

First Congregational Church of Berlin
Berlin Corners, Vermont
An inclusive, open & affirming church
Pastor Doug Cameron
Christopher McWilliams, Music Director

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

December 14, 2025 Third Sunday in Advent



WE GATHER TOGETHER

RINGING OF THE BELL / LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

PRELUDE *Carols of Celebration*, arr. Joseph M. Martin

Arthur Zorn, baritone; Maggie Sample, piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT *And Those Who Mourn with Heavy Hearts*, by Graham Kendrick

FCCB Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

L: In a world waiting for hope, in a creation longing for restoration, in communities still healing and hearts still hurting—

P: We come to worship the God who meets us in the waiting.

L: Today we light the candle of Joy—not because all is well, but because Christ is coming.

P: Joy shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

L: So let us lift our voices, open our hearts, and prepare room for the One who brings good news to the poor.

All: Come, Lord Jesus—bring joy in the meantime, hope in the hurting, and light to our world. Amen.

***HYMN** *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* **TWC #130**

*Those who are able may stand

INVOCATION (unison)

Gracious and coming God, on this Third Sunday of Advent we gather with longing in our hearts — longing for Your presence, Your peace, Your healing, and Your joy. As we worship You today, shine Your light upon our doubts and disappointments, just as You spoke gently to John in his waiting. Open our eyes to the signs of Your Kingdom among us: the small mercies, the quiet miracles, the moments where joy flickers like a candle in winter. Fill this sanctuary with Your Spirit. Warm our hearts with hope. And teach us once again to wait with trust, to walk with courage, and to rejoice in the One who is already among us. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Healer, our Joy, and our Coming King. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Sandra Touchette and Cheryl Poor

ANTHEM *African Advent Carol*, by Michael Barrett

FCCB Choir; Jordan Mensah, drums

WE LISTEN TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 11:2-11

pew Bible p. 792

***HYMN** *Long Ago, Prophets Knew* TWC #142

MESSAGE “Joy—Can We Find It?”

WE RESPOND TOGETHER

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (See also our Prayer List)

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER in song (TWC #632)

Our Father, which 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. Amen. Amen.

*Those who are able may stand

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*, arr. Raymond H. Haan

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS

PREPARING AND SHARING THE MEAL

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus, for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own.

Give us the fruits of this holy communion: oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

WE DEPART TO SERVE TOGETHER

***HYMN** *Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come* TWC #146

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Romanian Christmas Carols* Nos. 1-2 from First Series by Béla Bartók

The vision of First Congregational Church of Berlin is to be a friendly, inviting spiritual home that practices the deep caring of Jesus within the congregation and in the wider community.

**Please join us for coffee time following worship this morning,
held in the Parish Hall Community Room.**



*Those who are able may stand



IN OUR

Thoughts and Prayers



Joys: birthdays for Thanna A. and Anita (Petie) F., the Hudsons are back in Vermont currently

For FCCB family & friends: safe travels for Doug & Melanie D. (Barb's son & daughter-in-law), Dan H., Denise R., Melissa/"Bidey" W., Marilyn (Rick's sister), Paul in California, travelling mercies during the holidays, Ian L. with severe vertigo, and the whole Lacasse family, Nancy F.'s mother-in-law (Covid) and sister-in-law Susan, Kevin G., Arthur and Nancy Z., Brenda C., Shannon (Thanna's and Barbara's granddaughter), Donna C., Karen (Nancie's friend), Lesley, Eli, David O., Logan C., Donna T. & Peter H., Ray and Cindy C., Jordan's son, Yolanda, Pastor Doug's sister and niece.

For the loss of a loved one, the families of: Joh Gailmor, Virginia Collins, Bonnie Jalbert, Kathleen Clow, Peter Roux, Judith Hebert, Cheryl Markham.

For our members and friends in residential and independent care facilities: Jeanine, Jamin, Elaine, Anita, Sandy, Ann, Renata, Marvie, Toni, Sue, Steve

For our World: all military service people (especially on the anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor), food shelves & support services (and those who work there) as government funding continues to affect those services, victims of mass shootings, storms that surround our country and world, starvation in Gaza, Ukraine, homeless communities in VT, all those battling cancer, mental illness, domestic violence and substance abuse.

Announcements

- Choir rehearses at 1:00 pm on Wednesdays; no rehearsal on Dec. 24 & 31
- Bible Study meets on Thursdays at 6:00 pm at the church or on Zoom.

All poinsettia orders DUE TODAY. See Order Form for details.

Join Us on Zoom for worship: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89101553827>
Meeting ID: 891 0155 3827 Passcode: 1808 1-646-558-8656

*Those who are able may stand



Pastor Doug's Office Hours
Wednesdays, 10 am – 2 pm
Also available to visit in homes.

dougc9927@gmail.com

H: 802-276-3404 C: 802-356-0578



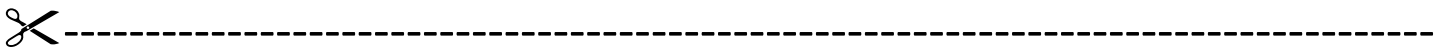
Many neighbors are experiencing food supply insecurity currently. Here are some ways YOU can help:

Donate money, gift cards, or food/supplies

Volunteer at food shelf or community kitchen

See hand-out on Narthex table for more information.

Want to know more about us? <https://fccbvt.org> or find us on Facebook!



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM \$10 each
(order by December 14)



YOUR NAME: _____ # of poinsettias: _____

IN HONOR OF:

IN MEMORY OF:

The poinsettias will grace the sanctuary through Christmas, and then you can take yours home or share with someone special.

Please tear off this stub and include with your order payment. Place in offering, mail, or give to our Treasurer, Rob Griffin. Thank you!

FCCB, PO Box 1157, Montpelier, VT 05601

*Those who are able may stand



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BERLIN

1808 Scott Hill Road, Berlin, VT 05602 ~ 802-229-0338

PO Box 1157, Montpelier, VT 05601

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." ☪ That they may all be one. ~ John 17:21

We love having all ages in worship! However, if any children get restless during the service, please feel free to visit our kids' corner in the church entry and enjoy some quiet activities.



DEACONS FUND

An anonymous monetary collection to financially and confidentially help members of the church and community when emergency needs are made known to a member of the Deacons Fund Committee or the minister. *(see envelope in pew)*

*Those who are able may stand