

**The Sound that Love Makes:
Beloved Carols
December 24, 2023**



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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 24, 2023

10:00 am

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
~ from "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sharon Benton

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME SONG

"Come, Sound of Love"
by Ruth Cunningham

Come sound of Love in - to our hearts. Come

³
Spir - it of Ad - vent in - to our hearts.

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**Rise in body or spirit*

THE STORY

Sharon Benton

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Please return to sitting with your adults.

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

Judy Widrig

What songs help make you feel embraced by Love?

What music helps evoke a sense of Divine presence for you?

***LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

Alan, Dana, Austin, Lucas, & Ava Lehn

One: The sound Love makes is an off-key-but-enthusiastic voice.

All: Give us *Good King Wenceslas* and *The Little Drummer Boy*!

One: The sound Love makes is an elementary orchestra rehearsing.

All: Let's hear *The Wexford, Sussex, and Coventry Carols*!

One: The sound Love makes creates harmonies outside the score.

All: We'll join in *The Holly and the Ivy* and *Ding Dong! Merrily on High*!

One: The sound Love makes is all of us raising our voices together.

All: Light the fourth Advent candle and praise God for songs of the season!

CAROLING

Please give the hymn number from the hymnal.

WE ARE A NURTURING BELOVED COMMUNITY

SUNG PRAYER

“With Sighs Too Deep for Words”
by Anne Krentz Organ. Used with permission.

Leader:



This is the sound of our Prayers And the Spirit in - ter - cedes for us

All:



with sighs, with sighs too deep for words. With sighs, with sighs too deep for words.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Do you need prayer? You can fill out a prayer card and drop it into the offering plate or use the Contact form on our website, <https://fcb.net/contact-us/>, to send your requests.
We're waiting to hear from you.*

WE ARE GROWING AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN FAITH

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:39-56

Kris Johnson

New Revised Standard Version, alt.

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Kris Johnson

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.

CAROLING

Please give the hymn number from the hymnal.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Mary, Mary”

Linda Allen

Chorus:

And the light's still shining Mary, Mary can you see?

And the child you carried carries on the mystery.

God's great promise in a young girl's body

Glory! Glory! Blessed be, blessed be.

Glory! Glory! Blessed be, blessed be.

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION

TESTIMONY

Jean Waight

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!

*What songs help make you feel embraced by Love?
What music helps evoke a sense of Divine presence for you?*

You may make an offering either in the plates at the door or online.



*Your generosity allows the work of this place nurture beloved community,
grow authentic Christian faith, and live Christ-inspired action. Thank you! .*

There are several other ways to give: 1) Give at our website, <https://fcb.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.

5) Scan the QR code above or on the back cover of the bulletin.

Artist Statement for Sanctuary Art:

Inspired by the artwork "Seeing Shepherds" by Daniel Bonnell and our Advent theme "The Sound That Love Makes" I wanted to create a 'choir of angels'. Many hands and hearts came together to paint the angel banners. It's that spirit of community and collaboration that makes them 'sing'.

~Scott Ward

Cover Image "The Seeing Shepherds" by Daniel Bonnell.

Used with permission

Upcoming Services:

- **December 24, 5:00 pm:** Angel Voices
- **December 24, 11:00 pm:** Candlelit Contemplation

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.

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

Office Hours: 10:00 am-5:00 pm

LEAD PASTOR: Sharon Benton, she/her

PASTOR: Davi Weasley, they/them

CHURCH SCHOOL COORDINATOR:

Josh Marchand, they/them

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Lucy Bledig, she/her

ORGANIST: Judy Widrig, she/her

OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran, she/her

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE:

Kurt Aagard, he/him

INTERIM ACCOUNTANT:

Erin Kennedy

WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR:

Georgia Drost, she/they

MODERATOR: Mark Schofield

VICE MODERATOR: Scott Ward, he/him

PAST MODERATOR: Beth Tyne

CLERK: Janet Malley, she/her

TREASURER: Craig Jennings

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