

*Welcoming All.  
Seeking Justice.  
Finding God.*

38 South Winooski Avenue  
Burlington, Vermont



*An Open and Affirming  
Congregation of the*  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



firstchurchburlington.org

**December 5, 2021**

**10 a.m.**

*Second Sunday of Advent*

*Communion Sunday*

*I wonder if Advent should be re-described: instead of the season of preparation or waiting or penitence, it could be called the season of imagination... I'm struck by how often the image of "a city on a hill" sustained [the Puritans,] people of faith during hardship and controversy. What is the image that inspires our imagination in the midst of the challenges we face today? –Rev. Kate Huey*

**PRELUDE**

*Come, Savior of the Gentiles*  
Fred DeHaven, organ

*J.S. Bach*

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

The Rev. Elissa Johnk

**CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION**

The Barlow Family

One: If life was a home, then we would pray—

**All: May love be the foundation.**

One: May God be the cornerstone.

**All: May the Spirit be the windows—ushering light in.**

**And may hope be the walls—holding us together.**

One: In this hour of worship, let us work toward building that home together.

**All: We may not know the path ahead, but God is here, even now.**

One: Let us give thanks for a foundation of love.

Let us worship the Holy God. Let us pray:

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*Now Bless the God of Israel*

#110 NCH

**GOSPEL READING**

Luke 1:68-79

Kay Ryder

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (PEACE)**

The Polli Family

*Remote worshipers are invited to submit prayer requests via YouTube chat – prayer requests received prior to the sermon will be shared during "Prayers of the People."*

**PRESENTATION OF BIBLES**

Hilah Clarke

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Lucy & Linus*  
Heidi Soons, harp

*Vince Guaraldi*

**GOSPEL READING**

Luke 3:1-6

**SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING**

*Zechariah's Lullaby*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Please remember our congregation includes those who are worshipping digitally, and share concerns appropriately – with permission and using first names only.*

**SILENT PRAYER**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, 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. Amen.**

**CALL TO THE OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY***Butterfly Jig**trad. Celtic, arr. Kim Robertson**During this time you are invited to offer your monetary gifts.**You can give online using this link**which 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**

#780 NCH

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;**Praise God above ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.***\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION****SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION****\*HYMN OF PREPARATION***O Come, O Come Emmanuel, Vv1-2*

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!*

O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
and order all things far and nigh;  
to us the path of knowledge show,  
and help us in that way to go. *Refrain.*

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION****BLESSING THE BREAD AND THE CUP**

**God of our new advent, may we see you in this common bread, and in our common lives, in our hunger and our fullness, in our despair and our hope. In our worship and our work, feed us with bread unseen. As our cup is full to overflowing, fill us with an abundance of compassion, that we might be thirsty for justice for the poor, the prisoner, and the oppressed. May this be your bread of mercy, your cup of the Kingdom. Amen.**

**SUNG RESPONSE***O Come, O Come Emmanuel, Vv 4,6*

O come, O shoot of Jesse,  
free your own from Satan's tyranny  
From depths of hell your people save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave. *Refrain.*

O come, O Day spring, come and cheer  
our spirits by your ad-vent here;  
Love stir with-in the wo-omb of night,  
and death's own shadows put to flight. *Refrain.*

**SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS**

*We believe this is God's table, not ours, so all are welcome at this table, regardless of age or faith. The cup is unfermented grape juice, and gluten-free bread is available.*

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING****\*CLOSING VERSE***O Come, O Come Emmanuel, v 7*

O come, De-sire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
Make envy, strife and quarrels cease;  
fill the whole world with heavenly peace. *Refrain*

## \*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

*Laender (Ländler)*

*Austrian folk dance*

*Those who are observing physical distancing are encouraged to leave immediately following the benediction. Those who are not are encouraged to stay for a portion of the postlude to facilitate their departure.*

*\*Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit.*

**FELLOWSHIP ON ZOOM:** All worshipping remotely are invited to a virtual time in fellowship – on Zoom – following worship. The link is in the YouTube description for this morning’s live stream and on the front page of the First Church website: [www.firstchurchburlington.org](http://www.firstchurchburlington.org)

### NOTES ON TODAY’S SERVICE

Many thanks to our readers and lay singers this morning, the Berger Family, and to our musicians: Heidi Soons (harp) and Fred DeHaven (organ).

### 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!

The poinsettias are generously donated by Theresa Mazza-Anthony.

### 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 and Laurie Nelson, *Ushers* • Patty Thomas, Linda Elrick, and  
Caroline Crawford, *Welcomers* • Lou Daniel (Danielle) Rochford, *Digital Usher*

Many thanks to all our lay musicians who are helping out while we finish our search for our new Music Director!

 [www.firstchurchburlington.org](http://www.firstchurchburlington.org)  [info@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:info@firstchurchburlington.org)  802.862.5010

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