

First Sunday of Advent
WORSHIP FROM HOME
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
November 29, 2020

GATHERING AND WELCOME

TIME OF SILENCE

THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2

Leader: We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light there is hope. Because of Christ we not only have hope, but we believe that good is stronger than evil. God wants us to work for good in this world.

One purple candle is lit.

HYMN "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" vs.1, 2

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Child of God appears.
Refrain: Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and help us in that way to go. (Refrain).

Unison Prayer: **O God, we thank you that Jesus brought hope into our world. By the good news of the Bible you are still bringing hope to people. Help us to be ready to welcome Jesus Christ so that we may think good thoughts and do good deeds and so that we may be a people of hope in our world. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 64:1-9
 Mark 13:32-37

Isaiah 64: 1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²^[a] as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble
at your presence!

³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴ From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

⁵ You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we
transgressed.^[b]

⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are
like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us
away.

⁷ There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of
our iniquity.

⁸ Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Mark 13: 32-37

³² “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor
the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert;^[a] for you do not know when
the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home
and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the
doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know
when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at
cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes
suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

SERMON **Advent Longing**

SHARING

ANTHEM “ Change of Heart”

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

You are the Potter, I am the clay.

Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

A TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer(debts)

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE “She Flies On”

Refrain

She comes sailing on the wind, her wings flashing in the sun;

on a journey just begun, she flies on.

And in the passage of her flight, her song rings out through the night,
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.

Verses:

Silent waters rocking on the morning of our birth, like an empty cradle waiting.
to be filled.

And from the heart of God the Spirit moved upon the earth,
Like a mother breathing life into her child.

Many were the dreamers whose eyes were given sight when the Spirit filled
their dreams with life and form.

Deserts turned to gardens, broken hearts found new delight, and then down the
ages still she flew on.

Long after the deep darkness that fell upon the world, after dawn returned in
flame of rising sun,
the Spirit touched the earth again, again her wings unfurled, bringing life in wind
and fire as she flew on.

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE