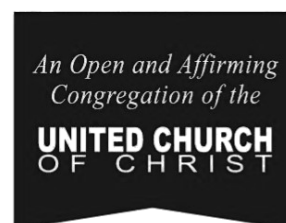




38 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont



firstchurchburlington.org

December 24, 2022
Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
of Lessons and Carols
4:30 pm

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 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* Aven Jorgenson
Silent Night Ella Baker

INTROIT *Once in Royal David's City* Asa Jorgenson

CALL TO PURPOSE Jason Vanderlaan, Aven Jorgenson & Tara Brown
by Quinn Caldwell, adapted

One: If you came to this place expecting a tame story, you came to the wrong place. [...] and a God who would choose to give up power and invincibility to become an infant for us, certainly didn't do it just so we could have dinner.

All: We came because we think that unwed teenage mothers are some of the strongest people in the world.

One: We came because we think there are wise men and women [...] made them the first witnesses to the saving of the world.

All: We came for a story of reversals that might end up reversing us.

One: We came for a tale of adventure and bravery, [...] too much to leave us unchanged.

All: We came to follow the light, even if it blinds us.

One: We came for salvation, and not safety.

All: We came to see the light in ourselves.

One: Then, my friends, you are in precisely the right place.

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

WORDS OF WELCOME The Rev. Elissa Johnk

***LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE** Brian McDonald, Caroline Crawford
Carl & Elizabeth

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.**

***CAROL** *On Christmas Night All Christians Sing* #143, Vv. 1,3 NCH

WORD OF GOD FOR (SM)ALL AGES

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

***CAROL** *Away in a Manger* #124, Vv. 1,3 NCH

SECOND LESSON	From Luke 2:8-14 <i>An Angel Tells the Shepherds of the Birth</i>	Ellen Pine
ANTHEM	<i>Prepare Ye</i> Children's Choir	
THIRD LESSON	From Luke 2:15-20 <i>The Shepherds Travel to the Manger</i>	Ayanna Harlow
*CAROL	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	#120, Vv. 1-2 PH
FOURTH LESSON	From Matthew 2:1-12 <i>The Astrologers Are Sent by Herod</i>	Simon Jorgenson

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.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

WITNESSING TO THE LIGHT Jack Lynch
The light of the Christ candle will be brought to you. Tip your unlit candle to receive the light. Hold your lighted candle upright to prevent spilling the hot wax. Children under 9 are invited to hold a candle in company with their guardian. 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 PH

POSTLUDE

So This is Christmas

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Welcome to First Congregational Church in Burlington. 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, Paul Hobbs, Caroline Crawford, Brian McDonald,
Elizabeth Crawford, Carl Crawford, Bill Neil, and Faith Neil, *Ushers*
Jennifer Jorgenson, *Welcomer*
Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher*

Portions of this service were written by the Worship Design Studio,
Rev. Marcia McFee and Mark Burrows

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