

Homesick—First Sunday of Advent
November 28, 2021
#BiggerBalcony



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 28, 2021

10:00 am

For those worshipping in person, please note that we're asking no singing or humming, keep masks on, and stay distanced between households

#BiggerBalcony

As we begin Advent with the "Little Apocalypse" in Luke 21, we remember how far from home we are. The world is not as it should be. Many have lost their physical homes, many feel alone, and many are isolated. Many of us feel as if we are wandering with no clear way forward. This first week speaks to our deep longing—for our home to be made whole, made right, and made well. With deep longing, we watch for God. Thankfully, God enters a homesick world.

~ Lisle Gwynn Garrity, A Sanctified Art

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sharon Benton

RINGING THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

Scout Mitchell

One Voice: Can one be homesick for something you've never known?

All Voices: **We are homesick for a just world,
for peace like rivers,
for the end of suffering.**

One Voice: Yes, we are homesick—

All Voices: **for joy that is contagious,
for nations that feel like neighbors,
and for hospitals that run empty.**

One Voice: We are homesick for the world God promises.

All Voices: **We are homesick, but we are on our way.
God is here. God is still creating.
Let us light the candles of Advent and worship Holy God.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

"Hope"

Scribner/Greene Family

We hope for a world where all are fed.

We hope for a world with more bridges than walls.

We hope for a world with wide open doors.

We hope for a world with contagious laughter.

We hope for a world where trees grow tall and creeks run clean.

We hope for a world where all people feel at home—
in their bodies, in the church, in their physical homes.

We hope for that world.

We long for that world.

We are homesick for that world.

So today we light the candle of hope, because hope keeps our hearts alive as we wait.

May this light be a reminder that the wait is always worth it.

We are close to home. May we carry hope with us.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Meril Davenport

Tune: Greensleeves, words by Rev. Scott Cervas (alt.)

*We light the flames this time of year to fill our world with meaning;
Our hearts and minds are longing for the life of which you are dreaming.
This, this, our gift we bring, our lives we share, your praise we sing.
Show us your vision, God, for hope, and peace, and caring.*

MUSICAL MEDITATION

"Wherever You Are"

Barnaby Bright

Close to Home recorded resource

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Davi Weasley

The Prayer of Jesus

*We invite you to use the language for God that is most comfortable for you:
"Our Creator," "Our Father" or "Our Mother."*

Our Creator

**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 and ever. *Amen.*

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Judy Widrig

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 21:25-36
Common English Bible

Scout Mitchell

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Scout Mitchell

One: For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us:

All: Thanks be to God.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Susan Huffman

SERMON

“Homesick”

Sharon Benton

HYMN

“See Fig Leaves Now Sprouting”
Text by Anna Strickland @Sanctified Art

Meril Davenport

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Scout Mitchell

*There are several options for giving: 1) Give at our website, <https://fccb.net/giving/>.
2) Mail checks to First Congregational Church, 2401 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225. 3) Use the GivePlus app. Download from your app store, set up an account, and give!
4) Give by text. Text a dollar amount to 208-516-2657, and set up your account. You're ready for easy giving by text! 5) Give by PayPal. Our easy link is [PayPal.Me/fccbucc](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/?x=1&source=merchot).*

Offertory

Judy Widrig

BENEDICTION

Davi Weasley

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig

Let us know you're here! Go to Worship Connect <http://tiny.cc/worshipconnect> to sign in.

ADVENT 2021

11.28 HOMESICK

12.5 LAYING THE FOUNDATION

12.12 A HOME FOR ALL

12.19 SEEKING SANCTUARY

12.24 INVITED HOME – 5 PM

12.24 BY CANDLELIGHT – 11:30 PM

12.26 CHOSEN HOME

Hybrid Services–
In Person and on Facebook

More info at www.fccb.net

Cover Image: “Awake to Wonder” by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity. Inspired by Luke 21:25-36. Digital painting with collage. Artist’s Statement excerpt: *When I began this series of visuals, I printed an architectural blueprint on a large piece of cardstock. Using acrylic paint, I added fluid strokes of blue, obscuring the white lines in the blueprint so that the plans for building a home would appear present but also blurred and concealed. I added hints of gold leaf, trying to emulate the texture of paint peeling from the exterior of a building. I then shifted to digital media, photographing the painting from a number of angles and then drawing figures and details into my compositions with my stylus and iPad. As I began this particular image, I imagined a scene of chaos and apocalypse. However, as I drew a woman lifting her head and reaching for the fig tree, I began to see a vision of beauty and hope, a glimpse of one’s whole being awake to wonder.* © a sanctified art, sanctifiedart.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have returned to hybrid worship (in person & online). To be as welcoming and inclusive as possible, we are not requiring proof of vaccination. We trust the members of our community to take appropriate care of each other and encourage all who can to be vaccinated.

Precautions:

- Masks required
- Distancing practiced
- Windows will be open, so dress warmly
- Sign in for contact tracing
- If you wake up feeling even a little under the weather, join us at home on Facebook Live.

WORSHIP:

- **Sundays, 10:00 am**—Worship on Facebook Live, our #BiggerBalcony

WAYS TO CONNECT: For more information about these and other groups and activities, contact office@fccb.net.

- **Monday**
 - ◆ Poetry Writing Group: **1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:00 pm**
 - ◆ Happy Hour: **1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:30-8:30 pm**
- **Tuesday**
 - ◆ Advent Study, **9:30 am**
- **Wednesday**
 - ◆ Adult Forum: **weekly, 7:00 pm**
- **Thursday**
 - ◆ Evening Book Club, **6:30 pm weekly**
- **Friday**
 - ◆ Afternoon Coffee Group: **2nd & 4th Friday, at 1:00 pm**
 - ◆ Knitting Group, **Fridays, 10:00 am**
 - ◆ Spirit Group (Exploring Prayer), **Fridays, 6:30 pm**
- **Saturday**
 - ◆ Creative Connections, **1st Saturdays, 10:00 am**
- **Sunday**
 - ◆ Advent Conversations **Sundays, 11:15 am**

To stay up to date, follow us on social media, subscribe to our Friday Email, or check in with our Full Circle Blog, <https://www.fccb.net/blog/>.

Open and Affirming (ONA): As an Open and Affirming congregation believing in a loving God, all people are welcome in this church without regard to gender, race, ethnicity, economic or social status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

We Try To Use Language which will help people feel included in our worship. Since not everyone is comfortable with the same language, we invite you to amend the words of the service as we sing and pray if they do not adequately express your faith. We invite you to assist us in creating new expressions of our common faith and life together.

Technical Support: If you need help streaming our worship services or connecting in other ways, please let us know.

APPOINTMENTS WITH PASTORAL STAFF

Pastoral staff are available by appointment virtually or in person, with masks. Contact them by email or call the pastoral care line, 360-733-4255

Sharon: sharon@fccb.net

Davi: davi@fccb.net

You can also email our Office Manager Cydne at office@fccb.net and she'll pass your message on.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH United Church of Christ

An Open & Affirming Congregation

2401 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225

Church Office: 360-734-3720

24/7 Emergency Pastoral Care: 360-733-4255

office@fccb.net • www.fccb.net

Facebook: facebook.com/fccbucc

Twitter: @BhamUCC

Office Hours: 9:00 am-5:00 pm

LEAD PASTOR: Sharon Benton

PASTOR FOR YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS,

& MISSION: Davi Weasley

INTERIM MINISTERS OF FAITH FORMATION:

Ted & Susan Huffman

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Lucy Bledig

ORGANIST: Judy Widrig

WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR:

Skyler Spain

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Lisa Harbine

ACCOUNTANT: Erin Kennedy

OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE: Kurt Aagard

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE:

Alanna Steele

HEALTH MINISTER: Carol Nicolay

MODERATOR: Bill Henkel

VICE MODERATOR: Beth Tyne

PAST MODERATOR: Caryl Dunavan

CLERK: Janet Malley

TREASURER: Laurie Hoyt

HISTORIAN: Stacy Miller

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