

**The Sound that Love Makes:  
The Voices of the Prophets  
December 31, 2023**



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

# CHRISTMASTIDE

December 31, 2023

10:00 am

*"You have to act as if it were possible to radically transform the world.  
And you have to do it all the time." ~Angela Davis*

**PRELUDE**

Judy Widrig

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Davi Weasley

**RINGING THE BELL**

**WELCOME SONG**

*"Come, Sound of Love"*  
by Ruth Cunningham

Come sound of Love in - to our hearts. Come

3  
Christ - mas Spir - it in - to our hearts.

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**THE STORY**

Davi Weasley

*\*Rise in body or spirit*

**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

Davi Weasley

*Please return to sitting with your adults.*

**MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION**

Judy Widrig

**\*COMMUNITY PRAYER**

Lyz Staman

One: In the light of trees, we gather.

**All: In the aftermath of angels, we gather**

One: In the hope of peace on earth, we gather.

**All: In the reality of our bodies, we gather.**

One: With all that we carry, we come to worship.

**All: For all that is around us, we pray.**

**\*HYMN 153** (black hymnal) “Who Would Think that What Was Needed”

SCARLET RIBBONS

**WE ARE A NURTURING BELOVED COMMUNITY**

**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**

Mark 1: 1-20

Lyz Staman

New Revised Standard Version

**SCRIPTURE RESPONSE**

Lyz Staman

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.**

**REFLECTION**

Davi Weasley

**ANTHEM**

“Crooked Tree”  
by Molly Tuttle

Lucy Bledig

**WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION**

**LIGHTING THE WREATH TOGETHER**

\***HYMN 150** (black hymnal)

“Sing a Different Song”

DIFFERENT SONG

**BENEDICTION**

Davi Weasley

**POSTLUDE & SHARING**

Judy Widrig

*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.*

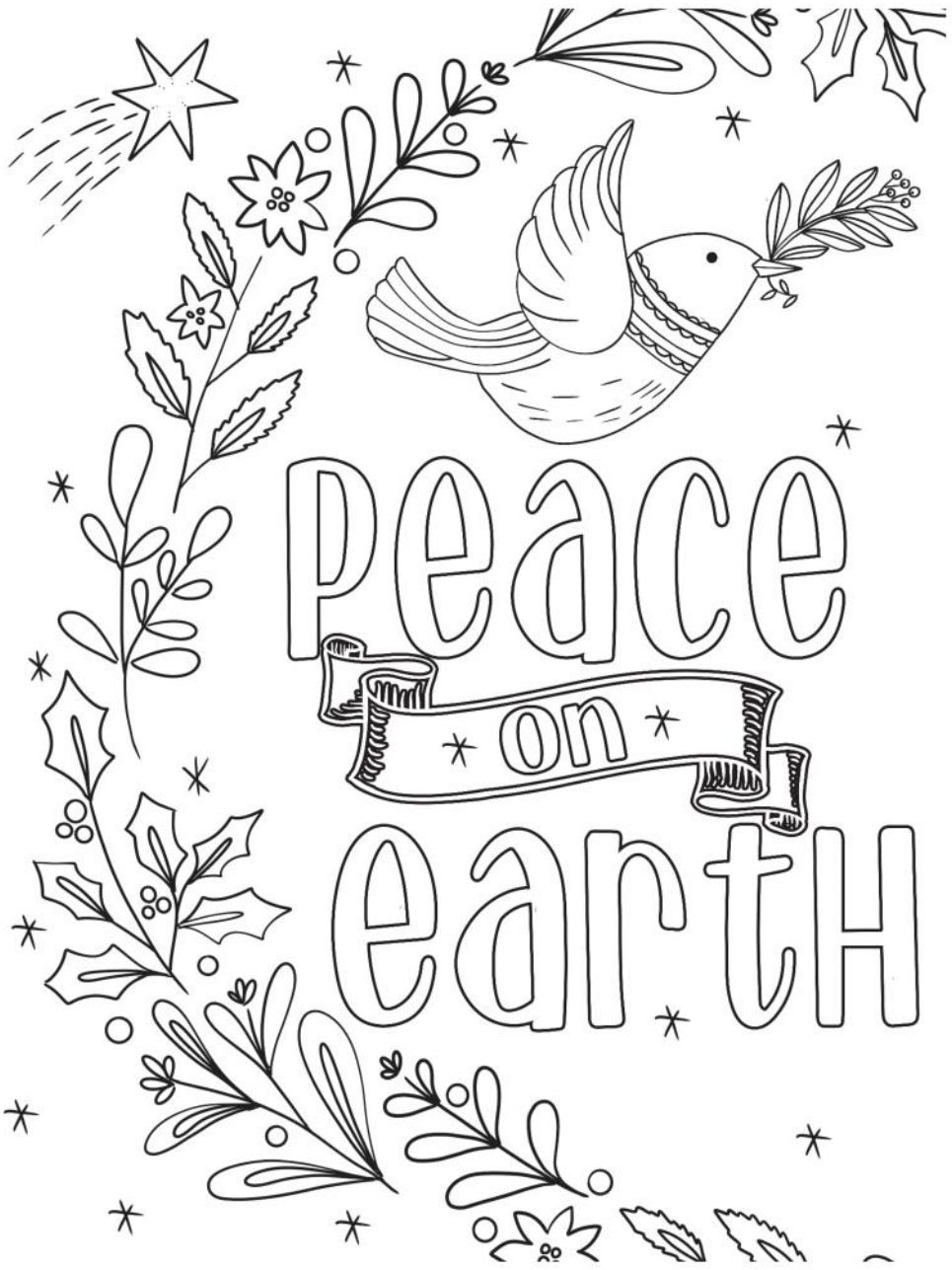
**Artist Statement for Sanctuary Art:**

*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*



## WEEKLY CALENDAR

*Do you receive our Friday Announcements email? Contact [office@fccb.net](mailto:office@fccb.net) to sign up!  
For details, see our Connection Calendar in the Friday email or contact [office@fccb.net](mailto:office@fccb.net).*

### **Sunday**

Hybrid worship in person, and on Facebook or on Zoom, our #BiggerBalcony, **10:00 am**

### **Monday**

Walking Group: weekly, **10:00 am**, Barkley Pond

Church Council: **4th Mondays, 7:00 pm**, Zoom

Poetry Group: **1st & 3rd Mondays 7:00 pm**, Zoom

### **Tuesday**

Book Club: **1st Tuesdays, 9:30 am**, Fireplace Room

Pilgrim Circle: **2nd Tuesdays, 12:00 noon**, Narthex

Green Team: **2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7:00 pm**, Mt. Baker Room

### **Wednesday**

Glee Club: weekly, **3:00 pm**, Narthex

Adult Forum: weekly, **7:00 pm**, Zoom

### **Thursday**

Men's Breakfast Group, **1st Thursday, 9:00 am**, Country Club

Grandparent Group: **2nd Thursdays, 10:30 am**, Fireplace Room

Thursday Book Group: **Thursdays, 5:00 pm**, Zoom

20s/30s/40s/ Group, **5:30 pm, last Thursday** of the month, various locations

Young Adult Peer Philosophy Group: weekly, **7:00 pm**, Fireplace Room

### **Friday**

Game Night: **3rd Fridays, 6:00-9:00 pm**, Social Hall

### **Sunday**

Chancel Choir: weekly, **8:30 am**, Sanctuary

Children's Church School: weekly, **during worship**, Social Hall

Handbells: weekly, **11:30 am**, Room 16

*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.

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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