

***Call to Worship**

One: Hope is gravity for the broken—
Many: Pulling us up.
One: Hope is manna in the wilderness
Many: When we want to give up.
One: Hope is seeing stars in the city
Many: When we forget the sky is there.
One: Hope is the anthem of faith
Many: And the reason we’re here.
One: So come to this place with your hopes and your fears,
Many: For the God of new life is drawing near.
One: Let us worship Holy God.

***Hymn #2** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*
Advent Candle Lighting The Johnson Family

Prayer of Yearning *(unison)*
Gracious God, You paint a picture of a better world—
A world of peace and joy, of equality and grace.
But we turn our heads and close our eyes,
Afraid that you might want us to help.
You ask us to be brave, and we are complacent.
You ask us to speak out, but instead we stay quiet.
You ask us to listen, and we assume we are the experts.
You lead with love, and we wait on the sidelines.
Forgive us for always being ten steps behind you.
Forgive us for all the ways we are works in progress.
Fill our hearts with a hope that won’t let go.
Gratefully we pray, Amen.

Assurance of Grace
Hymn of Praise *When God is a Child (verse 1)*
Hope is a star that shines in the night,
Leading us on till the morning is bright.
When God is a child, there’s joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong
and none shall be afraid.

Blessing the Child in All of Us

Choir Anthem
Scripture **Psalm 122**
Isaiah 2:1-5
Sermon Waking with Hope

***Hymn #20** *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*

Prayers of the People
Our Lord's Prayer *(unison)*

Sung Response *While We Are Waiting, Come*
While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Offertory

***Doxology**
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 #147 in Sing!** *Light of the World*

Our Commission *(unison)*
Go forth into the world in peace, be of good courage,
hold fast to that which is good, render to no one evil for evil,
strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak,
help the afflicted, honor all people, love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Benediction
Postlude

*Please rise in body and/or spirit.

EVENTS

- ✝ **Today following Worship** – *All Hands on Deck!!!* Snowball Bazaar transformation. Please help with packing and moving items so we can set up for the Bazaar!!!
- ✝ **Fellowship luncheon is Wednesday, Nov. 30th.**
- ✝ **Solo Piano Concert:** *The Interpretation of Christmas* by **Matt Edwards. 7pm, Sunday, December 4, 2022**, at Second Congregational Church. Donations are welcome at door. Front row seats reserved for silent auction bidders!
- ✝ **Sunday Supper today** at 4:30 pm.

If you have events for the bulletin, please email them to office@bennscc.org by Thursday morning at 10am. Thanks.



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 and Prayer of Yearning by *Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed / A Sanctified Art LLC/ sanctifiedart.org.*

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

Sunday November 27, 2022
1st Sunday of Advent

Rev. D. Mark Blank, Pastor
Lorna Cheriton, Liturgist

Matt Edwards, Music Director



Flowers provided by Norma McShane

**Announcements
Prelude**

Welcome and Introductions

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