**Worship from Home**

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

**Christmas Eve, December 24, 2024**

PRELUDE *“Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light”* J.S. Bach

*“Poverty”*  trad. Welsh, arr. Roberts

*“This Endris Night”* 15th c. traditional

*“O Little One”* trad., arr. J.S. Bach

*“In the Bleak Midwinter”* Gustav Holst

Brass Choir

WORDS OF WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Ann Boudreaux and Sarah Schneider

One:    O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless God’s name; tell of God’s salvation from day to day. Declare God’s glory among the nations, God’s marvelous works among all the peoples. In the beginning was the Word—spoken and breathed, a promise made and kept.

**All:     Glorify the Lord with me—God’s promise is true!**

One:    The Word was in the beginning, and through him all things come into being.

**All:     Eternal and near at hand, Already and not-yet, God’s promise is the foundation of all life.**

One:    Glory to God in the highest! The Word is made flesh, giving voice to God’s promise yet again.

*Candle Lighting*

UNISON PRAYER

**We rejoice in God’s steadfast presence in our lives, and in God’s unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth—born of Mary, growing through childhood into an adult ministry, in all his life manifesting the peace, love, and justice of God; his voice undimmed by the centuries**, **his call and his promise as clear to us as it was to his disciples so long ago.** **Come to us, Lord Jesus,** **be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, our lives.** **May the light of your life be kindled in us** **and lead us to the shining truth of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen**

\*CAROL Pilgrim Hymnal *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”* #132

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;
Refrain:
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest: [Refrain]

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; [Refrain]

THE FIRST LESSONIsaiah 9:2, 6-7 Margaret Allen

 **Carol: “*Once in Royal David’s City”* (vs. 1, 2, 5) Insert**

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above,
And He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.

THE SECOND LESSON Luke 1:26-38  Sally Mills

 **Carol: “*The First Noel”* # 141 Pilgrim Hymnal (vs. 1-3)**

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]

ANTHEM *“Rocking” and “Carol of the Bagpipers”* Czech and Sicilian

Paul Dreisbach, oboe

THE THIRD LESSON Luke 1:39-56 Gina Grogean

 **Carol: *“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”* #131 Pilgrim Hymnal**

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming As men of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright, Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The Rose I have in mind:
With Mary we behold it, The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, She bore to men a Savior
When half spent was the night.

THE FOURTH LESSON: Luke 2:1-7 *Charlie Ferden*

  **Carol: “*What Child is This”* #140 Pilgrim Hymnal**

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

Chorus:
This, this is Christ, the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. [Chorus]

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him. [Chorus]

ANTHEM: *“Sussex Carol”*

THE FIFTH LESSON Luke 2:8-20 Marsha Andzans

 **Carol: *“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”* #120 Pilgrim Hymnal**

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 th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel. [Refrain]

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. [Refrain]

THE SIXTH LESSONJohn 1:1-14 Pastor Lisa

MESSAGE *“In Ten Thousand Faces”*  Pastor Lisa

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *“God is With Us”* Casting Crowns

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Great God, accept the gifts we offer as we wait in hope for your coming again. Use all that we have and all that we are as you bring light into every darkness, ease heavy burdens, and turn our endless warring into your endless peace. We pray in the name of your Son, our savior born this day. Amen.**

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

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, Shepherds quake at the sight,

Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;

Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light

Radiant beams from thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

*“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.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as, the curse is found.

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.

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Brass Choir

 **(\* means stand in body or spirit. Highlighted parts indicate congregation’s part.)**

**Thank you to all who provided leadership in planning and all who participated in our Christmas Eve worship as we share this news of great joy to the world!**

**Readers This Evening: Margaret Allen, Marsha Andzans, Ann Boudreaux, Charlie Ferden, Gina Grogean, Sally Mills**

**Guest Brass Choir This Evening: Pastor Lisa, Don Holmes, Doug McMillan, and Bill Schubeck**

***MAY YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES HAVE A BLESSED AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!***