

Fourth Sunday of Advent
WORSHIP FROM HOME
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
December 20, 2020

GATHERING AND WELCOME

TIME OF SILENCE

THE LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Reading of Scripture I John 4:9-11

⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

Lighting of the Candle

We light this first 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.

We light this second candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light there is peace, for Christ is called the "Prince of Peace." Christ's name is also Emmanuel, "God with us." The presence of Christ with us gives us peace day by day.

We light this third candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light there is joy, joy that is ours not only at Christmas but always.

We light this fourth candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light there is love. Such great love helps us to love God and one another.

(Please join me as we close in prayer)

Unison Prayer

Eternal God, we thank you that through all the years you have given peace to your people. Help us to have your peace in our lives. We pray that, in this Advent season, we may, by what we do, show your presence to the sick, to the hungry, and to the lonely, so that through our love they also may have peace. Amen

HYMN "O Come, O Come Emmanuel", vs. 7 and 1

[Verse 7]

O come, desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of humankind
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease
And be Thyself our King of peace

[Refrain]

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

[Verse 1]

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

Refrain

SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Luke 1:26-38

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

89:1 I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. ² I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. ³ You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: ⁴ 'I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.'"

Selah

¹⁹ Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said: "I have set the crown on one who is mighty, I have exalted one chosen from the people. ²⁰ I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him; ²¹ my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him. ²² The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him. ²³ I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him. ²⁴ My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him; and in my name his horn shall be exalted. ²⁵ I will set his hand on the sea and

his right hand on the rivers. ²⁶ He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!'

HYMN "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

At his feet the six-winged seraph,
Cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord Most High!

Luke 1:26-38

1:26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

SERMON

SHARING

ANTHEM "God is With Us"

words and music by Wayne Kirkpatrick, recorded by Casting Crowns
-Ann Boudreaux, Sarah Schneider and Pastor Lisa

The skies don't seem to be as dark as usual, the stars seem brighter than they've been before.

And deep within I feel my soul is stirring as though my hope has been restored.

The shepherds say they've heard the voice of angels, confirming rumors spread across the land

that a Child, protected well from Herod's anger is our Father's Son, and the Son of Man.

Refrain

Love is raining down on the world tonight; there's a presence here, I can tell.

God is in us, God is for us, God is with us. Emmanuel.

He's the Savior we've been praying for, in our humble hearts He will dwell.

God is in us, God is for us,

God is with us, Emmanuel.

I feel compelled to tell all who will listen, that peace on earth is not so out of reach

if we can find grace and mercy and forgiveness. He has come to save, He is all of these.

Love is raining down on the world tonight, there's a presence here, I can tell.

God is in us, God is for us, God is with us, Emmanuel.

He's the Savior we've been praying for, in our humble hearts He will dwell.

God is in us, God is for us, God is with us, Emmanuel

You're the Savior we've been praying for, in our humble hearts You will dwell.

You are in us, You are for us, You are with us, Emmanuel.

A TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer(debts)

HYMN

"God's Own Son"

-Nicole C. Mullen

Refrain: Mary's Christmas baby (3X)
Is God's own Son

Verse: You see the star from the East came to the West
To show the wise men to the Savior's address
Oh yeah, He's God's only Son
Yeah, yeah and they worshiped the King
Infant ruler of everything, that's why I said

Refrain

Verse
Infant ruler of everything, somebody help me sing now
Refrain X2

So go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born
Why don't you go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

Refrain Repeated

BENEDICTION**SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE**