

**Second Congregational Church in Newcastle, United Church of Christ
Newcastle, ME**

**First Sunday after Christmas
December 27, 2020**

**Worship at Home:
Prayers, Hymns and Readings for the Sunday after Christmas
With Music Videos as a Hymn Sing from the UCC**



Today, Pastor Char, Jane Wilmot our Minister of Music, worship volunteers Jim Corbett, Bill Bausch and Peter Asche and the remaining staff of Second Congregational Church are taking a much needed Sunday off and making sacred this day of Sabbath. Therefore, there will not be a live 10am Zoom or Facebook service offering today.

Instead, we invite you to make a time of personal meditation. The following prayers, gospel reading and shared hymns, which have been provided in video format by the National office of the United Church of Christ, can be used to help you with your worship at home. May you feel the hope, peace, joy, love and true life of the Christ Child in these growing days of light.

We look forward to rejoining you for community worship via Zoom/Facebook next Sunday, January 3, 2021: A Communion Service of Stars and Sacred Stories.

+ + + + +

PRELUDE

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
Jane Wilmot, organ and piano*

Link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AzUktU724xXfZb3gu5KoP9Mcc-0y5gax/view?usp=sharing>

CENTERING MOMENT

CALL TO A TIME OF MEDITATION: (adapted from Psalm 148):

Praise the Lord from the heavens and in the heights;
the angels, the sun, moon and shining stars.
Praise the Lord who established heaven and earth and everything within them;
every animal and bird, every fish and creature of the seas;
every mountain and hill, every tree and plant, every river and stream, praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord every ruler and government, all people of every age and every color.
Praise the Lord whose name alone is exalted, whose glory the angels sang:
"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace, goodwill among all people."

SPECIAL MUSIC:

The Birthday of a King
Jim O'Brien, Soloist

Link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/19EAQOeZ-NpPIYDVLed3TesFoGoS0kls_/view?usp=sharing

PRAYER OF INTENTION:

God of Light, You brought forth light as Your first act of creation. You brought forth light and the darkness did not overcome it. You brought forth light in the form of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who continues to shine the light of hope into the world. You have called each of us to shine with Your light, and You have called each of us to bring Your light to the world. As we prepare for this New Year, help me to shine Your light more brilliantly in my life. Call me into the ways of Jesus' love, peace, mercy and justice. Help me to share your light of hope with all the world. And then, may I join others who commit the same to do your work in the world, for we do not do this alone. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

(Second Church follows the version of the Lord's Prayer that is offered below. However, you are invited to say this prayer aloud in the tradition that brings you the most comfort: debt/debtors; sins/sin; trespasses/trespass).

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

GOSPEL READING Luke 2:8-20:

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

A CHRISTMAS HYMN SING

Link: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9OwCixIS90nXQm62W384VnAIK6vgmoXt>

PASTORAL PRAYER

Now is the time for you to offer your personal prayers: (moment of silence).

God of mystery and love, help us move from the sweet experience of the birth of the Christ Child into the reality of the powerful witness of Jesus who will be Messiah for us all. Remind us

again that this season is not about bows and boxes, feasts and family; it is about preparing us, your people, for a mission and ministry of hope and peace for this aching and angry world. Empower us to be people of great faith, placing our trust in you, believing that peace is not only possible, it truly can happen if we will work with you and with one another. As we have spoken in our hearts and with our voices, our concerns for those near and dear to us, remind us that you hear these prayers and you respond with love to each one. Let us be in prayer with one another, for one another, for our church and our community, for our nation and our world, for all earth's people and creatures, that we may be those who promote peace. Give us courage and strength. Help us reach across areas that divide, offering compassionate assistance wherever it is needed. Bless each one of us in your service, for we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

We have been given the Great Light, which has come into the world. This light of peace and hope, joy and love, shines on us, in us, and through us, to all whom we meet. Go now in peace, and let the light of God's great love go with you. Amen.

Today's Worship at Home service has been prepared, sent out, offered and led by:

- ▶ **Bill Bausch**, Communications & Technology Support; Snippets Meister
- ▶ **Rev. Char Corbett**, Pastor
- ▶ **James H. O'Brien**, Soloist
- ▶ **Jane Wilmot**, Minister of Music, Organ and Piano

Permission to reprint, podcast, and / or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-725951. All rights reserved.

Have a question about Second Church or today's service? A concern or a joy to share? A prayer request? We're here to listen and respond! Contact our Pastor, Deacons or Pastoral Relations Committee:

- ▶ **Lonnie Anderson**, Deacon: lonnieba@gmail.com
- ▶ **Bill Bausch**, Pastoral Relations Committee: wbausch@gmail.com
- ▶ **Rev. Char Corbett**, Pastor: pastor@secondcongo.org
- ▶ **Pam Gormley**, Deacon/Chair of the Spirit (Worship) Team: pgormley825@gmail.com
- ▶ **Rick Hagen**, Deacon/Pastoral Relations Committee: rickhagenmaine@gmail.com
- ▶ **Judy Jones**, Deacon: judy.t.r.jones@gmail.com
- ▶ **David Lawrence**, Pastoral Relations Committee: lawrence@tidewater.net
- ▶ **Carl Nord**, Moderator: chnord@twc.com
- ▶ **Rev. Ann Roundy**, Pastoral Relations Committee: revaroundy@gmail.com