

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

Sunday November 28, 2021
First Sunday of Advent

Rev. D. Mark Blank, Pastor
Matt Edwards, Music Director
Barbara True-Weber, Liturgist



Announcements & Celebrations

Prelude

Welcome

One: Whoever you are, or wherever you are on life's journey,

All: You are welcome here!

Blessing the Child in All of Us

Call to Worship

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

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

One: Yes, we are homesick—

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

One: We are homesick for the world God promises.

Many: We are homesick, but we are on our way.

One: God is here. God is still creating.

Many: Let us worship Holy God.

Advent Candle Lighting

Mary & Bruce Lee-Clark

Call to Yearning

Prayer of Yearning (*unison*)

Gracious God, we find ourselves with two options every day— to stay homesick for the world you had in mind, or to allow cynicism to win. Do we hope against hope, or do we throw in the towel? Do we insist on a better world, or do we assume it's impossible? Forgive us for the days when cynicism wins. Forgive us for numbing our homesick hurt instead of using it to fuel a better world. Kindle in us a hope that won't let go. Gratefully we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Music

Hosanna: A Moment for Social Justice

Scripture Readings **Psalm 25:1-10**

Luke 21:25-36

Sermon

Burning Between Hope and Despair

Music

Sharing of Joys and Concerns for Neighbors Near and Far

Prayers of the People

Our Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

Blessing Our Offerings

Music

Our Commission (*unison*)

Benediction

Postlude



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.

Call to Worship, Candle Lighting Prayer, Prayer of Yearning, Prayer for Illumination, Intercessory Prayer, and Offering Prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed / A Sanctified Art LLC/ sanctifiedart.org.