

# Start, Again: Do the Good that Is Yours to Do December 1, 2024



## Vision Statement:

We Are a Nurturing, Beloved Community.  
We Are Growing Authentic Christian Faith.  
We Are Living Christ-Inspired Action.

# FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 1, 2024

10:00 am

*"If you want to build a ship, don't drum to the women and men to gather wood, and divide the work, and give orders. Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and endless sea."  
~Antoine de St Exupery, The Wisdom of Sands*

## PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

## WELCOME

Davi Weasley

*We love children in worship—their noises and wiggles are welcome, too. There are pillows and a coloring book, and play area in the front and in the corner near the windows. Younger kids may enjoy the Narthex play area. Their movements back and forth are a joy for us as they participate fully.*

## RINGING THE BELL

### WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

## WELCOME SONG

*"While We Are Waiting, Come"  
Sing through twice*

WAITING

1 While we are wait - ing, come;  
while we are wait - ing, come.  
Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,  
while we are wait - ing, come.

TEXT: Claire Cloninger, 1986  
MUSIC: Don Cason, 1986  
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WAITING (Cason)  
SM

*\*Rise in body or spirit*

**THE STORY**

Davi Weasley

**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

Davi Weasley

*Children may go with Josh to church school in the social hall  
or remain in the sanctuary as they choose.*

**\*HYMN 121** (black hymnal)

“Toda la Tierra”

TAULE

**CANDLELIGHTING**

Jen, Isa, & Alma Sandoval

Adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC

One Voice: In a weary and worn world, how do we start again?  
Where do we begin?

**All Voices: Let us start small.  
Let us begin with what is right in front of us.  
Let us do the good that is ours to do, and let us do it with peace!**

One Voice: Yes, let us begin with peace.  
Today we light the candle of peace.

**All Voices: May this light remind us of what could be.  
May this light inspire action.  
May the warmth of this light fill us with peace.**

One Voice: May it be so! Amen.

**SUNG PRAYER**

“Come, Come, Emmanuel”

COME, COME EMMANUEL

mp  
Come, come Emmanuel.  
Come, Emmanuel.

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**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Sharon Benton

**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/](http://www.fccb.net/contact-us/) to send a message or call the church to talk with a pastor.*

**WE ARE GROWING AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN FAITH.**

**A READING FROM SCRIPTURE**    Luke 3:7-16, Isaiah 58:6-12  
    *New Revised Standard Version*

Jen Sandoval

**SCRIPTURE RESPONSE**

Jen Sandoval

**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**

“Start, Again: On the Promises”

Davi Weasley

**A GIFT OF MUSIC**

“Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Joy Brown, Piano & Scott Ward, Handbells

Arranged by Lee Dengler. Old French carol

**WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING**

Sharon Benton

*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 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 below or on the back cover of the bulletin.*



**MUSICAL OFFERING**

Judy Widrig



1. Poor of the earth, I am a shep-herd;  
 2. An - oth - er dawn, the sun be - fore me,  
 3. With each new day, I pause in won - der  
 4. This day is done, my prayer's un - an - swered,



in rug - ged fields, I make my home. Yet I at -  
 an - oth - er day to bide and watch. I trust in  
 to look at Beth - le - hem a - far. From this small  
 once more I sigh as dark - ness falls. Your will be



tend the words of proph - ets, and I can  
 God and I am wait - ing. Day fol - lows  
 town will come a sav - ior, born in our  
 done, I must be pa - tient; I long for



hope. How will I know? Sprung from the roots,  
 day. How will I know? The nights are chill;  
 midst. How will I know? When time is right,  
 news. How will I know? My bones are tired,



the line of Jes - se, will come one cho - sen  
 I do not mind them, my lambs rest safe with -  
 God, share your pur - pose; rul - ers and kings, they  
 my soul is hun - gry, my ston - y bed a -



for us all. The proph - et's songs fore - tell a  
 in my care. Com - pan - ion moon is night - ly  
 must be told. I live a - part. I wait in  
 waits me now. Do not for - get your faith - ful



lead - er— a vir - gin's child. How will I know?  
 chang - ing; my con - stant God: how will I know?  
 si - lence. Who will tell me? How will I know?  
 shep - herd. Per - haps to - night. How will I know?

**\*BENEDICTION & PASSING THE PEACE**

Davi Weasley

**POSTLUDE**

Judy Widrig

*The postlude will play as we share the peace of Christ*

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Advent & Christmas 2024

## **START, AGAIN**

**December 1, 10:00 am:** Do the Good that Is Yours to Do

**December 8, 10:00 am:** You Are a Blessing (*Advent Celebration/Christmas Presence after worship*)

**December 15, 10:00 am:** We Can't Go Alone (*pageant during worship*)

**December 18, 7:00 pm:** Blue Christmas Service

**December 22, 10:00 am:** Hope Is Worth the Risk

**December 18, 7:00 pm:** A Blue Christmas Service

**December 24 5:00 pm & 11:00 pm:** Love Knows Your Name

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COVER ART by Lisle Gwynn Garrity. Inspired by Luke 3:7-16. Ink dyes and gold resist on silk, with digital collage. When we do the good that is ours to do, we bear good fruit—fruit that repairs and nourishes, fruit that grows into the four corners of the earth. For more details, contact [office@fccb.net](mailto:office@fccb.net).

**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**

Davi's office hours will be on  
Sunday, Monday, & Tuesday

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-4:30 pm*

**LEAD PASTOR: Sharon Benton, she/her**

**PASTOR: Davi Weasley, they/them**

**CHURCH SCHOOL COORDINATOR:**

**Josh Marchand, they/them**

**ORGANIST: Judy Widrig, she/her**

**OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran, she/her**

**CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE:**

**Kurt Aagard, he/him**

**BOOKKEEPER: Eric Bowen, he/him**

**INTERIM MUSIC COORDINATOR:**

**Dallas Geil, he/him** (music@fccb.net)

**WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR:**

**Georgia Drost, she/they**

**MODERATOR: Scott Ward, he/him**

**VICE MODERATOR:**

**Diane Cooper-Schick, she/her**

**PAST MODERATOR: Mark Schofield**

**CLERK: Janet Malley, she/her**

**TREASURER: Craig Jennings**

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