**Worship from Home**

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

**Epiphany Sunday, January 5, 2025**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit *“Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning”*

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:** Arise! Shine! Your light has come,

and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

***Women: We have seen the star in the east, and we are following.***

**Men: We have remembered God’s wonder and promise,**

**and we are worshiping.**

**All: We have come not to get presents, but to give them!**

**One**: Lift up your eyes and look around; God’s people now gather together, to open our hearts and sing out our praise.

**All: The mystery of God’s wonder and grace is here: Come, let us adore!**

*\**Hymn #159 NCH *“As With Gladness Those of Old”*

As with gladness those of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, true Morning Star, may we ever more your splendor see.

As with joyful steps they sped, to that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before One whom Heav’n and Earth adore;
So may we with willing feet ever seek your mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger plain and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin’s alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you from whom they spring.

Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;
And when mortal things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glory hide.

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**God of wonder and mystery, today we remember how you surprise us in every age. Into the gloom of fear and want, you bring light; into emptiness, you bring abundance; into the cold, you bring warmth. Into the hardness of the world, you bring the greatest power we have known, in the seemingly powerless form of an infant.**

**Enter now, Holy One, among us and within us, and move us to joyful adoration of your mystery and wonder. Amen.**

Children’s Message

Psalm 72, p.667 NCH Psalm 72:1-7, 10-17

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible Isaiah 60:1-6

Anthem *“Devotion”*

A Reading from the Gospels Matthew 2:1-12

*\**Hymn #370 NCH *“What Gift Can We Bring?”*

What gift can we bring, what present, what token?

What words can convey it the joy of this day?

When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,

what song can we offer in honor and praise?

Give thanks for the past, for those who had vision,

who planted and watered so dreams could come true.

Give thanks for the now, for study, for worship,

for mission that bids us turn prayer into deed.

Give thanks for tomorrow, full of surprises,

for knowing whatever tomorrow may bring,

the Word is our promise always, forever,

we rest in God's keeping and live in God's love.

This gift we now bring, this present, this token,

these words can convey it the joy of this day!

When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,

this song we now offer in honor and praise.
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Prayers of the People *(sharing of joys and concerns)*

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

Choral Response

Invitation to Give

Offertory Isaac Watts

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(From Moira Laidlaw)

**Instead of gold and frankincense and myrrh, we bring to you, O God, the treasures you have first given to us - our hearts, minds and bodies, to be used in your service.  We offer these gifts - of money and our lives - as signs of our total giving, praying that they will be used to herald the coming of your kingdom.  In Jesus’ name we pray.  Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

INVITATION

CONSECRATION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**We have been fed, Holy One, by your presence. We have been led, Eternal One, by your light. May we bask in this glow and share it everywhere we can, now and forevermore. Amen.**

*\**Hymn #164 NCH *“Arise, Your Light Is Come”*

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;

Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;

Proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,

Bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!

Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

**\***Charge and Benediction

Postlude

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