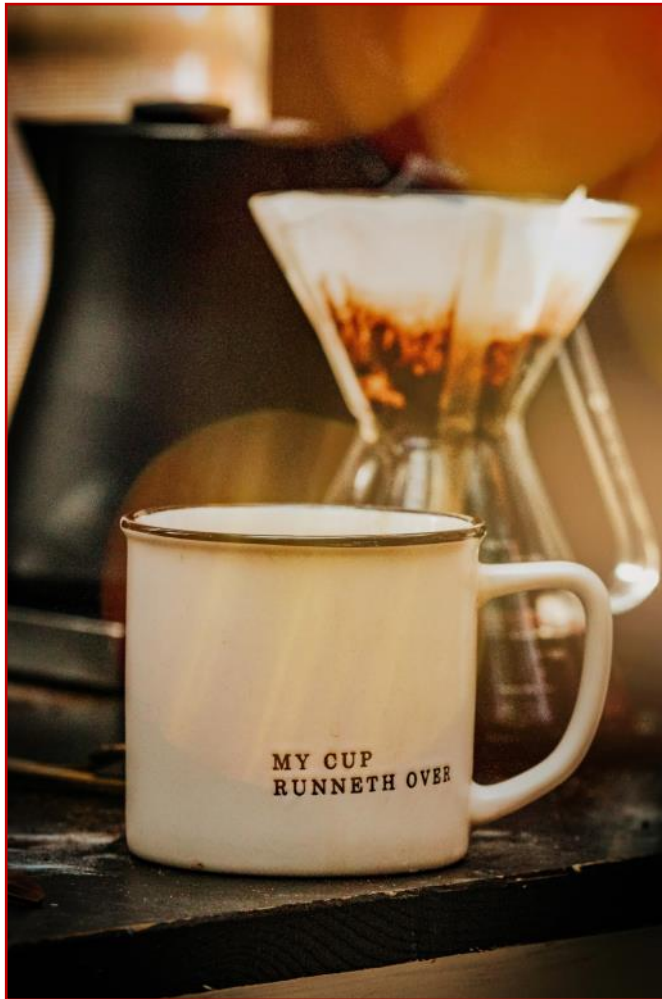


Gratitude Sunday
November 14, 2021
#BiggerBalcony



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 14, 2021

10:00 am

#BiggerBalcony

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Sharon Benton

RINGING THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

by enfleshed

Janet Ott

One Voice: The sun rises pink over the horizon,

All Voices: no matter the state of hope in our hearts.

One Voice: The leaves glow golden and release last season,

All Voices: no matter what we cling to.

One Voice: Birthing pangs roll through a body,

All Voices: no matter if we are ready to bear down and push for new life.

One Voice: This is how God is -- They renew, They release,

All Voices: They midwife the world to come.

One Voice: Let us worship God.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

“Thanksgiving Introit”

Darlene Mathias

Tune: KREMSEK

We ga - ther to - ge - ther to ask for God's bless - ing to be in com -
6 mun - i - ty through time and space. We come now, as seek - ers and
11 doubt - ters, ex - press - ing our thanks for you, O God, for your love and your grace.

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.**

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Judy Widrig

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Membership Board

Tina Anderson

If you haven't yet had an opportunity to pledge, you may use a pledge form in the pews or at fccb.net/giving. Every gift is a blessing to the ministries of compassion and justice we serve.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Mark Schofield

A READING FROM THE POETS

"Blessing When the World Is Ending"

Janet Ott

by Jan Richardson from [*Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*](#)

Look, the world
is always ending
somewhere.

Somewhere
the sun has come
crashing down.

Somewhere
it has gone
completely dark.

Somewhere
it has ended
with the gun,
the knife,
the fist.

Somewhere
it has ended
with the slammed door,
the shattered hope.

Somewhere
it has ended
with the utter quiet
that follows the news
from the phone,
the television,
the hospital room.

Somewhere
it has ended
with a tenderness
that will break
your heart.

But, listen,
this blessing means
to be anything
but morose.
It has not come
to cause despair.

It is simply here
because there is nothing
a blessing
is better suited for
than an ending,
nothing that cries out more
for a blessing
than when a world
is falling apart.

This blessing
will not fix you,
will not mend you,
will not give you
false comfort;
it will not talk to you
about one door opening

when another one closes.

It will simply
sit itself beside you
among the shards
and gently turn your face
toward the direction
from which the light
will come,
gathering itself
about you
as the world begins
again.

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Mark 13:1-8

Janet Ott

New Revised Standard Version

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Janet Ott

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.**

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Judy Widrig

SERMON

Rev. Karen Hollis

Rev. Karen Hollis grew up at First Congregational Church and now considers herself a child of the Salish sea, having lived as far south as Tacoma and as far north as Gabriola Island, BC.

Karen is a pastor, preacher, mystic, and student of scripture and creation.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

“For the Beauty of the Earth”
arranged by Sondra K. Tucker

Handbell Choir

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Janet Ott

*There are several options for giving: 1) Give at our website, <https://fccb.net/giving/>.
2) Mail checks to First Congregational Church, 2401 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225. 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/donate/?url=https://www.fccbucc.org).*

BRINGING OUR GIFTS TO THE TABLE*"I Thank God for ..."*

As Judy plays music, we invite any who wish to come forward and leave your weekly offering, or a pledge in support of First Congregational Church's 2021 ministries, or a prayer of gratitude. Those worshiping in the Bigger Balcony may wish to write, "I thank God for ____" as some in-person worshipers speak words of gratitude into the microphone. Thanks be to God for all our collective gifts!

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

by enflashed, alt.

Janet Ott

**Holy One, we bring our offerings to you and each other,
empowered by the strength that we have when we come together
and heartened by how resources expand when they are blessed with solidarity.
With deep gratitude we acknowledge that we are an embodiment
of your interdependence. Thank you! Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Hollis

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig

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

We joyfully welcome music in our worship service and deeply appreciate those who share their musical gifts with us. Singers and musicians who participate are asked to be masked and fully vaccinated. In addition, groups will have mutually agreed to assume any potential risk associated with performing together.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have returned to hybrid worship (in person & online). To be as welcoming and inclusive as possible, we are not requiring proof of vaccination. We trust the members of our community to take appropriate care of each other and encourage all who can to be vaccinated.

Precautions:

- Masks required
- Distancing practiced
- Windows will be open, so dress warmly
- Sign in for contact tracing
- If you wake up feeling even a little under the weather, join us at home on Facebook Live.

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**
 - ◆ 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**
- **Sunday**
 - ◆ Lectionary Study, **Sundays, 11:00 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.

APPOINTMENTS WITH PASTORAL STAFF

Pastoral staff are available by appointment virtually or in person, with masks. 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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