**Worship from Home**

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

**A Service of the Longest Night, December 21, 2024**

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

**One:** The nights have drawn in –long summer evenings are but memory;
winter is upon us –and darkness surrounds us.

**Many: We wait in darkness, Lord, for the coming of Your light.**

**One:** Our world is shadowed in darkness: of oppression, of pessimism, of helplessness.

**Many: We wait in hope, Lord, for the coming of Your light.**

**One:** Souls are overwhelmed by gloom and darkness – depression and hopelessness: saturated in despair.

**Many: We wait with them in their darkness, trusting in your promise that yours is a light that no darkness can overcome.**

Hymn Insert *“Christmas Come Close”* Shirley Erena Murray

Candlelighting

Let us pray together:
**Comforting God, wrap us in your presence in this time of remembrance. With these candles, help us find your light, a light that will guide us day by day, step by step, as we try to live life fully and wholly. We cherish the special ways in which we have been touched by our loved ones. We thank you for the gift their lives have been to us. Now comfort us, encourage us, empower us. AMEN.**

Anthem *“God’s Love Here Dwells”*

Lessons from ScripturePsalm 80: 1-7

 Luke 13:31-35

A Reflection Pastor Lisa

Closing Hymn #128 NCH*“In the Bleak Midwinter”*

A Blessing *“How the Light Comes,”* from Jan Richardson

Our candlelighting liturgy is from Nancy Townley, as published at ministrymatters.com.
Elements of the reflection Lisa offered are from Bruce Epperly, a prolific writer who served as pastor of South Congregational Church in Centerville, MA.