**Worship from Home**

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

**The First Sunday after Christmas, December 29, 2024**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit *“As With Gladness Those of Old”*

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.**

**One:**  Like Joseph and Mary, we want to protect the child Jesus.

**Many: We want him to be safe and sound.**

**One:**  And when something unexpected happens, we are frightened.

**Many: We wonder what we should have done differently.**

**One:**  Lord, help us to remember that you are always with us.

**Many: Let us place our trust in your loving presence as we grow in our own faith. Amen**

*\**Hymn #126 NCH *“Angels from the Realms of Glory”*

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
As you sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, give thanks and sing.

Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light: [Refrain]

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations, guided by Christ’s natal star: [Refrain]

Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,

Suddenly, your prayers attending, Christ beside you shall appear. [Refrain]

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**Reigning God, whose rule extends to the farthest stars, come to rule within us on this glorious day when the Word becomes flesh once more to dwell among us. We open ourselves to the light and long to offer our lives as a dwelling place for your truth. Speak to us again through the Child of Bethlehem. Reach out to the child in each of us, and hold us in the warmth of love’s embrace. For we pray in his name, Amen.**

Stewardship Message

Psalm 148, p. 721 NCH Psalm 148

A Reading from the Epistles Colossians 3:12-17

Anthem *“Good King Wenceslas”*

A Reading from the Gospels Luke 2:41-52

Christmas Season Carol Sing with George Emlen

\*Hymn #133 NCH *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in your dark streets shines forth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing and voices ring with peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the glorious love of heaven.  
No one discerns God’s coming, but in this world of sin,  
where yearning souls long to be whole, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

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

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

Choral Response

Invitation to Give

Offertory*“Pastorale” from Concerto Grosso #8* A. Corelli

Dreisbach Recorder Trio

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

**O God, through the offering of these gifts, we become a more open people—open-minded in hearing your word and wisdom, open-hearted in healing a broken world, open-handed in heeding your call to charity and enacted love. With thanks for all good gifts, we present a portion of our substance and the whole of ourselves. Amen.**

*\**Hymn #154 NCH *“Go Tell it on the Mountain”*

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere.

Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,

Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! Above the earth

Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth.

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,

And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

**\***Charge and Benediction

Postlude

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

Much of today’s liturgy comes from the Disciples of Christ *Life in Liturgy* resources.