

Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
Communion Sunday
Sunday, January 3, 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude *"The Wexford Carol"*
 -Tom Bjorkman and John Merrifield

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 your spirit.

One: Arise, shine, for your light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Many: Darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will rise upon you and his glory will be seen upon you.

One: Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Many: Violence shall no more be heard in your land, ruin or destruction within your borders.

One: The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night.

Many: For the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.

All: Thanks be to God!

*Hymn *"Be Thou My Vision"*
 Gina and Tom Grogean; Hunt Gressitt - guitar;
 Sarah Schneider - tenor recorder

Unison Prayer Of Invocation And Repentance

God of Light and Love, in this very moment the star still beckons. Gather us and let the star call us to new ways of healing and hope, restoration and renewal, as we discover again Christ's call to discipleship. God of Light and Peace, whose glory, shining in the child of Bethlehem, still draws the nations to yourself: dispel the darkness that shrouds our path, that we may come to kneel before Christ in true worship, offer him our hearts and souls, and return from his presence to live as he has taught. Amen.

O God, our guide, who once used a star to lead people to Christ, we confess our poor sense of direction. We let ourselves become confused, easily distracted,

and lose our way. We fail to follow the signs you provide. Forgive our waywardness, O God. Lead us to the Christ so that we may follow his way to you. Amen.

Words Of Assurance

A Time with Children & Adults

A Reading From the Hebrew Scriptures

Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷ For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel."

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come, and with consolations^[a] I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

¹¹ For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd;

their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

A Reading From The New Testament

Revelation 21:1-6a

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home^[a] of God is among mortals.

He will dwell^[b] with them;

they will be his peoples,^[c]

and God himself will be with them;^[d]

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away."

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

Sermon *"A Light for a New Path"* -Pastor Lisa

*Hymn *"In the Midst of New Beginnings"*

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

Pastoral Prayer

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

Choral Response

Invitation to Give

Offertory *"Light of the Stable" by Elizabeth and Stephen Rhymer*

*Prayer of Dedication (*From the Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel*)

Like the Magi who came to offer their gifts to the baby Jesus, we offer our gifts to you, O Compassionate One. May our financial and spiritual gifts become expressions of our love. With these gifts we give you the best we have to offer. Use them to make your light of compassion and justice shine more brightly in the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

CONSECRATION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We are grateful, O God, for the nourishment of your table, and for the promise in Christ of a new creation. Even as we join with your Holy Spirit in recreating our own lives, help us to share in recreating the world around us. Where there is futility, let there be hope; where there is fear, let there be peace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*Hymn *“As With Gladness Men of Old”*

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction Response