

***First Sunday of Advent:
Emmanuel, God With Us
November 29, 2020
#BiggerBalcony***



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 29, 2020 10:00 am

#BiggerBalcony

Please sign in to Worship Connect to let us know you're here!

<http://tiny.cc/worshipconnect>

This year we'll hear anew the stories of Advent through people who experienced the presence of God with them in real yet mysterious ways. Sunday's messages will correlate with chapters from Amy-Jill Levine's book Light of the World (to be discussed in the Wednesday night Forums).

All are welcome, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey.

The Meaning of Memory

The angel Gabriel convinces God's priest Zechariah that tradition can be modified, and sometimes needs to be, even as we hold on to what is most important.

PRELUDE

"Carol of the Birds"
Traditional Catalan Carol

Judy Widrig

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sharon Benton

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Lyndsy, Michael, Blake, & Lucas Gordon

ADVENT CHANT

"Come Infant of Hope"

Lucy Bledig

*Come infant of hope into my heart
come wisdom of Spirit into my heart*

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Sharon Benton

SUNG RESPONSE

"Angels Might Be Anywhere at All"

by Tom Hunter

Musical score for the song "Angels Might Be Anywhere at All" by Tom Hunter. The score is written in treble clef with a 2/4 time signature. It consists of seven staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: CHORUS: An - gels might be a - ny - where at all Lis - ten - ing gos - sip - ping, a - ny - where at all. On a cloud or a roof - top, climb - ing up the wall An - gels might be a - ny - where at all (1) An - gels are mes - sen - gers to pass the word a - long In a sto - ry or a dream in a dance or song. With bless - ings from far a - way, with mes - sa - ges from God De - pend - ing on what you be - lieve, they're real or cute or odd.

INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP

There are several options for giving: 1) Mail checks to First Congregational Church, 2401 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225. 2) Give at our website, <https://fccb.net/giving/>.

- 3) Use the GivePlus app. Download from your app store, set up an account, and give!
4) Give by text. Text a dollar amount to 208-516-2657, and set up your account. You're ready for easy giving by text!
5) Give by PayPal. Our easy link is [PayPal.Me/fccbucc](https://www.paypal.com/mefccbucc).*

If you have not yet returned your pledge form for 2021, please do so to help us continue to Innovate Church and Sustain Community! Thank you.

DOXOLOGY

IN DULCI JUBILO

*Good Christian friends rejoice with heart and soul and voice,
Singing songs in darkness bold, drawing warmth out of the cold;
Waiting now for Wisdom's cry, with your Love in rich supply—
"Fear not, and draw near! Fear not, and draw near!"*

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 1: 5-25, 57-80

Reader's Theater

New Revised Standard Version

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

One: For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us:

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"What Time Is It?"

David Weasley



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and
4 O come, O shoot of Jes - se, free your



ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly
own from Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny, From depths of hell your



ex - ile here, un - til the Child of God ap - pear.
peo - ple save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave



Re-joyce! Re-joyce! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

7 O come, De-sire of Na-tions, bind
all peo-ples in one heart and mind;
Make en-vy, strife, and quar-rels cease;
fill the whole world with heav-en's peace.
(Refrain)

In the medieval Western church, seven "Great O" antiphons, the basis for this hymn, were sung consecutively on the seven days before Christmas, ending with what appears above as the first stanza.

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL L.M. with refrain
Melody from a 15th-century French "Processional"
Arr. Thomas Helmore, 1854

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & SENDING PRAYER

Sharon Benton

The Prayer of Jesus

We invite you to use the language for God that is most comfortable for you:

"Our Creator," "Our Father" or "Our Mother."

Our Creator

**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 and ever. *Amen.*

BENEDICTION

David Weasley

POSTLUDE

**"Juba Dance"
Traditional African**

Judy Widrig

Stay online for a few minutes to chat with the pastors and others.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT EVENTS

Christmas Presence, **December 6, 1:00 pm**, on Zoom

Advent Wednesday Worship, **Wednesdays, 7:30 pm** on Zoom

Christmas Eve Services

- **December 24, 5:00 pm** on Facebook Live: https://www.facebook.com/fccbucc/live_videos/
- **December 24, 11:30 pm**, on Zoom

WORSHIP:

- **Sundays, 10:00 am**—Worship on Facebook Live. #BiggerBalcony

WAYS TO CONNECT: For more information about these and other groups and activities, contact office@fccb.net.

- **Monday**
 - Poetry Writing Group: **1st & 3rd Mondays at 7:00 pm**
 - Happy Hour: **1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:30-8:30 pm**
- **Tuesday**
 - Book Club, **First Tuesday of the month, 9:30 am**
 - Bible Study for Everyone, **Tuesdays 9:00-10:00 am**. The reading for **December 6** is **Luke 1:26-56**.
 - PJs & Storytime, **6:30 pm**
- **Wednesday**
 - Adult Forums, **6:30 pm**. Advent Book Study.
 - Faith Formation for Children & Youth, **6:30 pm**. *Six Vital Themes of Our Faith*
 - Advent Wednesday Worship, **7:30 pm**
- **Thursday**
 - Morning Coffee Group: **1st & 3rd Thursdays, 9:30 am**
 - Poetry Writing Group, **1:00 pm, 2nd and 4th Thursday**
 - Evening Book Club, **6:30 pm weekly**
- **Friday**
 - Knitting Group, **Fridays, 10:00 am**
 - Mystery Book Club, **1st Friday, 1:00 pm**.
 - Coffee Hour, **2nd & 4th Fridays. 1:00 pm**
- **Saturday**
 - Create & Check In, **every other Saturday, 10:00 am**

To stay up to date, follow us on social media, subscribe to our Friday Email, or check in with our Full Circle Blog, <https://www.fccb.net/blog/>..

Open and Affirming (ONA): As an Open and Affirming congregation believing in a loving God, all people are welcome in this church without regard to gender, race, ethnicity, economic or social status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

We Try To Use Language which will help people feel included in our worship. Since not everyone is comfortable with the same language, we invite you to amend the words of the service as we sing and pray if they do not adequately express your faith. We invite you to assist us in creating new expressions of our common faith and life together.

Technical Support: If you need help streaming our worship services or connecting in other ways, please let us know.

VIRTUAL APPOINTMENTS WITH PASTORAL STAFF

In the before time, our pastoral staff were available by appointment. In COVID-19 time, they are available for virtual meetings by appointment. Contact them by email or call the pastoral care line, 360-733-4255

Sharon: sharon@fccb.net

David: david@fccb.net

Sharry: sharry@fccb.net

You can also email our Office Manager
Cydne at office@fccb.net
and she'll pass your message on.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH United Church of Christ

An Open & Affirming Congregation

2401 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225

Church Office: 360-734-3720

24/7 Emergency Pastoral Care: 360-733-4255

office@fccb.net • www.fccb.net

Facebook: facebook.com/fccbucc

Twitter: @BhamUCC

Office Hours: 9:00 am-5:00 pm

LEAD PASTOR: Sharon Benton

PASTOR FOR YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS,

& MISSION: David Weasley

MINISTER OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION:

Sharry Nyberg

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Lucy Bledig

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Lisa Vaughn

ORGANIST: Judy Widrig

HANDBELL CHOIR DIRECTOR: Allison Thomas

OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran

ACCOUNTANT: Renée Relin

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE: Kurt Aagard

CARE ADMIN. SUPPORT: Laura Norton

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE:

Alanna Steele

HEALTH MINISTER: Carol Nicolay

MODERATOR: Caryl Dunavan

VICE MODERATOR: Bill Henkel

PAST MODERATOR: Scout Mitchell

CLERK: Dorothy Shimer

TREASURER: Laurie Hoyt

HISTORIAN: Stacy Miller

OneLicense #A-718199

CCS #12615