

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 7, 2025 Second Sunday in Advent



WE GATHER TOGETHER

RINGING OF THE BELL / LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

PRELUDE *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*, arr. Calvin Hampton

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT *He Comes the Broken Hearts to Heal*, by Graham Kendrick **FCCB Choir**

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

L: A shoot shall come forth from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of old roots.

P: We come to worship the God who brings life out of what looks dead.

L: The God of hope fills His people with joy and peace in believing.

P: We gather to be renewed by His promises and united by His love.

L: Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight the paths for our God.

P: We open our hearts to the One who comes to plant new life within us.

All: Come, Lord Jesus—grow in us hope that transforms the world. Amen.

***HYMN** *Christ is Coming* **TWC #271**

INVOCATION (unison)

Gracious and mighty God, You are the One who brings life from the stump and hope from places that feel cut down. You are the God who gathers people from every place and every story into one family through Your Son, Jesus Christ.

And You are the God who sends Your Spirit to prepare our hearts, to refine us,

**Those who are able may stand*

and to make us new. As we enter this time of worship, open our eyes to the hope You are growing, open our arms to the unity You are creating, and open our hearts to the transformation You desire. Plant Your truth in us. Clear away whatever keeps us from Your life. And fill us with overflowing hope, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE **Heather & Jordan Mensah**

BLESSING OF OUR GIFTS Tatum's Totes Holiday Gift Drive

ANTHEM *Mary's Lullaby for the Christ Child*, by Kathy Wonson Eddy
FCCB Choir; Lotta Suter, violin

WE LISTEN TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 11:1-10	pew Bible p. 558
Romans 15:4-13	pew Bible p. 924
Matthew 3:1-12	pew Bible p. 784

***HYMN** *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee* **TWC #112**

MESSAGE "Scripture That Grows, Unites and Transforms"

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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Es ist ein' Ros' Entsprungen*, arr. Daniel Burton **Lotta Suter, violin**

*Those who are able may stand

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

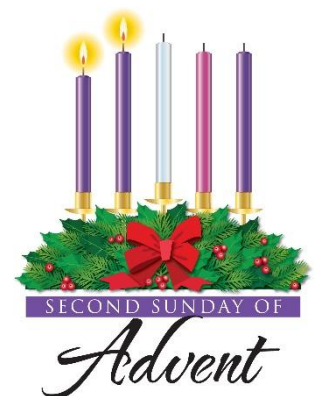
***HYMN** *King of Kings and Lord of Lords* TWC #110

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Chorus of Shepherds*, by Carl Reinecke

*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.**



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IN OUR

Thoughts and Prayers



Joys: safe travels; Dalton & Lexie C., Walter O.'s improving health

For FCCB family & friends: Denise R., Melissa/"Bidey" W., Marilyn (Rick's sister), Paul in California, travelling mercies during the holidays, Ian L. with severe vertigo, the Hudson family, Nancy F.'s mother-in-law (Covid) and sister-in-law Susan, Kevin G., Arthur and Nancy Z., Paul H. (Theresa's partner), Brenda C., Shannon (Thanna's and Barbara's granddaughter), Donna C., Andy & Carole & Ian L., Karen (Nancie's friend), Lesley, Eli, David O., Logan C., Donna and Peter, Ray and Cindy C., Dan H., Jordan's son, Yolanda, Pastor Doug's sister and niece.

For the loss of a loved one, the families of: 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: 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; 12:45 pm (TIME CHANGE for Dec. 10 ONLY)
- Bible Study meets on Thursdays at 6:00 pm at the church or on Zoom.
- Saturday, Dec. 13 – 4 pm An Enchanted Christmas Concert, presented by Christopher McWilliams and friends. Following the concert, please join our opening reception for "Fascinating Florals and More," a new exhibition of paintings by Arthur Zorn.

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

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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)*

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