and share the gifts of God’s creation,

That all may have abundant life in every earthly nation.

1. When bodies shiver in the night and weary, wait for morning,

When children have no bread, but tears and war horns sound their warning,

God calls humanity to wake, to join in common labor

That all may have abundant life in oneness with their neighbor.

1. God calls humanity to join as partners in creating

A future free from want or fear, life’s goodness celebrating.

That new world beckons from afar, invites our shared endeavor,

That all may have abundant life and peace endure forever.

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

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

Choral Response

Invitation to Give

Offertory

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**

Unison Prayer of Dedication

**We give Thee but Thine own, what e’re the gift may be. All that we have is Thine alone, a gift, oh God from Thee. Help us, oh God, to use our gifts to do good in this world and to glorify You forever. AMEN**

Hymn: #423 NCH “Great Is Your Faithfulness”

1.Great is your faithfulness, O God Creator.

With you no shadow of turning we see.

You do not change; your compassions they fail not.

All of your goodness forever will be.

Chorus

Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see.

All I have needed your hand has provided.

Great is your faithfulness God unto me.

2.Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,

Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,

Join with all nature in manifold witness

To your great faithfulness, witness, and love.

Repeat Chorus

3.Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,

Your own dear presence to cheer and to guide.

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow

Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.

Repeat Chorus

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE