

Healing in the Wilderness
September 20, 2020
#BiggerBalcony



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 20, 2020 10:00 am
#BiggerBalcony

PRELUDE

“Novellette in E Minor”
by Francis Poulenc

Alia Kerr

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sharon Benton & David Weasley

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: There’s so much to fear in the wilderness.

All: Heal us God, here in our wilderness.

One: Give us courage when we need to face our fears.

All: Heal us God, here in our wilderness.

One: Give us wisdom in discerning what seems like a threat
and what can actually harm us.

All: Heal us God, here in our wilderness.

One: Give us leaders who will tell the truth, give us places to renew and refresh.

All: Heal us God, here in our wilderness.

One: In the midst of our racism, in the midst of our panic,
in the midst of our confusion

All: Heal us God, here in our wilderness.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Sharon Benton

OFFERING INVITATION

*Pledging and special offerings are how we continue the significant ministries
that support all of us in this congregation and out into the world.*

*There are several options for giving: 1) Mail checks to First Congregational Church, 2401
Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225. 2) Give at our website, <https://fcb.net/giving/>.
3) Use the GivePlus app. Download from your app store, set up an account, and give!
4) Give by text. Text a dollar amount to 208-516-2657, and set up your account. You're ready
for easy giving by text! 5) Give by PayPal. Our easy link is [PayPal.Mefcbbucc](https://www.paypal.com/mefcbbucc).*

DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Numbers 21: 1-9

New Revised Standard Version

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

One: For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us:

All: **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

“Look at the Snake: Terror and Transformation”

David Weasley

HYMN**“To Us All, To Every Nation”**

EBENEZER

by James Russell Lowell, 1845; adapt. W. Garrett Horder, alt.

Music by Thomas J. Williams, 1890

1. *To us all, to every nation
Comes the moment to decide,
In the strife of truth with falsehood
For the good or evil side;*
- Some great cause, God's new inviting,
Offering each the bloom or blight,
And the choice goes by forever
'twixt that loving and that fright*
2. *By the light of burning martyrs,
Jesus' bleeding feet we track,
Toiling up new Calvaries ever
With the cross that turns not back*
- New occasions teach new duties,
Time makes ancient good uncouth
They must upward still and onward
Who would keep abreast of truth*
3. *Though the cause of evil prosper
Yet the truth alone is strong
Truth forever on the gallows
And upon the throne be wrong*
- Yet that gallows sways the future
And behind the dim unknown
God is standing in the shadows
Keeping watch above her own.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharon Benton

The Prayer of Jesus*We invite you to use the language for God that is most comfortable for you:**“Our Creator,” “Our Father” or “Our Mother.”***Our Creator****who 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 and ever. Amen.**

MUSICAL RESPONSE

“Thuma Mina”

Contributors: Iona Community. Tune: Tr. from Dumazweni by Bell;

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Thuma mina, thuma mina, thuma mina somandla. x2

Send me Jesus, send me Jesus, send me Jesus, send me Lord. x2

We're together, we're together, we're together, near and far. x2

Thuma mina, thuma mina, thuma mina somandla. x2

BENEDICTION

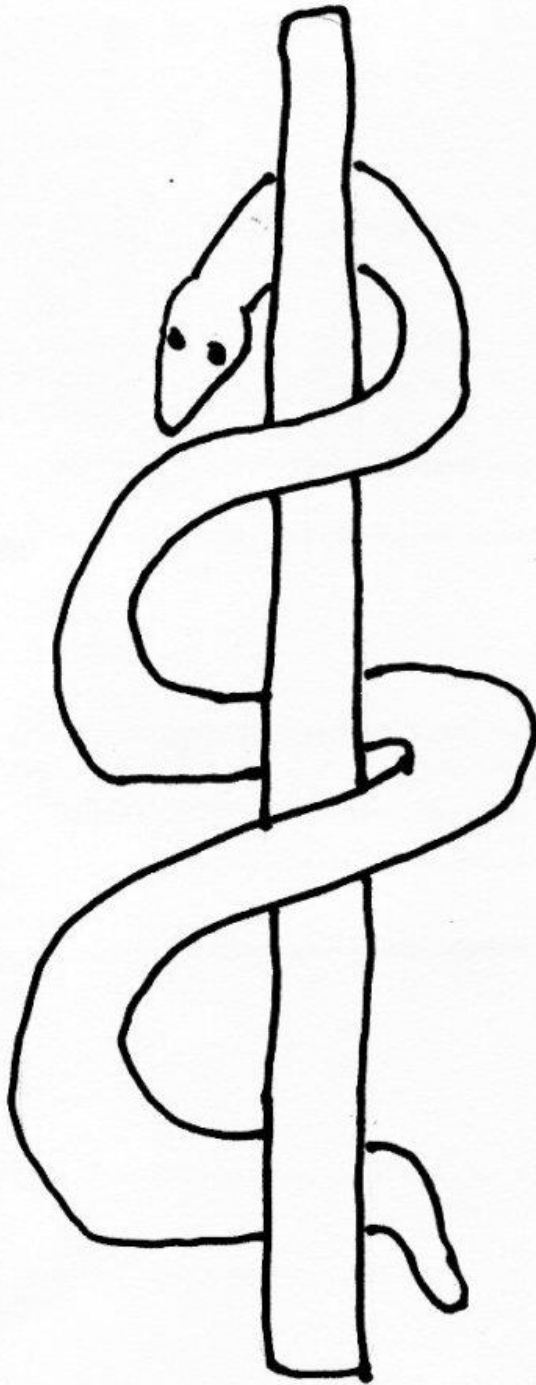
Sharon Benton

POSTLUDE

“Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum”

Judy Widrig

by Claude Debussy



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS: We're not in the Sanctuary but we're still praying. Use the Contact form on our website, <https://fccb.net/contact-us/>, to send your requests.

FAMILY PROMISE September 28-October 4: You can share love with families experiencing homelessness with a home-cooked or comforting takeout meal. Go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F084BA8AA28A6F85-family1> to sign up.

BACK TO SCHOOL YOUTH/PARENT GATHERING, today, 3:00 pm: This will be a great opportunity for youth and parents to gather and share ideas for being community together in such a strange time! Contact Pastor David for the Zoom link.

FULL CIRCLE BLOG: Do you know about our blog? Visit <https://www.fccb.net/blog/> to see what you've been missing. And keep your eyes open next week for something completely different!

WORSHIP:

- **Sundays, 10:00 am**—Worship on Facebook Live. #BiggerBalcony

WAYS TO CONNECT: For more information about these and other groups and activities, contact office@fccb.net.

• Tuesday

- Book Club, **First Tuesday of the month, 9:30 am**
- Bible Study for Everyone—Moses Edition, **Tuesdays 9:00-10:00 am**. The reading for **September 22** is **Exodus 20:1-4,7-9,12-20**.

• Wednesday

- Adult Forums, **6:30 pm**. September Topic: Authors In Our Congregation
- Faith Formation for Children & Youth, 6:30 pm. *Six Vital Themes of Our Faith*

• Thursday

- Pastor David Virtual Office Hours, **September 10, 12:00 noon-2:00 pm**.
- Poetry Writing Group, **1:00 pm, 2nd and 4th Thursday**
- Evening Book Club, **6:30 pm weekly**

• Friday

- Knitting Group, **Fridays, 10:00 am**
- Coffee Hour, **2nd & 4th Fridays. 1:00 pm**

• Saturday

- Create & Check In, **every other Saturday, 10:00 am**

To stay up to date, follow us on social media, subscribe to our Friday Email, or check in with our Full Circle Blog, <https://www.fccb.net/blog/>.

Open and Affirming (ONA): As an Open and Affirming congregation believing in a loving God, all people are welcome in this church without regard to gender, race, ethnicity, economic or social status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

We Try To Use Language which will help people feel included in our worship. Since not everyone is comfortable with the same language, we invite you to amend the words of the service as we sing and pray if they do not adequately express your faith. We invite you to assist us in creating new expressions of our common faith and life together.

Technical Support: If you need help streaming our worship services or connecting in other ways, please let us know.

VIRTUAL APPOINTMENTS WITH PASTORAL STAFF

In the before time, our pastoral staff were available by appointment. In COVID-19 time, they are available for virtual meetings by appointment. Contact them by email or call the pastoral care line, 360-733-4255

Sharon: sharon@fccb.net

David: david@fccb.net

Sharry: sharry@fccb.net

You can also email our Office Manager Cydne at office@fccb.net and she'll pass your message on.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH United Church of Christ

An Open & Affirming Congregation

2401 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225

Church Office: 360-734-3720

24/7 Emergency Pastoral Care: 360-733-4255

office@fccb.net • www.fccb.net

Facebook: facebook.com/fccbucc

Twitter: @BhamUCC

Office Hours: 9:00 am-5:00 pm

LEAD PASTOR: Sharon Benton

PASTOR FOR YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS,

& MISSION: David Weasley

MINISTER OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION:

Sharry Nyberg

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Lucy Bledig

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Lisa Vaughn

ORGANIST: Judy Widrig

HANDBELL CHOIR DIRECTOR: Allison Thomas

OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran

ACCOUNTANT: Renée Relin

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE: Kurt Aagard

CARE ADMIN. SUPPORT: Laura Norton

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE:

Alanna Steele

HEALTH MINISTER: Carol Nicolay

MODERATOR: Caryl Dunavan

VICE MODERATOR: Bill Henkel

PAST MODERATOR: Scout Mitchell

CLERK: Dorothy Shimer

TREASURER: Laurie Hoyt

HISTORIAN: Stacy Miller

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