

**Oil for Our Lamps**  
**November 8, 2020**  
**#BiggerBalcony**



**first**  **congregational**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
timeless worship + modern faith

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

November 8, 2020

10:00 am

#BiggerBalcony

*Please sign in to Worship Connect to let us know you're here!*

*<http://tiny.cc/worshipconnect>*

*"Empty and dark shall I raise my lantern, And the guardian of the night shall fill it with oil  
and he shall light it also." -Kahlil Gibran, The Prophet*

**PRELUDE**

*"String Quartet Op 96, First Movement"*

by Antonin Dvorak

Clara Kelly, Mia Kelly, Liam Connor, Roisin Connor

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Sharon Benton

**A READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 25:1-13

Amelia Bacon

New Revised Standard Version

**SCRIPTURE RESPONSE**

Amelia Bacon

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.**

**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

Sharon Benton

**INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP**

Creative Finance Team

Jen Sandoval

*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://fccb.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.Melfcbbucc](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https://www.fccb.net).*

*If you have not yet returned your pledge form for 2021, please do so to help us continue to Innovate Church and Sustain Community! Thank you.*

**OFFERTORY***"Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"*

Brian Rapp

**SERMON***"Oil for Our Lamps"*

David Weasley

## HYMN

## "Be Now My Vision"



1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;  
 2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,  
 4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,



noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—  
 ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;  
 you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
 may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!



You my best thought, by day or by night,  
 Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,  
 You and you on - ly are first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.  
 now and for - ev - er your child I will be.  
 great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

*Dating from the eighth century or earlier, this Irish hymn was translated into prose by Mary Byrne. It was then versified by Eleanor Hull, author of several books on Irish literature and history. David Evans arranged the Irish melody for this text in 1927.*

Tune: SLANE 10.10.9.10.

*Traditional Irish melody  
 Harm. David Evans, 1927*

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**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & SENDING PRAYER**

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.***

**BENEDICTION**

David Weasley

**POSTLUDE**

**“I Hear Them All”**

David Weasley

by David Todd Rawlings & Ketch Secor

Published by CAE/IPI, Blood Donor Music, Cracklin’ Music.

BMI Work # 8241639. Used under CCS #12615.

*Stay online for a few minutes to chat with the pastors and others.*



## 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.

**CONNECT ON OUR WEBSITE:** Our website has a lot of information and opportunities to connect. Go to <https://www.fccb.net/> and click on the **Connect** tab. There you'll find our Full Circle Blog, the Full Circle Forum, and the media page, with the video and audio of previous services. Find out what you may have been missing!

### 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](mailto:office@fccb.net).

- **Monday**
  - Poetry Writing Group: **1st & 3rd Mondays at 7:00 pm**
  - Happy Hour: **1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:30-8:30 pm**
- **Tuesday**
  - Book Club, **First Tuesday of the month, 9:30 am**
  - Bible Study for Everyone, **Tuesdays 9:00-10:00 am**. The reading for **November 15** is **Matthew 25:14-3**.
  - PJs & Storytime, **6:30 pm**
- **Wednesday**
  - Adult Forums, **6:30 pm**. October— Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community*.
  - Faith Formation for Children & Youth, **6:30 pm**. *Six Vital Themes of Our Faith*
- **Thursday**
  - Morning Coffee Group: **1st & 3rd Thursdays, 9:30 am**
  - Poetry Writing Group, **1:00 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday**
  - Evening Book Club, **6:30 pm weekly**
- **Friday**
  - Knitting Group, **Fridays, 10:00 am**
  - Mystery Book Club, **1st Friday, 1:00 pm**.
  - Coffee Hour, **2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:sharon@fccb.net)

David: [david@fccb.net](mailto:david@fccb.net)

Sharry: [sharry@fccb.net](mailto:sharry@fccb.net)

You can also email our Office Manager  
Cydne at [office@fccb.net](mailto: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](mailto:office@fccb.net) • [www.fccb.net](http://www.fccb.net)

Facebook: [facebook.com/fccbucc](https://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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