

Hold Out Hope
New & Ancient Tidings

Hope in Trouble
November 27, 2022



We thank the following people for assisting with worship:

ADVENT CANDLE

LIGHTING

Mark Schofield
Michelle Burkhart
Miles Schofield
Burkhart

If you're worshipping in the Bigger Balcony, and need a candle to light throughout Advent, please contact the church office.

We love children in worship—their noises and wiggles are welcome, too. There are pillows in the front where they can see the instruments and participate fully, or the coloring, book, and play area is available in the corner near the windows. Their movements back and forth are a joy for us.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 20, 2022

10:00 am

*[Hope is] what thrives in the discards
and survives in the ugliest part of the world*

Able to find a way to go on

When nothing else can even find a way in.

*from "Hope Is Not a Bird, Emily, It's a Sewer Rat,"
by Caitlin Seida*

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

GATHERING HYMN 107

REJOICE, REJOICE

*"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"
verses 1, 2*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Davi Weasley

RINGING THE BELL

THE STORY

Sharon Benton

* Rise in body or spirit

***LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES**

The Schofield Burkhart Family

One Voice: Here we are in Advent—a time of waiting and preparation.
We light candles with ancient meaning and new expectation.

All Voices: **We hold out hope:
we hold onto hope with all that we are,
and we hold it out, offering hope to the world.**

One Voice: Is hope in trouble? Does hope come to us in troubling times?

All Voices: **With the prophet we will keep watch and wait;
Through our longing, God is with us.**

One Voice: We light a candle as we hold out hope today!

***SUNG RESPONSE**

“We Gather ‘Round”

THE FIRST NOWELL

1 We_ gath - er__ 'round in___ hope___ and faith, Look-ing

5 for___ the sav - ior for whom___ we pray. We___

9 pray___ that___ we will___ see___ him near, Bring-ing

13 *Refrain*
forth life and just - ice for all___ in fear. The_ can - dles_

18 glow show-ing us God's light__ call-ing us for-ward, u - ni - ted in Christ.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Ted Huffman

After Time with Children, preschool & elementary children are invited to attend Church School.

SONG

IN DULCI JUBILO

*Good Christian friends rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
sing we all songs new and old, ancient stories now retold;
grief and fear won't dull our trust; with courage we will do what's just.
Christ has shown the way, Christ has shown the way!*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Scout Mitchell

From where are you drawing hope in these days?

- 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 Breeze app. Download from your app store, set up an account, and give!
4) Give by text. Text a dollar amount to (360) 205-1297, and set up your account.*

HYMN 116 (seated)

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
verses 1, 2, 7*

VENI EMMANUEL

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

*If you have a prayer request you'd like to share confidentially with our pastors,
have added to the confidential prayer list, or spoken aloud in worship,
go to www.fccb.net/contact-us/ to send a message or call the church to talk with a pastor.*

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Habakkuk 1, 2, 3, selected verses

Scout Mitchell

Common English Bible

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Scout Mitchell

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

“Hope in Trouble”

Sharon Benton

ANTHEM

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”
arr. Carlton R. Young

Chancel Choir

HOLD OUT HOPE RITUAL

As we hold out hope to the world, we also hold hope right here, now, as an action. You are invited to take a ribbon from the table and physically HOLD HOPE close to you. Then you might wrap the ribbon on the tree garland. As you tie the ribbon, envision offering that hope to the world. If you'd like to hold your ribbon longer, you might add it to the trees afterward. Or tie it to your finger this week as a reminder. If you'd rather stay in your seat, someone will come around with a ribbon for you.

Over the course of Advent we will watch our vision of hope slowly grow.

***HYMN 110**

“Now Bless the God of Israel”

FOREST GREEN

***BENEDICTION**

Davi Weasley

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig

ROOM FOR REFLECTION

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**

Davi: **davi@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: Davi Weasley

INTERIM MINISTERS OF FAITH FORMATION:

Ted & Susan Huffman

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Lucy Bledig

ORGANIST: Judy Widrig

ACCOUNTANT: Erin Kennedy

OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE: Kurt Aagard

WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR:

Georgia Drost

MODERATOR: Beth Tyne

VICE MODERATOR: Mark Schofield

PAST MODERATOR: Bill Henkel

CLERK: Janet Malley

TREASURER: Jen Sandoval

HISTORIAN: Stacy Miller

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