



November 27, 2022
First Sunday of Advent

*The prevalence of candles and shiny ornaments this time of year remind us that the sacred is illuminated in each and every day.
"Incarnation" is a word that means that God's presence came to dwell among all people, and we believe this happened in a special way in the birth of Jesus. All creation has always been imbued with the Creator's brilliance. This season, we will remember the call to shine with this holy light.*

PRELUDE *An Advent Suite*, arr. Callahan Amy Shortt

*Online worshipers (live stream) are invited to greet the congregation by writing your name in the YouTube chat.
Please also submit any prayer requests via the YouTube chat – prayer requests received prior to the sermon will be shared during "Prayers of the People."*

WORDS OF WELCOME The Rev. Elissa Johnk

INTROIT *The Lord Shall Come and Not Be Slow* arr. Highben
Sanctuary Choir

***LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE (HOPE)** The Grace Family

***INVOCATION**
One: Living God, Christ Mystery, Spirit of Hope,
we give you thanks for this holy moment together.
**All: As we take in the hope your light illuminates,
may we be a reflection of this light,
expanding the sacred time of "right now"
into the sacred time of "always and for all time." Amen.**

***PASSING THE HOPE**

***OPENING HYMN** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel, Vv 1-3* #116 NCH

WORD OF GOD FOR (SM)ALL AGESLIFT

EPISTLE READING Romans 13:11-14

ANTHEM *Light of Light* arr. Gifford

GOSPEL READING Matthew 24:36-44

SERMON

***HYMN OF THANKSGIVING** *Come O Long Expected Jesus* #122 NCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

This week's "Celebrations & Prayer's" list is available for you on the front page of our website – <https://firstchurchburlington.org/> - and among the links under the title of the YouTube live stream throughout this morning's live stream of the worship service.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

*You are invited to offer monetary gifts
online using this link: <https://bit.ly/fccbonlinegiving>
(also under the video title on YouTube)*

*or by texting FCCBUCC to 73256 - or mail a check payable to:
First Congregational Church at 38 South Winooski Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401*

OFFERTORY

*SONG OF PRAISE

NCH 148

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God all heavens and the earth

reflecting the sacred story.

This, this is Christ the One, / who mirrors hope for all of us.

Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Word of time eternal.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN

Now Bless the God of Israel

#110 NCH

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Savior of the Nations Come

arr. Kickstat

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

Virtual Fellowship: Worship is followed by Fellowship outside at First Church – and remotely on [ZOOM](https://bit.ly/sundayfellowship) - the link is: <https://bit.ly/sundayfellowship>

NOTES ON TODAY'S SERVICE:

Portions of today's liturgy come from the Worship Design Studio,
written by Mark Burrows, Marcia McFee.

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

Elissa Johnk, *Lead Minister*

Caroline Catlin, *Office & Nursery Administrator*

Lucy Samara, *Communications Coordinator*

Jennifer Coleman, *Bell Choir Director*

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

Derik Breen, *Building & Grounds*

Amy Shortt, *Director of Music*

Hilah Clarke, *Faith Formation Director*

Max Johnson, *A/V Coordinator*

Jason Vanderlaan, *Youth Ministries*

Ian Rock-Jones, *Security Staff*

Jesse O'Gorman, *Security Staff*

Paul Hobbs, *Head Usher*
Linda Elrick and Sara Wilcoxson, *Welcomers*
Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher*

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