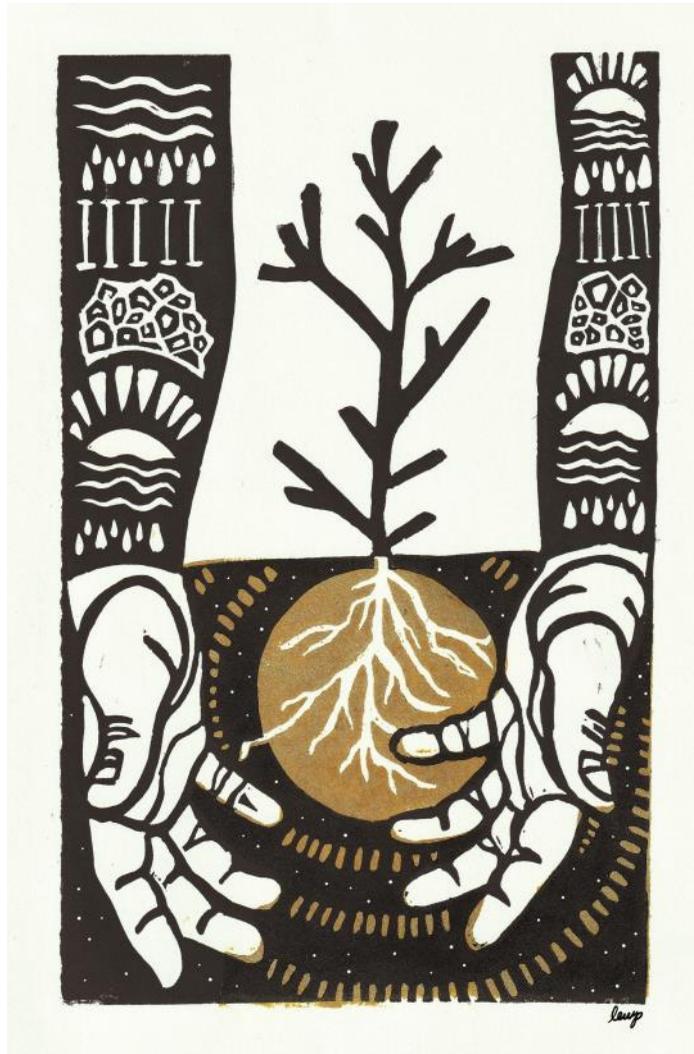


Full to the Brim { You Are Worthy

March 20, 2022



first  congregational
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
timeless worship + modern faith

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 20, 2022

10:00 am

We do not know why the fig tree is not bearing fruit. The text doesn't say it's incapable, it only says it isn't happening. But whose fault is that? Is it the owner of the vineyard? Has he been doing all that needs to be done? Is it the gardener? Has he tended the tree well in the past and will he in the year to come? Is it the soil of the land? Or the tree itself? Is it a little bit of all those things? If so, focusing on only one will not be enough to save the tree in this year granted, even if the gardener does begin to do things right himself and tend the tree perfectly.

~enfleshed commentary

PRELUDE

"Isabella's Lullaby"
by Takahiro Obata

Scout Mitchell

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sharon Benton

RINGING THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

© 2019, @enfleshed

Rudy Cortez

One Voice: Life abundant calls to us:

All Voices: Come alive! Come alive!

One Voice: To be alive - fully awake in this world rich in beauty and wonder—

All Voices: This is the invitation of God.

One Voice: Though death and destruction will have their way

All Voices: A table is being set for all who desire to feast on Love

One Voice: Let us not settle for days that are dry and brittle with despair

All Voices: Holy One, we recognize these lives of ours are so vulnerable, so precious, so deeply entangled with one another. We long to protect them; to protect ourselves and our families and our planet. In our efforts, do not let us be so consumed by fear that we turn to destruction or hardheartedness for security. Keep our hearts tender to one another and lead us onto paths of peace with justice. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

If you're willing to come to the microphone and offer "The peace of Christ" or "May God's peace be with you" or some other words of grace, please note you are also sending your message to those worshipping online. If you're in the pews wave or show another contact-free sign of peace.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Davi Weasley

Keep humming the Kyrie as we receive these words...

KYRIE

Luke D. Rosen

*Ostinato Refrain



1. KÝ-ri - e, e - lé - i-son. KÝ-ri - e, e - lé - i-son.

1. KÝ-ri - e, e - lé - i-son. KÝ-ri - e, e - lé - i-son.

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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.**

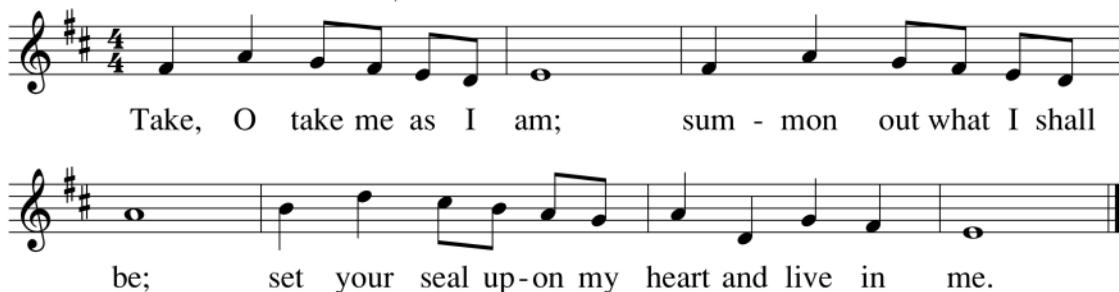
**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil,
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

*If you have a prayer request you'd like to share confidentially with our pastors,
have added to the confidential prayer list, or spoken aloud in worship,
go to <https://www.fccb.net/contact-us/> to send a message or call the church to talk with a pastor.*

PRAYER RESPONSE

“Take, O Take Me As I Am”

by John Bell



Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall
be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b.1949
Tune: John L. Bell, b.1949
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VISUAL MEDITATION

“The Wisdom of the Fig Tree”

Lisle Gwynn Garrity

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AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

by Sarah Speed

Rudy Cortez

We believe

that the God of the cosmos is at work here.

We believe that God is fertilizing the soil.

We believe that God is planting roots.

We believe that God is growing fruit that is yet to be tasted.

But until that promised day

**when the fig tree stands tall and swords are beaten into plowshares,
we believe:**

when our work does not bear fruit,

God still loves us.

When our soil grows dry and cracked,

God still longs for us.

When all seems hopeless here on earth,

God holds hope for us.

The God of the cosmos is at work here.

We believe. Help our unbelief.

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 13:6-9

Rudy Cortez

New Revised Standard Version

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Rudy Cortez

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

Jen Sandoval

SUNG RESPONSE

“May the Love of God Fill You”

by Tom Hunter

We invite people worshiping in person to hum this tune.

May the love of God fill you from your
head down to your toes. May it trickle through your fingers and
dance up on your nose. May the people all around you help you
live so loving grows. May the love of God fill you up un -
til it overflows.

SERMON "Full to the Brim { You Are Worthy" Sharon Benton

MUSICAL MEDITATION "Here Comes the Sun"
by George Harrison Scout Mitchell

INVITATION TO OFFERING Rudy Cortez

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/merchot?x=1&from=paypalme&to=fccbucc).

Offertory Judy Widrig

BENEDICTION Davi Weasley

POSTLUDE Judy Widrig



Cover Image Artist's Statement: *You Are Worthy* by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman. Inspired by Luke 13:1-9. Block print with oil-based ink. Artist statement: *How often does society wish us to feel like we are wasting soil? The whole capitalist system lurches forward, powered by our collective sense of unworthiness and our searching for worth based on what we produce. This parable upends the notion that we are what we produce, and speaks truth: you are worthy. You deserve rest and care simply for existing. What a gift!*

Liturgy & art © A Sanctified Art, unless otherwise noted.

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

ACCOUNTANT: Erin Kennedy

OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE: Kurt Aagard

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE:

Alanna Steele

MODERATOR: Beth Tyne

VICE MODERATOR: Mark Schofield

PAST MODERATOR: Bill Henkel

CLERK: Janet Malley

TREASURER: Laurie Hoyt

HISTORIAN: Stacy Miller

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