

*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 11, 2022**

*Third 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**

*Menuet No. 60*

arr. Danish String Quartet

*Online worshipers (live stream) are invited to greet the congregation by writing your name in the YouTube chat.*

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

The Rev. Elissa Johnk

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*People Look East*

(See Insert)

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE (JOY)**

The MacDonald/Browne Family

**\*INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

One: Living God, Christ Mystery, Spirit of Joy,  
we give you thanks for this holy space for gathering.

All: **As we take in the joy you offer, may we be a reflection of your light,  
expanding the sacred space of "right here"  
into the sacred place of "everywhere."**

One: All of this we pray, using the words Jesus taught us:

All: **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.**

**\*PASSING THE JOY**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

From Isaiah  
Luke 1:46b-55

Nancy McClellan

**WORD OF GOD FOR (SM) ALL AGES**

**MEDITATION**

**MUSICAL MEDITATION** *The Lord Shall Come and Not be Slow* arr. Z. Highben

**CALL TO THE OFFERING AND OFFERTORY** *I Wonder as I Wander*

*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*

**\*SONG OF PRAISE**

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

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### ORATORIO DE NOEL, OP. 12

*Camille Saint-Saëns*

#### 1. Prelude

**2. Recitativ and chorus** Et pastores errant, in regione eadem vigilantes, et custodientes vigiliis noctis supra gregem suum. Et ecce Angelus Domini stetit iuxta illos, et claritas Dei circumfulsit illos, et timuerunt timore magno. Et dixit illis angelus: Nolite timere! Ecce enim evangelizo vobis gaudium magnum, quot erit omni populo: quia natus est vobis hodie Christus Dominus in civitate David. Et hoc vobis signum: Invenietis infantem pannis involutum, et positum in praesepio. Et subito facta est cum Angelo multitudo militiae caelestis, laudantium Deum, et dicentium: Gloria in altissimis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.

**3. Aria** Expectans expectavi Dominum; et intendit mihi.

**4. Aria and Chorus** Domine, ego credidi, quia tu es Christus, filius Dei visi. Qui in nunc mundum venisti.

**5. Duo** Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini! Deus Dominus, et illuxit nobis. Deus meus es tu, et confitebor tibi. Deus meus es tu, et exaltabo te.

**6. Chorus** Quare fremuerunt gentes? Et populi meditare sunt inania? Gloria Patri, gloria Filio, gloria Spiritui Sancto! Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

**7. Trio** Tecum principium in die virtutis tuae. Tecum principium in splendoribus Sanctorum.

**8. Quartet** Alleluja. Laudate, coeli, et exulta, terra, quia consolatus est Dominus populum suum; et pauperum suorum miserebitur.

**9. Quintet and Chorus** Consurge, Filia Sion. Alleluja. Lauda in nocte, in principio vigiliarum. Alleluja. Egrediatur ut splendor Justus Sion, et Salvatore jus ut lampas accendatur. Alleluja.

**10. Chorus** Tollite hostias, et adorate Dominum in atrio sancto eius. Laetentur coeli, et exultet terra a facie Domini, quoniam venit. Alleluja.

And in the same region there were shepherds keeping vigil and watching their flocks by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood beside them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them: Be not afraid! For behold, I will bring you glad tidings of great joy which will be for all people; for to you is born today Christ the Lord in the City of David. And this shall be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all of goodwill. (Lk 2:8-14)

Patiently have I waited for the Lord. And lo! he heard my cry. (Psalm 40:1)

In my heart I believe, O Lord, that thou indeed art Christ, Son of the living God, who has come into this world. (John 11:27)

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. God is the Lord and has given us light. You are my God, and I shall trust in you. You are my God, and I will exalt you. (Mt 21:9, Ps 118:26-28)

Why do the heathens rage? And the people think vain thoughts? Glory to the Father, glory to the Son, glory to the Holy Spirit! As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. (Ps 3:1; old church hymn)

With you is sovereignty in the splendor of holiness on the day of your birth. (Ps 110:3)

Alleluia, you heavens sing praises, be joyful, O earth. For the Lord has comforted his people and will have mercy on his poor. (Is 49:13)

Rise, you daughter of Zion. Alleluia. Praise at night, at the beginning of the night watch. Alleluia. May the Righteous One go out from Zion in splendor, may its Savior shine like a lamp. Alleluia. (Ps 119:148, 37:6)

Bring offerings and worship the Lord in his holy habitation. Let the heavens rejoice and the earth exult in the presence of the Lord, for he has come. Alleluia. (Ps 96:8-13)

## \*BENEDICTION AND BIDDING TO MISSION

POSTLUDE

*Come O Long Expected Jesus*

arr. Manz

*\*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>

### 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 flowers this morning were given by Kay and Richard Ryder in celebration of their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

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

### 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 and Caroline Crawford, *Head Ushers*

Jennifer Jorgenson and Bob Wolf, *Welcomers*

Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher*

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