**Worship from Home**

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

**The First Sunday after Christmas Day, December 31, 2023**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship(from Bruce Prewer)

**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:** Celebrations continue!Christ is born among us, full of light and love and joy.

**Many: Amen! Joy to the world, our Lord has come.**

**One:** “God, now your servants may go in peace, just as your word has promised;

**Many: for our own eyes have seen your salvation made ready with everyone looking on,**

**a revealing light for outsiders, and a glory for all your faithful people.”**

*\**Hymn #246 PH *“Come, Thou Almighty King”*

Unison Prayer of Invocation (from UCC Worship Ways)

**Redeeming God, you have met us in valleys, on storming seas, and on mountaintops. We welcome your presence now as we come to worship you. We gather in gratitude and assurance that you are our God, and we proclaim with gladness that we are your people. Some come in need of encouragement or comfort. Others need a healing touch. We hunger and thirst for righteousness as we praise and honor your name. Transform us to be living vessels of your love and living witnesses of your continuing presence in the world. Amen.**

Children’s Message Pastor Lisa

Psalm 148, NCH p. 721 Psalm 148

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible Isaiah 61:10-62:3

A Reading from the Gospels Luke 2:22-40

Christmas Carol Extravaganza

\*Hymn #120 PH *“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”*

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

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

Choral Response

Invitation to Give

Offertory

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

**God of hope and joy, the gifts we offer to you pale when our minds try to grasp all we have been given in this season: wholeness in our woundedness, hope in our despair, peace in our turmoil, forgiveness in our rebellion. Like Simeon, we have listened with our ears that we might not miss you, and our eyes have seen your salvation! You gave us light in our darkness and hope in our discouragement. Help us embrace your extravagant generosity as we give ourselves to others. In our Savior’s holy name, we pray. Amen.**

*\**Hymn #431NCH *“Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year”*

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Postlude

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