

# Why I'm Here

January 23, 2022



**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

January 16, 2022

10:00 am

*Train us o Lord, to fling ourselves upon the impossible, for behind the impossible is your grace and presence- we cannot fall into emptiness. The future is an enigma, our road is covered in mist, but we want to keep giving ourselves, because you continue hoping amid the night, and weeping tears through a thousand human eyes." ~ Luis Espinal*

**PRELUDE**

Reilly Adams

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Sharon Benton

**RINGING THE BELL**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Tina Anderson

One Voice: If Jesus had a mission statement,  
it might come from the prophet Isaiah:

**All Voices: to preach good news to the poor;  
to proclaim to the prisoners release;  
to send forth the oppressed in liberation;  
to declare the year of jubilee.**

One Voice: The Spirit of God is upon us—  
we are called to be the body of Christ.

**All Voices: Holy One, help us to claim our gifts  
and use them to bring good news to a hurting world.  
Help us to recognize the gifts in others  
and make room for them to heal us all. Amen.**

**MUSICAL RESPONSE**

**"I Am the Light of the World"**

**LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

by Jim Strathdee

Sung by Tim Shepherd



"I am the light of the world! You peo-ple come and fol-low me!" If you

5  
fol-low and love you'll learn the mys-ter-y of what you were meant to do and be.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first four measures of the melody, and the second staff contains the next four measures. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

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 MINISTRY**

**HYMN 273**

“Praise with Joy the World’s Creator”

LAUDA ANIMA

© 1985 The Iona Community

Ensemble: Kris Johnson, Kay Marsh, Jeanne Quinn, Leslee Probasco, John Tilley

**A READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

Luke 4:14-21

Tina Anderson

Common English Bible

**SCRIPTURE RESPONSE**

Tina Anderson

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 & Ted Huffman

**A READING FROM THE POETS** “Lycanthropy of a Black Boy”

Karla Pratt Keyes

by Roscoe Burnems

©2018 in the self-published collection Chrysalis Under Fire

**SERMON**

“Why I’m Here”

Sharon Benton

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

“A Song of Thanksgiving”

Tim & Doug Shepherd

by Tim Shepherd

*Have you ever been hungry, and someone offered food?*

*Ever been needing, and they clothed you?*

*Have you ever been sickly, and someone made you well?*

*Then you know how good it feels to start again!*

*Refrain:*

*Now it’s your turn to give and forgive.*

*God gave you life, Christ gave you love, so live and let live.*

*With thanks in your heart and blessings to share,*

*Celebrate each, take time to reach, and show someone you care.*

*Have you ever been weary, and someone gave you rest?*

*Ever unsure, and they helped you do your best?*

*Have you ever been sad or wept, and someone made you smile?*

*Then you know how good it feels to start again!*

*Refrain*

*Have you ever been troubled, and found a listening ear?*

*Ever been frightened, they quieted your fear?*

*Have you ever been lonely, and they wrapped you in their arms?*

*Then you know how good it feels to start again!*

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

Tina Anderson

*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/mefccbucc).*

Musical Meditation

Judy Widrig

**BENEDICTION**

Davi Weasley

**POSTLUDE**

Judy Widrig

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### IMPORTANT DATES TO COME:

Below are some opportunities the Funding Plan Committee has organized for conversations about how we might financially support our ministries in 2022. Mark these on your calendar. Your participation is valued.

- Church Council Meeting, **Monday, January 24, 7:00 pm** on Zoom
- Congregational Meeting, **Sunday, February 6, 11:30 am**

### WORSHIP:

- **Sundays, 10:00 am**—Hybrid worship in person and on Facebook Live, our #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**
  - ◆ Happy Hour: **1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:30-8:30 pm**
- **Wednesday**
  - ◆ Sharing Stories: **weekly 6:30 pm**
  - ◆ Adult Forum: **weekly, 7:00 pm**
- **Thursday**
  - ◆ Evening Book Club, **5:00 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**
  - ◆ Youth Group, **Sundays, 12:00 noon**

*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/>.*

*Photo by Barbara Zandoval 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.

### **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](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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