



**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

August 29, 2021

10:00 am

*"Find questions you can spend your life answering." ~ adrienne maree brown*

**PRELUDE**

Judy Widrig

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Davi Weasley & Sharon Benton

**RINGING THE BELL**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jen Green

One Voice: Sometimes we may wonder...

**All Voices: Why come to worship?**

One Voice: Why volunteer, give money, and pray for this church?

**All Voices: Does it challenge my spirit? Does it enliven my faith?**

One Voice: Sometimes we may wonder...

**All Voices: Will God smite us for the questions we ask?**

One Voice: Will Christ shake his head and cry for us?

**All Voices: Will the Spirit blow us back into line?**

One Voice: The Divine is mystery, witnessed in all Creation.

**All Voices: Let's celebrate what we know and be curious about the rest.**

Do I believe in God, the Father Almighty?

Can God be Father-Mother, single parent, trans, or non-gendered?

Or is God beyond even these images of "persons"?

Is God maker of heaven and earth—wonders and terrors included?

Is God *part* of heaven and earth?

What does it mean for Christ to be Lord? Aren't we done with feudal language yet?

Do I believe Jesus Christ is God's only Son, or are we all God's children?

What makes Jesus different?

Jesus' birth and death and ascension into "heaven" are all questionable;

when do we get the stories of his life and teaching?

Do I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy universal church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting?

Are my questions allowed, or am I tiptoeing into heresy?

How can I believe when I have so many unanswered questions?

Help me move beyond easy answers, okay?

**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.*

**A READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

Proverbs 9:1-12  
Common English Bible

Jen Green

**SCRIPTURE RESPONSE**

Jen Green

**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**

Amelia Bacon

**SERMON**

**"All Questions Considered"** Sharon Benton & Davi Weasley  
*Questions were submitted by the congregation the last few weeks;  
the pastors have not seen them yet.*

Words & music by Tim Shepherd

*Jesus was a blessed child, born to a carpenter.  
His mother had the purest soul, an angel spoke to her.  
He learned the laws in the synagogue,  
Heard the voice of the one true God,  
And in the waters He was baptized, too.  
But was he a dancing child? Or could he sing?  
Did he have many friends? Even a pet? A favorite plaything?  
Was he troubled as a youth? Did he always speak the truth?  
Oh, would I know Him if I saw Him today? Would I know this child if I saw Him today?*

*Jesus fed a multitude with just five loaves of bread.  
He made the lame to stand alone, the blind to see again.  
He wore a crown of thorns in death.  
Forgave mankind with His last breath,  
And left a Holy Spirit for us, too.  
But was He a somber man? Or did He laugh?  
Did He dream when He slept? Were there secrets He kept? Did He own a shepherd's staff?  
Did He ever write His thoughts? Spend His manger gold for naught?  
Oh, would I know Him if I saw Him today? Would I know this man if I saw Him today?*

*Jesus lives among us in each and every heart,  
Of those of you who still accept that you can be a part,  
Of a better world that He believed in.  
A world of hope, of love and healing,  
A world of giving and forgiving, too.  
But was He a tall Christ? Or was He small?  
Were His hands very strong? His skin really dark? His hair ever long?  
Was He steady when He walked? Was He quiet when He talked?  
Oh, would I know Him if I saw Him today? Would I know this Christ if I saw Him today?*

*Jesus. All I know, all I've learned, from stories since His birth.  
Jesus. I only ask to know how human He was on this earth.*

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

Jen Green

*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/fccbu](https://www.paypal.com/mefccbu).*

**BENEDICTION**

Davi Weasley

**POSTLUDE**

Judy Widrig

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**COVID-19 UPDATE:** As you may have read in the Midweek Message, a surge in cases prompted the Church Council to suspend in-person worship. For more information and to read the statement from the Council visit <https://www.fccb.net/blog/covid-19-update/>.

**PANTRY DRIVE:** The Mission & Justice and Faith Formation Boards want to thank everyone who participated in the Saturday Pantry Drive for the Birchwood Food Desert Fighters. The work team had to use multiple vehicles and caravan over to the Share Spot because of your generosity. Our Birchwood neighbors had a great time shopping and everything was gone by 1:00 pm. See the pictures on the blog <https://www.fccb.net/blog/birchwood-drive-up-pantry-drive/>.

### WORSHIP:

- **Sundays, 10:00 am**—Worship in person or 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, 7:00 pm**
- **Thursday**
  - ◆ Evening Book Club, **6:30 pm weekly**
- **Friday**
  - ◆ Knitting Group, **Fridays, 10:00 am**
  - ◆ Prayer Series, **Fridays, 6:30 pm**
- **Saturday**
  - ◆ Creative Connections, **1st Saturdays, 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/>.*

*Cover image by Gary Butterfield on Unsplash*

**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)

Davi: [davi@fccb.net](mailto:davi@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: Davi Weasley**

**INTERIM MINISTERS OF FAITH FORMATION:**

**Ted & Susan Huffman**

**MINISTER OF MUSIC: Lucy Bledig**

**ORGANIST: Judy Widrig**

**WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR:**

**Skyler Spain**

**NURSERY ATTENDANT: Lisa Harbine**

**ACCOUNTANT: Erin Kennedy**

**OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran**

**CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE: Kurt Aagard**

**FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE:**

**Alanna Steele**

**HEALTH MINISTER: Carol Nicolay**

**MODERATOR: Bill Henkel**

**VICE MODERATOR: Beth Tyne**

**PAST MODERATOR: Caryl Dunavan**

**CLERK: Janet Malley**

**TREASURER: Laurie Hoyt**

**HISTORIAN: Stacy Miller**

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