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





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

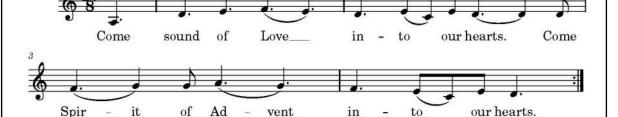
Welcome & Announcements

Sharon Benton

RINGING THE BELL

Welcome Song

"Come, Sound of Love" by Ruth Cunningham



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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.



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://fccb.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.

Scriptur	e Response		Kris Johnson
One:	For the Word of God in scripture,		
	for the Word of God ar	nong us,	
	for the Word of God w	ithin us:	
All:	All: Thanks be to God.		
Caroline	3		
	Please give	the hymn number from the hymni	al.
Musical	Reflection	"Mary, Mary"	Linda Allen
	A 1.1 1.1.	Chorus:	2
		still shining Mary, Mary can y	
		d you carried carries on the mys	
		at promise in a young girl's bod 'Glory! Blessed be, blessed be.	иу
	-	Glory! Blessed be, blessed be.	
	Giory.	Giory: Diessen ve, viessen ve.	
	We are I	LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTIO	N
Теѕтімог	NY		Jean Waight



Benediction Sharon Benton

Postlude & Sharing

Judy Widrig

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://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.
 - 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@fccb.net Davi:

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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