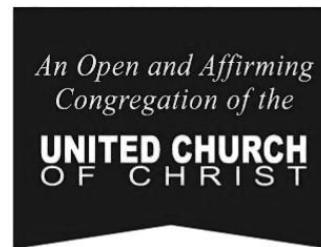




38 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont



firstchurchburlington.org

December 24, 2021
Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols
7:30 p.m.

(to prepare for worship ~ find a candle for each person)

Prelude

String Selections

Laura Markowitz, Ana Ruesink, Sofia Hirsch, & John Dunlop

***Call to Worship**

Leader: An unmarried teenage girl was invited—

People: to carry Christ into this world.

Leader: An ordinary carpenter was invited—

People: to be a father to a child unlike any other.

Leader: The shepherds were invited—

People: outcast and isolated, included at the manger.

Leader: The Magi were invited—

People: foreigners and seekers, included at the manger.

Leader: And if she was invited, and he was invited, and they were invited—

People: then we can trust that we too are invited.

Leader: This story is for us.

People: This love is for us.

Leader: Family of faith, this is our invitation. Welcome home!

***Invocation**

***Opening Hymn**

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Joel Ramseyer, organ

#132, Vv. 1-3 PH

First Lesson

Isaiah 7:14, 9:6, 60:1-3
The Messiah's Birth is Foretold by Isaiah

Words of Welcome

The Rev. Elissa Johnk

***Carol**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

#120, Vv. 1-2 PH

Second Lesson

Luke 1:26-35, 38
The Angel Gabriel Visits Mary

Special Music

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Members of the Sanctuary Choir

arr. David Willcocks

Third Lesson

Luke 2:1-7
The Birth of the Babe in Bethlehem

Special Music

Christmas Lullaby

Aaron David Miller

Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:8-14
An Angel Tells the Shepherds of the Birth

***Carol** *Angels We Have Heard on High* #116 PH

Fifth Lesson Luke 2:15-20
The Shepherds Travel to the Manger

Special Music *"Pastorale" from Christmas Concerto* Corelli

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *O Holy Night* Adolph Adam
Austin Handbell Choir and Emy Berger, *flute*

During this time you are invited to offer your monetary gifts.

You can give online using this link

(link is also under the video title on YouTube): <https://bit.ly/fccbonlinegiving>

or by texting FCCBUCC to 73256

or mail a check payable to:

First Congregational Church at 38 South Winooski Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401

***Doxology** *Please Note Special Christmas Lyrics*

*To God, all glorious heavenly Light, To Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise, Our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen.*

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Final Lesson John 1:1-5, 9-14
John Gives Witness to the Mystery of the Incarnation

Witnessing to the Light

During the third verse, please raise your candle high to shine the light to the world.

***Carol** *Silent Night* #138 PH

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ the savior is born, Christ the savior is born.**

**Silent night, holy night, Child of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
bring the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Christ at thy birth, Jesus Christ at thy birth.**

***Benediction**

***Carol** *Joy to the World* #130, Vv. 1-2 PH

Postlude *Fantasia on "Greensleeves"* Carson Cooman

**Please rise, as you are able, in body or in spirit*

Many thanks to all our readers this evening!

Merry Christmas!

WELCOME VISITORS!

Welcome to First Congregational Church in Burlington. Our faith is over 2,000 years old, but our thinking is not! First Church opens its doors to the Greater Burlington area, to seekers, to tourists from near and far, to those in need, to an array of building users, and to a congregation (of members, friends, and family—both curious and the committed) who call our faith community their church home.

We celebrate the sacred worth of all persons as unique individuals made in the image of God. Whatever your age, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, or physical, cognitive, or emotional ability, we invite you to find a safe and nurturing spiritual home with us. All are welcome to participate, fully and without reservation, in the life, leadership, ministry and mission of this church as we seek to grow together in a community of faith.

The First Congregational Church of Burlington is an Open & Affirming Church of the United Church of Christ. This means everyone – **everyone** – is welcome. Including YOU!

Staff Directory

Rev. Elissa Johnk, *Lead Minister*

Caroline Catlin, *Office & Nursery Administrator*

Lucy Samara, *Communications Coordinator*

Max Johnson, *A/V Coordinator*

Jennifer Coleman, *Bell Choir Director*

Laura Elder-Connors, *Children's Choir Director*

Derik Breen, *Building & Grounds Staff*

Hannah Sachs, *Director of Creative Ministries
and Youth Ministries*

Hilah Clarke, *Faith Formation Director*

Ana Ruesink, *Youth Choir Director*

Ann Vivian, *Fall Music Coordinator*

Ian Rock-Jones, *Security Staff*

Baki Nelson, *Head Usher* • Dawn Plante and Patty Thomas, *Welcomers*

• Lou Daniel Rochford, *Digital Usher*

Many thanks to all our musicians who are helping out while we wait for our new Music Director, Amy Shortt to arrive in mid-February!

 www.firstchurchburlington.org  info@firstchurchburlington.org  802.862.5010

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