

**Fourth Sunday of Advent:  
Emmanuel, God With Us  
December 20, 2020  
#BiggerBalcony**



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

December 20, 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 Gift of the Gentiles**

*Some names in Jesus' lineage and the visit from foreign Magi  
have the potential to derail God's message of liberation  
if hearers hold to insider/outsider understandings —  
God will always surprise us!*

**PRELUDE**

*"Il Est Né, le Divin Enfant"*  
Traditional French Carol

Judy Widrig

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

David Weasley

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES**

Mac, Laura, Ezra, & Jude

ADVENT CHANT

"Come Infant of Hope"

Lucy Bledig

by Ruth Cunningham, alt.  
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 2/4 time and consists of seven staves 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 (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.

(2) An angel came to Mary to say she'd have a son.  
Angels came to shepherds to say that he had come.  
And then they got together to sing a "gloria."  
There were lots and lots of angels telling what they saw.  
(Chorus)

(3) We mostly think of angels with halos and with wings,  
Playing harps and being white and smiling while they sing.  
But maybe they wear clown clothes, do laundry or wear boots,  
And maybe there's an angel sitting next to you.  
(Chorus)

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

Mac Bubb

*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

Matthew 2:1-12

Reader's Theater

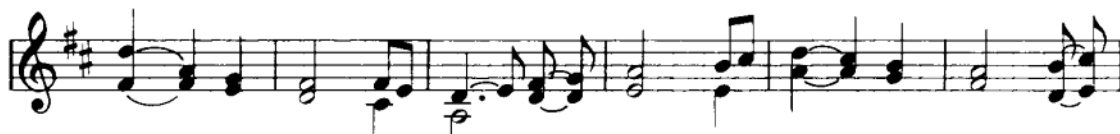
## SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

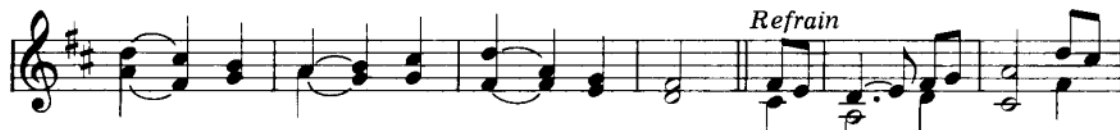
All: **Thanks be to God.**



1. The first No - el, the an-gel did say, Was to cer-tain poor shep-herds in  
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star Shin-ing in the east, be -  
 3. And by the light of that same star Three wise men came from



fields as they lay; In fields where they lay keep-ing their sheep, On a  
 yond them far, And to the earth it gave great light, And  
 coun - try far; To seek for a king was their in - tent, And to



cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
 so it con - tin - ued both day and night. No - el, No - el, No -  
 fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.



el, No - el, Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

TEXT: Traditional English carol  
 MUSIC: W. Sandys' *Christmas Carols*, 1833; arranged by John Stainer

THE FIRST NOEL  
 Irregular meter

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

“The Christians & The Pagans”  
by Dorothy Williams

Lucy & Craig

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

David Weasley

**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**

Sharon Benton

**POSTLUDE**

“We Three Kings”

by Kenneth Friedrich, published by KDF Publishing . Used with permission.  
Tanner, Euphonium; Brian, Trumpet

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



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ADVENT EVENTS

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/](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](mailto: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 **on break until January 12**
- PJs & Storytime **on break until the New Year**

#### • **Wednesday**

- Adult Forums on break **until the New Year**
- Faith Formation for Children & Youth **until the New Year**
- Advent Wednesday Worship, **7:30 pm**

#### • **Thursday**

- Morning Coffee Group: **1st & 3rd Thursdays, 9:30 am**
- Poetry Writing Group, **1:00 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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, **2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:sharon@fccb.net)

David: [david@fccb.net](mailto:david@fccb.net)

Sharry: [sharry@fccb.net](mailto:sharry@fccb.net)

You can also email our Office Manager  
Cydne at [office@fccb.net](mailto: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](mailto:office@fccb.net) • [www.fccb.net](http://www.fccb.net)

Facebook: [facebook.com/fccbucc](https://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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