

First Sunday After Christmas
WORSHIP FROM HOME
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
December 27, 2020

GATHERING AND WELCOME

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: People of God, sing and rejoice! God has come to us in Jesus the Christ, to reconcile and make new.

People: God has entered our existence of joy and sorrow, taking on human likeness in Jesus, born of Mary.

Leader: Therefore, we rejoice, praising God and singing:

All: Glory be to God in the highest, on earth peace to those who will the good. Christ is born. Alleluia!

INVOCATION(unison): **Our faces are sometimes lined with worry, O God: our days are full of stress and struggle. Yet we come today grateful that in the midst of this crowded and troubled world, your child was born, lived, and died, full of grace and truth. Surprise us with your presence; renew our sense of wonder; and give us peace and courage to live as your people in the world. May you be glorified in us, as in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

CAROL "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The heralds angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun or righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Risen with healing in his wings,
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.

Hark! The heralds angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

READING OF SCRIPTURE: Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:41-52

Galatians 4:4-7 *NRSV*

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Luke 2:41-52 *The Message*

They Found Him in the Temple

⁴¹⁻⁴⁵ Every year Jesus' parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up as they always did for the Feast. When it was over and they left for home, the child Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents didn't know it. Thinking he was somewhere in the company of pilgrims, they journeyed for a whole day and then began looking for him among relatives and neighbors. When they didn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem looking for him.

⁴⁶⁻⁴⁸ The next day they found him in the Temple seated among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. The teachers were all quite taken with him, impressed with the sharpness of his answers. But his parents were not impressed; they were upset and hurt.

His mother said, "Young man, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been half out of our minds looking for you."

⁴⁹⁻⁵⁰ He said, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that I had to be here, dealing with the things of my Father?" But they had no idea what he was talking about.

⁵¹⁻⁵² So he went back to Nazareth with them, and lived obediently with them. His mother held these things dearly, deep within herself. And Jesus

matured, growing up in both body and spirit, blessed by both God and people.

SERMON “And the Child Grew”

SHARING

CAROL “Joy to the World”

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness, And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, And wonders, wonders of his love.

A TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing Joys and Concern

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer(debts)

CAROL “Silent Night”

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright;
Round yon virgin, mother and child; holy infant so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Christ at thy birth, Jesus, Christ at thy birth.

BENEDICTION

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE