**Worship from Home**

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

**The First Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2023**

Prelude *“Solstice Song”* Peter Amidon

Music Consort and Organ

Welcome & Announcements

Introit  *“Hope is a Star”* Joel Raney

Call to WorshipAnn Boudreaux, Anna Emery and Sarah Schneider

**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:** Oh, that God would tear open the heavens and come down!

**Many: Of that day or hour, no one knows, only God.**

**One:** Be alert! Keep awake!

**Many: The time is drawing near:**

**All: The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

**One:** Hope is a light given by God at the beginning of creation.

**Many: Hope is the gift of God.**

**One:** Hope is a light given by God in the teaching of the prophets.

**Many: Hope is the gift of God revealed in the life of Christ.**

**One:**  Hope is a light given by God, the Son of God, the Son of Mary.

(The candle is lit.)

**One:** Let us pray:

**All: Source of light,** **shine in our lives** **and in your world** **with your renewing hope.** **In Jesus’ name we pray.** **Amen.**

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**Gracious God, heaven and earth will pass away, but your words will not pass away; Your Word stands forever. May our generation be attentive, so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we remember your ways and gladly do right, meeting you wherever and whenever you appear. May we be attentive in this hour, to meet your Holy Spirit as you are present with us. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.**

*\**Hymn #103 PH *“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”*

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Children’s Message Pastor Lisa

Psalm 80, NCH p. 672 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible Isaiah 64:1-9

A Reading from the Gospels Mark 13:24-37

Message *“Advent Words of God: Apocalypse and Judgment”* Pastor Lisa

Chimes Interlude

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

Keep awake, be always ready, God’s time approaches sure and steady,

God’s strength will keep your heart from blame.

Clouds, the Spirit’s light concealing, disperse, God’s purest light revealing;

Creation will its Sovereign name.

Dry branches burst forth green, God’s advent signs are seen:

Hallelujah! Christ’s judgment won, God’s will be done;

God’s new dominion thus begun.

Rise and shine for One is coming whose love will quench all nature’s thirsting

To be made whole forever more.

On that day to end all weeping, death’s swords transformed to tools of reaping,

The God of might will mercy pour.

Incarnate, God appears embracing all our tears:

Hallelujah! God’s majesty eternally revealed to set the cosmos free.

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

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

Choral Response

Invitation to Give

Offertory *“I Wonder As I Wander”* Peter Amidon

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

**Faithful God, we thank you that Christ is being revealed in every time and place until he comes again in the fullness of glory. Strengthen our testimony and spiritual gifts; increase generosity in us, we pray, as we wait for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Bless these gifts to your use, and us to your service. Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

**Invitation**

**Consecration**

**Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Eternal God, we thank you for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Send us into the world in peace for we have seen, have heard, and been fed by your grace. Keep us faithful and alert for signs of Christ’s coming and lead us to live lives marked by truth and light, so that we may eat and drink together in your eternal dominion of hope, peace, joy and love. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

*\**Hymn #113 PH (vs. 1-4) *“Creator of the Stars of Night”*

Creator of the stars of night, your people’s everlasting light,  
O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray you, hear us when we call.

In sorrow that the ancient curse should doom to death a universe,  
you came to save a ruined race with healing gifts of heav'nly grace.

When earth drew on to darkest night, you came, but not in splendor bright,  
not as a king, but the child of Mary, virgin mother mild.

At your great name, majestic now, all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;  
all things on earth with one accord join those in heav’n to call you Lord.

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Postlude *“Tomorrow Will Be My Dancing Day”*

\* indicates where the congregation may stand as they are able.

This morning’s liturgy comes from *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion*, Kimberley Bracken Long, editor.