

**Again & Again, We Are Shown the Way**  
**March 7, 2021**  
**#BiggerBalcony**



**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

March 7, 2021

10:00 am

#BiggerBalcony

*Please sign in to Worship Connect to let us know you're here!*  
<http://tiny.cc/worshipconnect>

**PRELUDE**

"Impromptu No.2 in A Flat, Op.142"  
by Franz Schubert

Judy Widrig

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Sharon Benton

**A READING FROM THE POETS**

"Flipping the Tables"  
by Rev. Sarah Are

Stacy Malone -Miller

*I woke up and realized I was sitting at a table  
that oppression built.*

*The patriarchy made the food.*

*Cheap labor sewed the table cloth.*

*The guest list was exclusive.*

*Fear was the host.*

*So hold onto your silverware,*

*Because now that I see it,*

*I can't unsee.*

*This table is about to be flipped.*

*And the people seemed happy,*

*But the food tasted awful.*

*Because milk and honey*

*Are reserved for God's promised day.*

## HYMN

## "God of Grace &amp; God of Glory"

CWM RHONDDA



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
 2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the  
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that  
 5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;  
 Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—  
 your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,  
 they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,  
 we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.  
 in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.  
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

*Harry Emerson Fosdick, a prophetic preacher and writer, taught at Union Theological Seminary from 1915 to 1946. This hymn was written for the opening service and dedication of Riverside Church, New York City, which he served for twenty years.*

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.  
 John Hughes, c. 1907

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sharon Benton

God of Justice,  
We are guilty of building tables.  
We have built tables that oppression dines on,  
Sexism thrives on, and racism lives on.

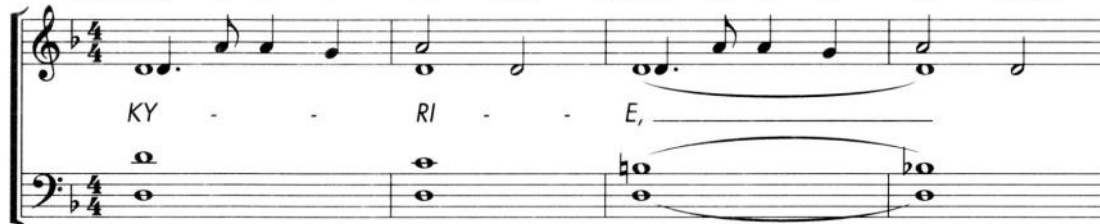
God of Justice,  
We are guilty of forgetting where we are,  
Of turning faith into a negotiation tool  
And the church into a place for insiders.

God of Justice,  
We are guilty of ignoring the point;  
For you taught that the temple was for worship  
And your message was for all.


God of our hearts,  
Be in our decision making.  
Draw near to our choices.  
Forgive our mistakes.  
And as you do,  
Flip every table, habit, belief, or point of view that needs adjusting.  
With hope we pray for a better day.

## KYRIE ELEISON


Cantor: Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. ALL: KY - RI - E E - LEI - SON.



Cantor: Chri - ste e - lei - son. ALL: CHRI - STE E - LEI - SON.



Cantor: Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. ALL: KY - RI - E E - LEI - SON.



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## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Sharon Benton

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

Matti Malone-Miller

- 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://fcfb.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.Me/fcbbucc](https://www.paypal.com/mefcbbucc).*

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

“I Choose Love”

by Mark A. Miller

First Congregational Church, Bellevue choir; Stephen O’Bent, director

Video used with permission. Song used under CCS #12615.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

John 2:13-22

Bert Malone-Miller

New Revised Standard Version

**SCRIPTURE RESPONSE**

Bert Malone-Miller

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.**

**SERMON**

“Again & Again, We Are Shown the Way”

Rev. Melissa St. Clair

*Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art:  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.*

*Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;  
I ever with Thee, and Thou with me, Lord;  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart  
Great God of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.*

*Great God of Heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun;  
Hear of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

*Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art:  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharry Nyberg

## 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.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

Sharon Benton

*Please gather something to eat and something to drink.  
Christ meets us wherever we are, whatever we bring.*

**BENEDICTION**

Sharon Benton

**POSTLUDE**

“No. 1 Larghetto” from Vier Flüchtige Stücke Op. 15  
by Clara Schumann

Judy Widrig



### **Guest Preacher**

*Rev. Melissa St. Clair is a United Church of Christ minister who has served Heart of the Rockies Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) since January 2013. She delights in the bike lanes, running paths, hiking trails, and the open-minded people in Fort Collins, CO where she lives. When they're not camping in the mountains, Melissa and her husband, Ben, reside in the home of their two cats and two rescue pups. Her Master of Divinity is from Eden Theological Seminary (St. Louis, MO).*



*Prayers & poetry by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)*



### **COVER IMAGE**

*Overtum*, by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity. Digital painting with collage inspired by John 2:13-22.

**Artist's Statement**, excerpt: *"In this image, I wanted to freeze-frame the destruction Jesus ignites, forcing us as viewers to focus on the process of dismantling and destroying an oppressive system. For those who willingly or unwillingly benefit from systems of oppression, it may feel threatening and terrifying to see them all come tumbling down. But for those held within the unrelenting grip of injustice, it must be completely and utterly liberating.*

*Again and again, Jesus shows us that his movement is about overturning systems of oppression to bring forth God's beloved community on earth. Again and again, liberation movements throughout history pursue this same goal. Will we join Jesus in the overturning, or like the disciples, question his methods?"*

**AGAIN & AGAIN**, history repeats, brokenness finds us, injustices persist. And yet, again & again, God sings a sacred refrain:

"I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair."

This Lent, we'll come to God again & again—with our full selves, with courage, with trust that God is paving a new way.

- Ash Wednesday - 2.17
- Palm Sunday - 3.28
- Maundy Thursday - 4.1
- Good Friday - 4.2
- Easter 4.4



#### LENT: 2.17-3.27.21

##### ASH WEDNESDAY

2.17.21 at 7 pm, on [Facebook Live](#)

##### LENTEN SUNDAYS

2.21.21-3.21.21 at 10 am on [Facebook Live](#)

##### LENTEN WEDNESDAYS

2.24.21-3.31.21, 6:30 pm—Adult Forum will discuss Entering the *Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week* by Amy-Jill Levine. Zoom meeting link will be in the weekly email.

##### LENTEN FRIDAYS:

2.19.21-3.26.21, 6:30 pm—Prayer Series, "Prayer: Living Our UCC Covenant." Zoom link in weekly email.

#### HOLY WEEK: 3.28-4.3.21

##### PALM SUNDAY

3.28.21 at 10 am on [Facebook Live](#)

##### MAUNDY THURSDAY

4.1.21 at 7 pm on [Facebook Live](#)

##### GOOD FRIDAY

4.2.21 at 7 pm on [Facebook Live](#)

##### EASTER: 4.4.21

6 am: Sunrise Service

10 am: Easter Worship on [Facebook Live](#)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Lent Adult Forums:** During we are reading of *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*, by Amy-Jill Levine. For details, see our Full Circle blog: <https://www.fccb.net/blog/february-adult-forums/>.

**Lenten Prayer Series:** Beginning **Friday, February 19**, from **6:30-7:30 pm**, Jean Scribner will facilitate a six-week series title For more information, visit <https://www.fccb.net/blog/lenten-prayer-series/>.

### WORSHIP:

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

Upcoming Services:

- **March 7:** Third Sunday of Lent, John 2:13-22 (1 Cor. 1:18-25)
- **March 14:** Fourth Sunday of Lent, John 3:14-21 (Ephesians 2:1-10)

**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**
  - ◆ PJs & Storytime **Tuesdays, 6:30 pm**
- **Wednesday**
  - ◆ Adult Forums, **Wednesdays, 6:30 pm**
  - ◆ Faith Formation for Children & Youth **Wednesdays, 6:30 pm**
- **Thursday**
  - ◆ Morning Coffee Group: **1st & 3rd Thursdays, 9:30 am**
  - ◆ Evening Book Club, **6:30 pm weekly**
- **Friday**
  - ◆ Knitting Group, **Fridays, 10:00 am**
  - ◆ Coffee Hour, **2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays. 1:00 pm**
  - ◆ Prayer Series, **Fridays, 6:30 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

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

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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 Harbine**

**ORGANIST: Judy Widrig**

**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: Bill Henkel**

**VICE MODERATOR: Beth Tyne**

**PAST MODERATOR: Caryl Dunavan**

**CLERK: TBA**

**TREASURER: Laurie Hoyt**

**HISTORIAN: Stacy Miller**

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