

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2020
#BiggerBalcony



CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2020

11:30 pm

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

<http://tiny.cc/worshipconnect>

PRELUDE

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

Judy

Traditional German carol

WELCOME

Sharry & David

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Evan

Bring a candle, everyone!

Bring a candle that's blue or purple or green or white—
it doesn't matter what it looks like.

Bring a candle that holds a flame,
or turns on with a click,
or burns in your own secret thoughts tonight.

Bring a candle to light
alongside each and every one of us
across time and space.

This is the Christ candle, lit for the baby.

This is the candle lit for all of us.

It doesn't stop burning
even though there is pandemic,
and injustice,
and death,
and fear.

It doesn't stop calling us to join in Christ's message.

It doesn't stop inspiring us to love.

Through the hope-filled story of Jesus' birth
we will remember that God is with us,
Emmanuel, right where we are.

Traditional carol



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
4 What can I of - fer, poor as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb.



Snow had fall - en. snow on snow. snow on snow.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part; but



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
what I can I of - fer: all my heart.

Christina Rossetti has portrayed the Christmas story, not in warm Bethlehem, but in the winter of her native England. Rossetti was an accomplished writer of poetry and prose, noted for her deep spirituality.

Tune: CRANHAM Irr.
Gustav Holst, 1906

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Rowan, The Ground Floor Manager

100% of tonight's Christmas offering will go to emergency cold weather supplies for young people at The Ground Floor, the Northwest Youth Services' daytime program space for young people experiencing homelessness. We hope they will be able to buy many coats, sleeping bags, tarps, and tents for some of the most vulnerable in our community

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/donate/?url=https://www.fccbucc.org).

Offertory

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

Christmas Choir

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1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un-furled,
3 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
4 For lo, the days are hasten-ing on, by proph-et bards fore-told,



from an-gels bend-ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
and still their heaven-ly mu-sic floats o'er all the wea-ry world;
who toil a-long the climb-ing way, with pain-ful steps and slow,
when with the ev-er-cir-cling years comes round the age of gold;



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, great news of joy we bring."
A-bove its sad and low-ly plains they bend on hover-ing wing,
Look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift-ly on the wing;
When peace shall o-ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol-emn still-ness lay to hear the an-gels sing.
and ev-er o'er its Ba-bel sounds the bless-ed an-gels sing.
O rest be-side the wea-ry road, and hear the an-gels sing!
and all the world send back the song which now the an-gels sing.

Edmund Sears, a Unitarian minister who served a number of congregations in the Boston area, wrote this Christmas hymn emphasizing the social implications of the Gospel for his congregation at Wayland, Massachusetts.

Tune: CAROL C.M.D.
Richard S. Willis, 1850

SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-14a

Kenzie

MESSAGE

"Incarnate"

David

INVITATION TO CANDLE LIGHTING

Sharon

CAROL

"Silent Night"

David & Nancy



1. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon
 2. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries
 3. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant



1. Vir - gin Moth-er and child! Ho - ly In - fant so ten-der and mild,
 2. stream__ from heav-en a - far; Heav'n-ly hosts__ sing "Al - le - lu - ia!
 3. beams__ from thy ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,



1. Sleep in heav-en-ly peace,__ Sleep__ in heav-en-ly peace.
 2. Christ the Sav - ior is born,__ Christ__ the Sav - ior is born.
 3. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth,__ Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

SILENCE

Sharry

RINGING THE BELL

CAROL

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Brian & Tanner

BENEDICTION

Sharon

MERRY
Christmas



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

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