



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST · BOULDER



Mary and Elizabeth - Painting in the Church of El Sitio, Suchitoto, El Salvador

Second Sunday of Advent
Words for the Beginning: Don't Go Alone
December 8, 2024 | 10:30 AM

1128 Pine Street Boulder CO 80302 | 303.442.1787 | www.firstcong.net

Welcome to The First Congregational Church Boulder, a community of faith on a journey of faith. Founded in 1864, the first church built in Boulder, we have been gathering ever since as a community of kindred hearts to worship, to learn and grow in the light of God's grace, to extend ourselves in compassionate service, and to be instruments of God's transformation in the world.

As a member congregation of the United Church of Christ, we believe "God is still speaking." We listen and open our lives to the movement of God's Spirit stirring us up in the new thing God is always doing in our midst. We trust as our Pilgrim forbears prayed, "There is yet more light and truth to break forth from God's holy word."

Our commitment to the extravagant love of Jesus makes the words, "All are Welcome," as inclusive as they sound. We are glad you are here: believers and agnostics, conventional Christians and questioning skeptics, people brimming with hope and those who wander in despair, people of all races, cultures, and abilities, of all gender identities and sexual orientations. Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

If you would like to donate **FLOWERS** for a special occasion or in honor or memory of a loved one for an upcoming Sunday service, please contact Anne Byrne 303-601-7671 (annebyrnehome@comcast.net).

We have a **HEARING LOOP SYSTEM** in the Sanctuary which sends sound directly into a hearing aid/cochlear implant. Switch your hearing aid to T-coil. Or, in both the Sanctuary and Chapel, pocket-sized FM receivers are also available from the ushers. BYO earbuds or use the new ones provided. **WHEELCHAIRS** are also available, please ask an usher for assistance.

Through **YOUR GIVING** online or in-person, you can count on the nurturing ministry of FCC Boulder Church. Each one of us plays an important part, including through our financial support.

MOBILE

Text JOY2GIVEFCC to 73256

ONLINE

www.firstcong.net/give

ENVELOPE

Cash or Check



STAFF

Rev. Christina Braudaway-Bauman *Senior Minister* | Rev. Linda Kowatch *Associate Minister*

Dr. Kajsja Teitelbaum *Director of Music* | Rev. Lianna Campos *Minister of Faith Formation*

Julie Griffiths *Office & Facilities Manager* | Christopher Carter *Communication Specialist*

Renee Loewen *Accountant* | Anne Martinez *Director of Children and Youth Music*

Jessica Kressin *Chancel Choir Accompanist* | Christine Teng *Youth Choirs Accompanist*

Angie Dickinson *Mickle AV and Event Specialist*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

J. Brahms

WELCOME

Rev. Christina Braudaway-Bauman

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

Rhonda and Olé Fadum

RESPONSE OF PRAISE

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, O Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
and help us in that way to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!*

*PASSING THE PEACE

*HYMN 107

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ONE: I have tried to make my own way.

I have tried to lace my own shoes, to build my own house, to kindle my own faith.

I have said a thousand times, "turn back," as if I am fine on my own.

But the days are long, and I am forgetful.

I need your help. Can you remind me?

ALL: We will remind you of this everlasting truth:

You are not alone.

Where you go, God goes.

You are held in grace.

Trust in this good news.

ONE: Thanks be to God! I remember. I believe.

ALL: Now we need your help.

We, too, have tried to make our own way.

We have tried to lace our own shoes, to build our own houses,

to kindle our own faiths.

We have said a thousand times, "turn back," as if we are fine on our own.

But the days are long and we are forgetful.

We need your help. Can you remind us?

ONE: I will remind you of this everlasting truth:

You are not alone.

Where you go, God goes.

You are held in grace.

Trust in this good news.

ALL: Thanks be to God! We remember. We believe. Alleluia! Amen.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Children and Youth may go with Lianna for Church School.

**The asterisk is an invitation to rise in body or spirit.*

SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Luke 1:39-46

SERMON

Words for the Beginning: Don't Go Alone

HYMN

Are You Lost?

Please remain seated.



1. Are you lost a - mong earth's peo - ples, wan - d'ring
2. Are you bruised by hurt and hard - ship, strained by
3. Are you hop - ing for a fu - ture that is
4. In our wil - der - ness of peo - ple let us



cold and all a - lone? Do you won - der
wrongs or racked by need? Do you tire of
bet - ter than our past? Are you yearn - ing
seek the com - mon good. In our dis - cord



if you're cher - ished? Do you won - der if you're
end - less wait - ing for the world to free and
for com - mun - ion where the first are wel - comed
and di - vi - sions hearts can still be un - der -



known? Love will bind us as a fi - ber,
feed? Love will join us as a bod - y
last? Love de - lights in all our diff - 'rence,
stood. Love is with us when we're work - ing,



washed and card - ed, spun and wound, knit to -
with the strength and means to mend; ev - 'ry
teach - ing jus - tice and re - spect, call - ing
turn - ing stran - gers in - to kin. Love in -



geth - er as a blan - ket, warmed and
mem - ber bears a treas - ure on which
souls and skills and pow - ers to re -
vites us and u - nites us to be



wel - comed, sought and found.
all of us de - pend.
pair and re - con - nect.
bet - ter than we've been.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Linda Kowatch

PRAYER OF JESUS

Ground of all Being,
Mother of Life,
Father of the universe,
Your name is sacred, beyond speaking.
May we know your presence,
may your longings be our longings in heart and in action.
May there be food for the human family today
and for the whole earth community.
Forgive us the falseness of what we have done
as we forgive those who are untrue to us.
Do not forsake us in our time of conflict,
but lead us into new beginnings.
For the light of life,
the vitality of life,
and the glory of life are yours now and forever.
Amen

Adaptation by
J. Philip Newell

INVITATION TO COMMUNITY LIFE

OFFERTORY

Gloria from Oratorio de Noël
Chancel Choir, Kajsja Teitelbaum organ

Saint Saëns (1835-1921)

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

*O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
love stir within the womb of night,
and death's own shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN

Light Dawns on a Weary World



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
 2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
 3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.

Refrain



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich BWV 605

J. S. Bach

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Our **Nursery** is open for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. You'll find rocking chairs in the back of our Sanctuary for parents of little ones, and our Heritage Room, down the hall, provides a space for caregivers to watch the service on a large screen while supervising those who like to roam or need a break.

Calling All Angels Shepherds and Magi - Christmas Pageant Sign- Up

At our 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship Service, our elementary children and youth will present the Christmas Pageant! To bring our Pageant to life, we need elementary-aged actors and middle school readers. We will have rehearsal on Sunday, December 22nd after worship from 12-2. If your children, grandchildren, or youth want to participate, please register here (<https://tinyurl.com/ye2y5uwa>)

HAPPENING TODAY

Alternative Gifts International Market - Sunday, 12/8 at 11:45 AM - Plymouth Hall

First Cong is hosting an AGI market to provide training, seeds, water pumps, and much more for the 30th year. The concept of alternative markets is the "gifting" of your support of good causes to people you care about. Two additional programs, Noor El-Salam schooling displaced Syrian children in Lebanon and the Kenya Education Fund, are also options. Stop by table during coffee hours in Advent to learn about this year's projects and to buy Fair-Trade chocolate, tea, and coffee. For important links and to read an article about AGI by Sherry Leach, visit <https://tinyurl.com/259xsy6z>.

Support Mindful Works - Sunday, 12/8 at 11:45 AM - Plymouth Hall

Our local mission partner, Mindful Works, will be selling hand-crafted creative gifts, including poufs, pillows, and other home décor, that make a difference in the lives of the program participants during coffee hours in Advent. Mindful Works provides empowering work to individuals striving to overcome obstacles due to mental health challenges. Every stitch a purpose! Visit <https://mindful-works.org>

Grief Group Christmas Offering - Today from Noon to 2:30 PM - Heritage Room

Join those in our ongoing "Spiritual Support Group for those in Grief" in a special group experience that will honor the difficult journey we face at Christmas time. For many, Christmas accentuates the already difficult feelings brought on by loss. The loss can be recent or in the near or far past, an anticipated loss for those supporting a loved one, or a loss of any another sort such as loss of health or home. We will call on a supportive community and God's help to navigate this difficult time. All are welcome. Contact Bill Forbes (wmforbes1@gmail.com) or Jean Manifesto (jam@jeanmanifesto.com)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Swedish Lucia Celebration at FCC - Friday, 12/13 at 6:00 PM - Sanctuary

Join us on Friday, December 13, for a traditional Swedish Lucia celebration in the sanctuary. Songs and instrumental music from Sweden, by our local Swedish population. Hosted by our own Director of Music, Kajsa Teitelbaum.

Adopt a Family for the Holidays with FLC - Bring Gifts by Friday, 12/13

Family Learning Center, 3164 34th St. Boulder 80301

Adopt a Family for the Holidays with the Family Learning Center. Help brighten the season for families facing challenges. Receive a wish list, bring gifts by Dec 13, or make a monetary donation for our Holiday Helpers to pick out gifts. Drop off gifts at the FLC weekdays 9 to 4 or bring them to the church office. Let's make a difference together! Contact L'Shawn Howard at shawnh@flcboulder.org.

Music Sunday - Sunday, 12/15 at 10:30 AM - Sanctuary

Invite friends and neighbors to join us! Music Sunday, is on December 15th at 10:30 AM presents Oratorio de Noël, by Camille Saint Saëns. Chancel and Children's Choirs, soloists, and orchestra. You can pick up a card or two at the church or share this share this digital invitation via email... <https://tinyurl.com/3re5nxjf>

Heartsaver First Aid CPR and AED Training - Monday, 12/16 from 6 – 10 PM - Grace Gallery

Join Kelly McDevitt from First Cong's Safety Team for this important emergency training, which include three hours of online learning and two hours of hands on skills. This American Heart Association course trains participants to provide First Aid, CPR, and use an automated external defibrillator (AED) in a safe, timely, and effective manner. There is a \$22 fee for the online learning component, but the rest is a gift to us from Kelly. Sign up to participate and to receive the link to the online learning course using the QR code.



Join Us and Be a Vital Part of Brunch Church! - Sunday, 12/29 at 10:30 AM - Plymouth Hall

We are eagerly seeking your support and participation. All individuals, regardless of age, are warmly invited to volunteer to make New Year's Eve Brunch Church a good worship experience for all. Sign up as an individual, family, or ministry/board. There are numerous ways you can contribute! Sign-up to set up, bake on Saturday, prep and serve on Sunday, or clean up afterwards. <https://tinyurl.com/bdxcfxvh>

Memorial Flower Fund: Poinsettias

Support the Memorial Flower Fund with donations in your loved one's name. The Fund provides a table arrangement for the first three Sundays of Advent and poinsettias for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve as well as flowers for the chancel on other Sundays. The minimum suggested donation is \$20. Names of those being remembered or honored this Advent will be printed in the bulletin on Sunday, December 22. The deadline to receive donations is Monday, December 16. Please put a memo for Flower Fund on your check, or visit (<https://tinyurl.com/memorial-flower>)

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Advent Gatherings

Join Rev. Lianna Campos for reflection and discussion during Advent:

- Sundays, Dec. 8, 15, & 22 at 9:15 AM (Standish Room)
- Tuesdays, Dec. 3, 10, & 17, 6:30–8 PM (Zoom)

Advent Devotionals

Explore Scripture, art, and reflections on Words for the Beginning. Print copies are available in the Link or online.

Advent Gift Bags

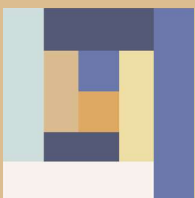
Pick up your candles, activity cards, and calendars to enrich your Advent journey through daily words, prayers, and actions.

Advent Photo-a-Day 2024

Share and reflect through daily photo prompts in our Facebook group. Post your photos inspired by daily devotional words or pick up a printed list in the narthex. Join the group online.

Advent Quilt Design Bookmarks

Collect weekly bookmarks in the Link, featuring quilt designs from our Advent devotional prepared by the Board of Spiritual Life. Enjoy coloring them to enhance focus and relaxation on your Advent journey.



WE CAN'T GO ALONE This quilt square design is called a "log cabin", and is meant to symbolize that together we can hold one another up and make something greater.