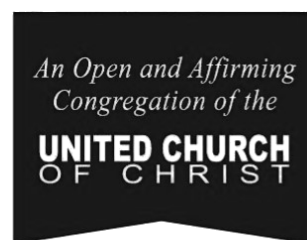




38 South Winooski Avenue  
Burlington, Vermont



firstchurchburlington.org

**December 24, 2022  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
of Lessons and Carols  
7:00 pm**

*(Bring a candle to experience candlelight in this worship.)*

*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.*

**GATHERING MUSIC** Tim Berger and Paul Hobbs, trumpets

**PRELUDE** Nate Pultorak, dulcimer

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP** The Rev. Elissa C. Johnk

Call: Here, we know

**Response: Darkness is a gift.**

**\*LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE** The Hobbs Family

One: Living God, Christ Mystery, Spirit of Love,  
we give you thanks for this time when we can sense your presence.

**All: As we take in all the ways your presence is illuminated this night,  
we ask that we might be a reflection of this light,  
expanding the sacred presence you have promised  
into the sacred presence we can offer to a world in need. Amen.**

**\*OPENING CAROL** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* #132, Vv. 1-3 PH

**FIRST LESSON** Isaiah 7:14, 9:6, 60:1-3 Dawn Plante  
*The Messiah's Birth is Foretold by Isaiah*

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**CAROL** *Once in Royal David's City* #145 NCH  
Asa Jorgenson, soloist  
*Please join us in singing verses 3-5*

**SECOND LESSON** Luke 1:26-35, 38 Etta Grace  
*The Angel Gabriel Visits Mary*

**ANTHEM** *In the Bleak Midwinter* *text C. Rosetti arr. Holst*  
Emy Berger, flute

**THIRD LESSON** Luke 2:1-7 Charlie Church  
*The Birth of the Babe in Bethlehem*

**ANTHEM** *A Place to Keep Your Son* *arr. Matt Corl*

**FOURTH LESSON** Luke 2:8-14 Magnus Grace  
*An Angel Tells the Shepherds of the Birth*

**\*CAROL** *The First Nowell* #139 Vv. 1-2 NCH

**FIFTH LESSON**

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

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Sweet Little Jesus Boy* Robert MacGimsey  
Rev. Bill Neil, soloist

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* arr. Barbara B. Kinyon  
Austin Handbell Choir

*You are invited to offer monetary gifts to the FCCB Christmas Offering –  
which will be tithed to the Vermont UCC Conference's Hope Fund -  
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*

**\*SONG OF DEDICATION**

*What Child is This?*

#148 NCH

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 light for all of us.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Word of time eternal.

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**FINAL LESSON**

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

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*O Holy Night* Adolphe Adam  
Kristen Elder-Connors, soloist

**WITNESSING TO THE LIGHT**

*Experience the light of the Christ with a candle wherever you are.*

**\*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 PH

**POSTLUDE**

*I Saw Three Ships*

arr. Page

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

Special thanks to our guest musician this evening, Nate Pultorak.  
Portions of this service were written by the Worship Design Studio,  
Rev. Marcia McFee and Mark Burrows.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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*

Baki Nelson, Mark Oettinger, Becky Levasseur, Steve Fuchs, Sherrie Fuchs,  
Al Weldon, Joyce Weldon, Linda Elrick, Dawn Plante, and Tony Hall, *Ushers*  
Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher*

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