**Worship from Home**

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

**Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18, 2022**

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude Ann Boudreaux

Call to Worship

**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.**

Hymn #116 *“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”* (v. 5)

O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide your heavenly home;

Make safe the path to endless day, to hell’s destruction close the way.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Advent Candle Lighting Barbe Dow, Sienna and friends

**One:** In this season of Advent, we remember that Christ’s coming will bring us love. For those who are forsaken and alone

**Many: Christ will bring us love.**

**One:** For those who are angry and hostile

**Many: Christ will bring us love.**

**One:** For those who have turned away from personal interaction

**Many: Christ will bring us love.**

**One:** For those who are pariahs, touched by scandal

**Many: Christ will bring us love.**

*Candle Lighting*

Today we light four candles. The first candle lights the way to hope. The second is for a world at peace. The third is for the joy of anticipation as we wait for the Christ child to be born. Finally, the fourth candle warms our hearts with the love Christ will bring us.

*We Sing the Refrain*

Unison Prayer

**O Lord God, there is nothing greater than the love you showed us when you gave your only Son to a world in dire need of his ministry. Help us to accept this love freely into our hearts so we can become more faithful vessels of your glory. We pray this in your name, O God. Amen**

Children’s Message

Hymn #345 “*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”* (v. 4)

At Christ’s feet the six-winged seraphs, cherubim with sleepless eye,

Veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, God most high.

Lessons from the Gospels Matthew 1:18-25

A Christmas Pageant *“Crooked Halos and Wiggly Sheep”*

Hymn #122 *“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”* (vs. 4)

By your own eternal Spirit, come to claim us as your own;

By your all sufficient merit, let us share your cross and crown.

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

The Lord’s Prayer

Choral Response

Invitation to Give

Offertory Anthem *“Advent Echo Carol”*

Prophets told it long ago, “Prepare the way, O Zion.”

Like a Rose He’ll bloom and grow. Prepare the way, O Zion.

He comes. He comes, the powers of earth confounding, the joy of peace resounding.

Truth and justice in his hand. Prepare the way, O Zion.

Son of God and Son of Man. Prepare the way, O Zion.

He comes. He comes, the powers of earth confounding, the joy of peace resounding.

The lame will dance, the blind will see. Prepare the way.

Ransomed souls will be set free. Prepare, prepare the way.

Hills and valleys shout and sing. Prepare the way, O Zion.

Tribute of our hearts we bring. Prepare the way, O Zion.

He comes. He comes, the powers of earth confounding, the joy of peace resounding.

\*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below.**

**Praise God above the heavenly host. Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication (from Thom Shuman)

**As we offer our gifts to you, Holy God, may we remember those who are forgotten by us too many times – the hungry, the lonely, the homeless, the vulnerable – yet are important citizens in your kingdom of grace, justice, and hope. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.**

\*Hymn #102  *“O How Shall I Receive You”*

Oh, how shall I receive you, how meet you on your way,
blessed hope of every people, my soul’s delight and stay?
O Jesus, Jesus, give me now by your own pure light
to know whate’er is pleasing and welcome in your sight.

Love caused your incarnation; Love brought you here to me.

Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace,
in love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race.

You come, O Christ, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,
to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.
In patient expectation we live for that great day
when a renewed creation your glory shall display.

Benediction

Postlude *“The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”*

\*Indicates that those who are able may stand