

Again & Again, We Draw on Courage
March 28, 2021
#BiggerBalcony



PALM SUNDAY

March 28, 2021

10:00 am

#BiggerBalcony

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

<http://tiny.cc/worshipconnect>

PRELUDE

"Melodies"
by Sergei Prokofiev

Judy Widrig & Clara Kelly

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Sharon Benton

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sharon Benton & Davi Weasley

One Voice: The story of faith is a story of courage.

All Voices: It took courage for John the Baptist to prepare the way.

One Voice: It took courage for Mary to say, "Here I am. Use me."

All Voices: It took courage for the disciples to drop their nets and follow Jesus.

One Voice: It took courage for the paralyzed man's friends
to lower him through the roof.

All Voices: It took courage for Peter to walk on water.

One Voice: It took courage for Zacchaeus to give half of his possessions
to the poor.

All Voices: It took courage for Jesus to enter Jerusalem on a donkey.

One Voice: Faith has never been easy. It is a journey of courage.

All Voices: Again and again, God, show us the way.

One Voice: Let us worship a brave and courageous God.

A READING FROM THE POETS

"Peaceful Protest"

Cheryll Blair

*I wonder if Jesus could feel his heartbeat
In his throat, the way I do when I'm afraid.
I wonder if he had to take deep breaths,
In through his nose, out through his mouth,
Tricking his body into a state of calm.
I wonder if he was nauseous, like I am
When I'm headed into a hard conversation.
I wonder if he had to summon his courage,
Tucking fear away so that he could hold onto
What mattered most with both hands.*

*I wonder, because time has taught us
That it is not uncommon
For a peaceful protest
To start or end
With an unjust death.*

*So I wonder,
Did he know?
Was he afraid? Did anyone see it?*

*I want to hold what matters most with both
hands.*

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Reader's Theater



1 "Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na," the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed a - mid a cheer - ing crowd,
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song is ours.



through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang;
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud.
 We hail our great Re - deem - er and sing with all our powers:



To Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold - ed to his breast,
 The one whom an - gels wor - ship rode on in low - ly state,
 "Ho - san - na, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.



the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
 and glad to see the chil - dren, slowed down the don - key's gait.
 Ho - san - na! In your pres - ence for - ev - er we'll re - joice!"

Jennette Threlfall of England, who was disabled by two accidents, wrote hymns that inspired hope and courage in others. This text was published in her collection Sunshine and Shadow.

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Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D.
 Gesangbuch der herzoglichen Württembergischen
 katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sharon Benton

God of palm branches and hallelujahs:
 We confess—we love a good Palm Sunday celebration.
 We love the sound of a joyful parade.

We love shouting, "hallelujah!"
 We love that Palm Sunday means Easter is just around the corner.
 We love good news.
 However, if we slow down and pay attention,
 We know that Palm Sunday was not a walk in the park for you.
 There was risk. There was fear. There was the threat of violence.
 You were leading a peaceful protest against an unjust empire,
 And the whole world knew it.
 Forgive us for glossing over the courage this day took.
 Remind us that the story of faith is a story of courage,
 And even we can do hard things.
 With hope we pray. Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON

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

KY - RI - E,

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

CHRI - STE, CHRI - STE,

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

KY - RI - E E - LEI - SON.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Sharon Benton

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Cheryll Blair

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.Me/fccbucc](https://www.paypal.com/mec/fccb).

MUSICAL MEDITATION

"Woyaya"
by Osibisa

Christopher Giffen &
Clara Liindstrom

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SCRIPTURE READING

John 12:1-19
New Revised Standard Version

Cheryll Blair

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Cheryll Blair

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.

HYMN

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

ST. THEODULPH



1 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, O Christ, we sing,
 2 O Prom-ised One of Is - rael, of Da - vid's roy - al line,
 3 As you re - ceived their prais - es, re - ceive our prayers to - day,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!
 the one called "God's be - lov - ed," of flesh and yet di - vine,
 whose jus - tice and whose mer - cy and sov - ereign - ty hold sway.



The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms a - dorned your way;
 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, O Christ, we sing,



our praise and prayer and an - thems we of - fer you this day.
 to you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!

Brought to France by Charlemagne, Theodulph became bishop of Orléans but was later imprisoned by Charlemagne's successor. According to legend, he was released when the king, Louis the Pious, heard him sing this hymn from prison.
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Tune: ST. THEODULPH 7.6.7.6.D.
 (VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN)
 Melchior Teschner, 1615
 For another setting, see 217

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Davi Weasley

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

Rev. Ted Huffman

POSTLUDE

"Passion Chorale"

by J. S. Bach

Leigh Hjelmseth, Flute

Lani Himegarner, Piano

Guest Preacher

Rev. Ted Huffman is a UCC minister who served congregations in North Dakota, Idaho and South Dakota. He served as writer and editor for several curriculum projects including Seasons of the Spirit, The Inviting Word, International Pilgrimages with Youth, Faith Practices, and The Storyteller Series. He also served as a law enforcement chaplain and has over 20 years as a suicide first responder. Now retired, he takes great delight in his children and grandchildren and fiddling in the barn at his son's farm. He loves to paddle and row and has built numerous canoes, kayaks, and a row boat.



Prayers & poetry by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



COVER IMAGE

Through the Palms, by Rev. Lauren Right Pittman

Hand-carved block printed with oil-based ink on paper inspired by John 12:1-19.

Artist's Statement, excerpt: *Jesus lies down on the donkey's back, steeling himself before his journey through the palms. He has a target on his back—he's a disruption to the status quo upheld by the Pharisees and Chief Priests, and a threat to the power of the empire.*

We are in a time when we need to draw on courage to call into question the structures that uphold systems of oppression. We are in a time when we need to subvert the powerful and protect the vulnerable. The crowds close in on Jesus. Some lift their hands in praise, others point accusingly. I hope this image serves as a reminder to call upon God for the courage you need, to rest and recharge for the work ahead. But I hope it also heartens you to move forward in courage, even in the midst of great resistance, toward the work God is calling you into.

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 Lent 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/>.

WORSHIP:

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

Upcoming Services:

- **March 28:** Palm Sunday, John 12:1-19
- **April 4:** Easter Sunday. Sunrise Service, 6:30 pm. Easter Celebration, 10:00 am

WAYS TO CONNECT: For more information about these and other groups and activities, contact 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, **2nd & 4th 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

Davi: davi@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

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Church Office: 360-734-3720

Office Mobile Phone: 360-303-6806

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: Davi 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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