

**Second Sunday of Advent:
Emmanuel, God With Us
December 6, 2020
#BiggerBalcony**



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 6, 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 Promise of Potential

Mary and her cousin Elizabeth remind us that God's revolution happens in solidarity across generations and across landscapes.

PRELUDE

"Of the Parent's Love Begotten"
13th Century plainsong. Arr. John Carter.

Judy Widrig

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sharon Benton

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Kathryn & Bill Liddicoet

ADVENT CHANT

“Come Infant of Hope”
by Ruth Cunningham, alt.
come Infant of Hope into my heart
come Wisdom of Spirit into my heart

Lucy Bledig

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 2/4 time and consists of four lines of music. 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". The chords are indicated by letters C, F, G above the notes.

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

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Kathryn Liddicoet

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 1:26-56

Reader's Theater

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

"The Promise of Potential"

Sharon Benton

HYMN

“My Soul Cries Out/Canticle of the Turning” STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN
Clara Lindstrom & Christopher Giffen

Verses



1. My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you
3. From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
4. Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, And my spir - it sings of the
work great things in me, And your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who
depths of the past to the end of the age to
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant from his
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing



wait. You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
be. Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
throne. The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
grasp. This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, So from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, You will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; There are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, 'Til the spear and rod can be

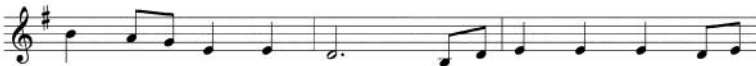


name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

David Wesley

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.**

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Sharon Benton, David Wesley

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

*Please us whatever elements you have available to you for food and drink;
Christ's presence among us makes them the Bread of Life and Cup of Blessing*

BENEDICTION

David Wesley

POSTLUDE

*"My Heart Sings Out With Joyful Shout"
by Ruth Duck. Tune: MARIAS LOVSÅNG
David Nichols, University UCC*

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

Cover photo by Cynthia St. Clair

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 13** is **Luke 2:1-40**.
 - 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](https://www.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

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