

Esther
September 26, 2021
#BiggerBalcony



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 26, 2021

10:00 am

#BiggerBalcony

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Davi Weasley

RINGING THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

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John Mark Slagle

If we remain silent,
who will rise up?

If we close our eyes
and turn our heads,
who will see the injustice?

If we wring our hands
and shuffle our feet,
who will act with mercy?

What if we were called
for such a time as this,
to see through different eyes
and move to a different drum.

Creator, give us your strength,
at such a time as this,
to lead distinctive lives,
and see your Kin-dom come.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

"Welcome Here"
By Rachael Weasley

Janet Malley

The musical notation is written on two staves in a treble clef, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Sweet and ho - ly Friend, welcome here. All of who we are, welcome here!
Faith - ful lo - ving Guide, wel - come here. Wel - come he - re!

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

Esther 7:1-7

John Mark Slagle

New Revised Standard Version

This text is jumping into the middle of the story, but we'll hear more in just a moment...

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

John Mark Slagle

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

Susan Huffman

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

"Esther Round"

Janet Malley

by Ann Freeman Price

Perhaps you have come to the place where you are for just such a time as this;

Perhaps you have come to the place where you are for just such a time as this.

Speak out! Don't keep silence! Be true to God;

Speak out! Don't keep silence! Be true to God!

SERMON

Sharon Benton & Ted Huffman

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

"Esther Round"

Janet Malley

by Ann Freeman Price

*Perhaps you have come to the place where you are for just such a time as this;**Perhaps you have come to the place where you are for just such a time as this.**Speak out! Don't keep silence! Be true to God;**Speak out! Don't keep silence! Be true to God!***INVITATION TO OFFERING**

John Mark Slagle

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/mefccbucc).

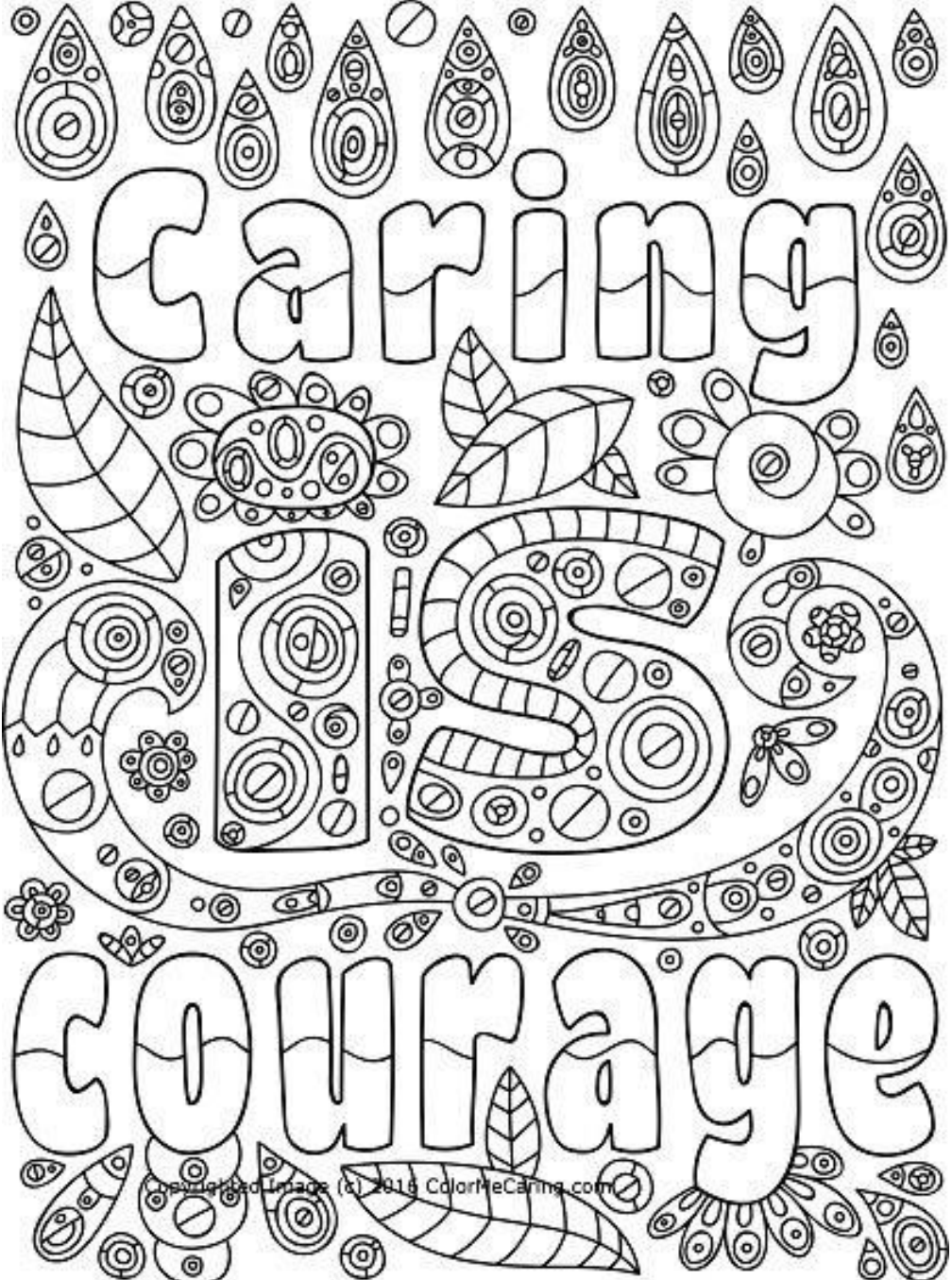
BENEDICTION

Davi Weasley

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig

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



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE WHATCOM RACIAL EQUITY COMMISSION CONTINUES TO GROW! If you'd like to learn more about the Commission's work, you can attend their upcoming [online Town Hall Meeting](#), **Thursday, September 30, 12:30-1:30 pm.**

ELECTION INFORMATION: Your Mission & Justice Board wants to let you know about election forums coming from the League of Women Voters. For information, see <https://www.lwvbellinghamwhatcom.org/2021-general-election-forums>.

WORSHIP:

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

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

- **Monday**
 - ◆ Poetry Writing Group: **1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:00 pm**
 - ◆ Happy Hour: **1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:30-8:30 pm**
- **Wednesday**
 - ◆ Faith Formation for Children: **weekly, 6:00 pm**
 - ◆ Adult Forum: **weekly, 7:00 pm**
- **Thursday**
 - ◆ Evening Book Club, **6:30 pm weekly**
- **Friday**
 - ◆ Afternoon Coffee Group: **2nd & 4th Friday, at 1:00 pm**
 - ◆ Knitting Group, **Fridays, 10:00 am**
 - ◆ Spirit Group (Exploring Prayer), **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/>.

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

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: 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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