

# Laying the Foundation

## December 5, 2021



**first**  **congregational**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
timeless worship + modern faith

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 5, 2021

10:00 am

*For those worshipping in person, please note that we're asking no singing or humming, keep masks on, and stay distanced between households*

*In the miraculous birth of John the Baptist, we see the foundation of what is to come. We see how interwoven his story is with Jesus' origin story. When Zechariah regains his voice, his imagination is also restored. He offers deep praise for God's tender mercy, and casts a hopeful vision for his own child. He sings blessings into John's being. This lays the foundation for John's life. In turn, John will go on to prepare the way for Jesus who will guide us all in the way of peace. In this week, we focus on making space—in our lives and our imaginations—for God's blessings to break through.*

*~ Lisle Gwynn Garrity, A Sanctified Art*

### PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sharon Benton

### RINGING THE BELL

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Tina Anderson

One Voice: If life was a home, then we would pray—

**All Voices: may love be the foundation.**

**May God be the cornerstone.**

**May the Spirit be the windows— ushering light in.**

**And may hope be the walls— holding us together.**

One Voice: In this hour of worship, let us work toward  
building that home together.

**All Voices: We may not know the path ahead, but God is here, even now.**

One Voice: Let us give thanks for a foundation of love.

**All Voices: Let us light the candles of Advent and worship Holy God.**

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES**

“Peace”

Laninga/Gillham Family

As we reflect on the foundation of our faith in our lives,  
we gather together around the candle of peace.

The home we long for is a home that knows peace—

peace that rests between us and our grief,

peace around our anxiety,

peace between us and our self-criticism,

peace amidst our relationships,

peace at the core of our being,

peace hovering through and in our world.

The home we long for is a home that knows peace.

So today we light the candle of peace—as a reminder and as a prayer.

May we lay the foundation for peace. Amen.

**MUSICAL RESPONSE**

Lucy Bledig

Tune: Greensleeves, words by Rev. Scott Cervas (alt.)

*We light the flames this time of year to fill our world with meaning;  
Our hearts and minds are longing for the life of which you are dreaming.*

*This, this, our gift we bring, our lives we share, your praise we sing.*

*Show us your vision, God, for hope, and peace, and caring.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rev. Davi 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.**

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

“Sweet Little Jesus Boy”  
by Robert MacGimsey

Kris Johnson

**A READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

Luke 1:57-80  
Common English Bible

Tina Anderson

**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.**

Tina Anderson

**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

Ted Huffman

**SERMON**

“Laying the Foundation”

Sharon Benton

**HYMN**

“Canticle of the Turning”  
by Rory Cooney

Christopher Giffen &  
Clara Lindstrom

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

Tina Anderson

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

**Offertory**

Judy Widrig

**SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

*If you're joining us from home, gather something to eat and drink;  
the risen Christ will meet us wherever we are.*

*If you're worshipping in person today, you may come forward to receive communion. Stay distanced, please; and remove your mask briefly. If you wish to remain seated, someone will come around to you in your seat. Just raise a hand or indicate that you would like communion as they come around, remembering that if you come forward you will be on the video.*

**BENEDICTION**

Davi Weasley

**POSTLUDE**

Judy Widrig

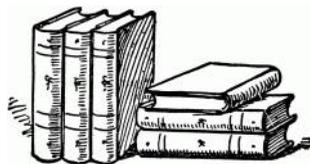
*Let us know you're here! Go to Worship Connect <http://tiny.cc/worshipconnect> to sign in.*

# First Congregational Church Advent Shopping Day

at Village Books in Fairhaven AND Lynden!

**Tuesday, December 7**

**10:00 am to 8:00 pm**



10% of sales (pre-tax) go to back to First Congregational Church for NEW BOOKS!

-  Purchases of books, gift cards, toys, games, and anything from Village Books & Paper Dreams count toward the 10%, but you must bring this form.
-  Online purchases do count toward the Shopping Day! When placing your order just put in the comments field "FCC Shopping Day".

**NOTE:** In order for the online order to count toward the Shopping Day, it **MUST BE PAID FOR** at the time it is placed between **12:00 am** and **11:59 pm** on **December 7**.

*\*Discounts may not be used on any of these purchases. This includes teacher discounts, birthday discounts, Smart Trips, or coupons. Purchases MAY be applied to Reader Reward accounts.*

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Village Books Staff Use:

Purchase amount (pre-tax): \_\_\_\_\_ Staff initials: \_\_\_\_\_

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Cover Image: "Berakah" by Hannah Garrity, inspired by Luke 1:57-80. Paper lace with graphite and watercolor. *In this image, Zechariah holds his baby boy. He speaks a blessing, a berakah. The intimate love of a father with his newborn son is captured in this pose. Patterns of water pour over John's little shirt. Zechariah sees what his son will become and begins to speak his future into being from the start. As dawn breaks over Zechariah's shoulder, his prophecy foretells God coming into the world—of light dawning in weary spaces.* © a sanctified art, sanctifiedart.org

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

To be as welcoming and inclusive as possible during hybrid worship (in person & online), we are not requiring proof of vaccination. We trust the members of our community to take appropriate care of each other and encourage all who can to be vaccinated.

### Precautions:

- Masks required
- Distancing practiced
- Windows will be open, so dress warmly
- Sign in for contact tracing
- If you wake up feeling even a little under the weather, join us at home on Facebook Live.

### WORSHIP:

- **Sundays, 10:00 am**—Worship on Facebook Live, our #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, 7:00 pm**
  - ◆ Happy Hour: **1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:30-8:30 pm**
- **Tuesday**
  - ◆ Advent Study, **9:30 am**
- **Wednesday**
  - ◆ Adult Forum: **weekly, 7:00 pm**
- **Thursday**
  - ◆ Evening Book Club, **6:30 pm weekly**
- **Friday**
  - ◆ Afternoon Coffee Group: **2nd & 4th Friday, at 1:00 pm**
  - ◆ Knitting Group, **Fridays, 10:00 am**
  - ◆ Spirit Group (Exploring Prayer), **Fridays, 6:30 pm**
- **Saturday**
  - ◆ Creative Connections, **1st Saturdays, 10:00 am**
- **Sunday**
  - ◆ Advent Conversations **Sundays, 11:15 am**
  - ◆ Youth Group, **Sundays, 12:00 noon**

*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.

### **APPOINTMENTS WITH PASTORAL STAFF**

Pastoral staff are available by appointment virtually or in person, with masks. Contact them by email or call the pastoral care line, 360-733-4255

Sharon: [sharon@fccb.net](mailto:sharon@fccb.net)

Davi: [davi@fccb.net](mailto:davi@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: Davi Weasley**

**INTERIM MINISTERS OF FAITH FORMATION:**

**Ted & Susan Huffman**

**MINISTER OF MUSIC: Lucy Bledig**

**ORGANIST: Judy Widrig**

**WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR:**

**Skyler Spain**

**NURSERY ATTENDANT: Lisa Harbine**

**ACCOUNTANT: Erin Kennedy**

**OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran**

**CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE: Kurt Aagard**

**FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE:**

**Alanna Steele**

**HEALTH MINISTER: Carol Nicolay**

**MODERATOR: Bill Henkel**

**VICE MODERATOR: Beth Tyne**

**PAST MODERATOR: Caryl Dunavan**

**CLERK: Janet Malley**

**TREASURER: Laurie Hoyt**

**HISTORIAN: Stacy Miller**

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