

**SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, U.C.C.
BENNINGTON, VERMONT**

Sunday January 23, 2022
3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Rev. D. Mark Blank, Pastor
Matt Edwards, Music Director
Bonnie Holden, Liturgist



Announcements & Celebrations

Prelude

Welcome

One: Whoever you are, or wherever you are on life's journey,
All: **You are welcome here!**

Call to Worship

One: God built the heavens, the earth, and everything in them.
Many: **God calls us to be builders as well.**
One: God calls us to build our lives:
Many: **to restore broken places and continue to grow.**
One: God calls us to build our community:
Many: **to build bridges of understanding and systems of justice.**
One: God calls us to build history by fulfilling the promises of Scripture:
Many: **to preach the good news of God's love and liberation for all people.**

Opening Prayer

***Hymn #461**

God is Here

Call to Yearning

Prayer of Yearning (unison)

Holy One, we often forget to rejoice in the gift of each new day. We close our ears to the voices of rivers and streams— voices that sing your praises day and night. We close our eyes to the need of our neighbors, and refuse to see their suffering and pain. We close our hearts to your proclamations of hope and freedom— proclamations of good news and release for all who live in oppression and fear. Forgive us when we keep your good gifts closed tightly in our own fists.

Assurance of Grace

Hymn of Praise #481 *Praise the Lord, God's Glories Show (verse 2)*
Earth to heaven and heaven to earth; Alleluia! Tell the wonders, sing God's worth; Alleluia!
Age to age and shore to shore; Alleluia! Praise God, praise forevermore. Alleluia!

Hosanna: A Moment for Social Justice

Choir Anthem *River in Judea* Feldman/Leavitt

Scripture Readings

Sermon

***Hymn #467** *How Great Thou Art*

Prayers of the People

Our Lord's Prayer (unison)

Offertory

***Doxology #592**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***Blessing Our Offerings**

***Hymn #440** *In Christ There is No East or West*

Our Commission (unison)

Benediction

Postlude

*please rise in body and/or spirit

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Welcome to Second Congregational Church! We are an Open and Affirming, Green Justice Congregation of the United Church of Christ. We welcome to our worship and to our membership all people of faith, or in search of faith, without regard to age, race, gender, economic condition, ability, sexual identity, gender identity, or citizenship; and we affirm all persons beloved children of God. We invite all to share in the worship, full life, leadership, and employment opportunities of the church.

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