**Worship from Home**

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

**The Third Sunday of Advent, December 15, 2024**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship(from Isaiah 12)

**One:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Many: And also with you.**

**One:**  In that day you will say:

**Many: Give praise to the Lord, proclaim God’s name; make known among the nations what God has done, and proclaim that God’s name is exalted.**

**One:** Sing praises to the Lord, for God has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.  
Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Lighting of the Advent Candle (from Teri Peterson) The Andzans and Cathy Shaw

One:    In the beginning was the Word—spoken and breathed, a promise made and kept.

**All:     Persevere in hope, keep the faith—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:    Keep going! Persevere in joy, giving voice to God’s presence yet again.

*~candle is lit~*

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**Gracious and loving God, as we await the coming of the One whom you sent, grant that our waiting might be the active kind. Give us the courage to meet the challenge of altering our thoughts and feelings about the world around us so that our actions might also be changed. Help us to keep our priorities straight, our passions properly pointed, and our eyes fixed upon the prize of joy. Remind us that you lovingly require evidence of our repentance – kindness, justice and fairness. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*\**Hymn #112 NCH *“Keep Awake, Be Always Ready”*

Children’s Message Pastor Lisa

A Reading from the Epistles Philippians 4:4-7

A Reading from the Gospels Luke 3:7-18

Message *“The Winnower”* Pastor Lisa

\*Hymn #109 NCH *“With Joy Draw Water”*

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

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

Choral Response

Invitation to Give

Offertory*“He Shall Feed His Flock” and* *“Come Unto Him” from the Messiah* G.F. Handel

Marcia Gronewald Sly, mezzo, Nacole Palmer, soprano and Erika Allen, piano

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 (From Ken Sloane)

**God of grace and love, you have asked of us so little and given so much. You have given us life and breath and the resources to meet every need, and you have asked only that we be fruitful and faithful, compassionate and just. We give our gifts this morning as a sign of our striving toward that combination of fruitful and faithful. Dedicate these gifts to help build the Kin-dom that is your vision, not ours. Help us to celebrate this season as Christ would have us celebrate it: in love, kindness, joy, and gratitude. In your Son's holy name, we pray. Amen. *(Luke 3:7-18)***

*\**Hymn #115 NCH *“The Baptist Shouts on Jordan’s Shore”*

**\***Charge and Benediction

Postlude

\* indicates where the congregation may stand, in mind or in spirit.