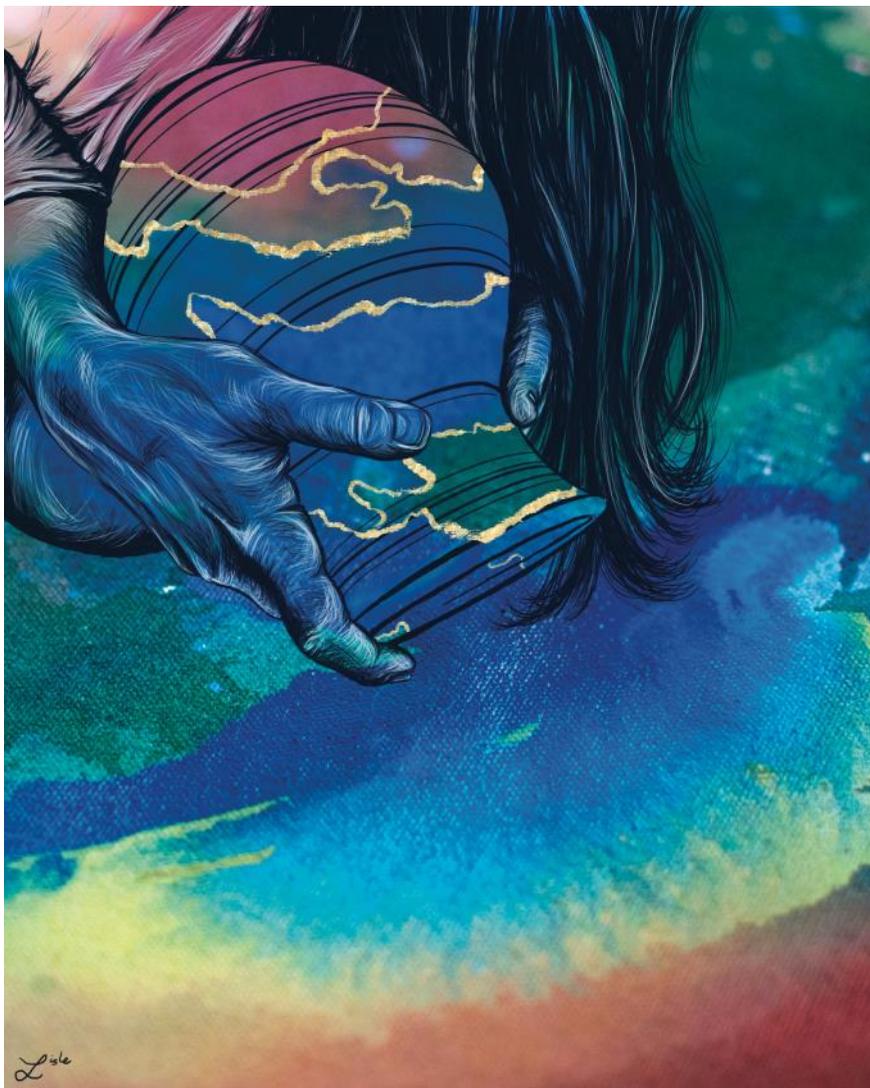


# Full to the Brim { Brazen Acts of Beauty

April 3, 2022



**first**  **congregational**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
timeless worship + modern faith

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

April 3, 2022

10:00 am

*“Remember, what the disciples deemed a waste, Jesus called the most necessary.  
We have much to learn from Mary. What is our frivolous act of devotion today? What is our ‘art’?  
Mary’s act of extravagance is what it means to create in, and through, love.”  
~Makoto Fujimura*

**PRELUDE**

Penelope Keep

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Sharon Benton

**RINGING THE BELL**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Janet Ott

One Voice: May we find courage here—

**All Voices: courage to follow our call, courage to live out our faith.**

One Voice: May we find hope here—

**All Voices: hope for a better world, hope that refuses to let us go.**

One Voice: May we find truth here—

**All Voices: truth that lives in sacred community, truth that lives in ancient stories.**

One Voice: May we find all that we seek.

**All Voices: And in our seeking, may we know God.**

**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.*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Janet Ott

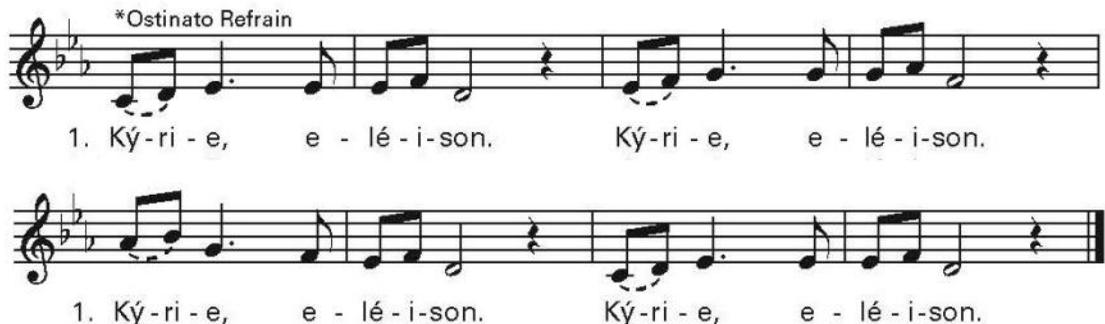
One Voice: There are very few things as powerful as a group of people that admits they are not perfect and asks for grace as they grow. Imagine what our world might be like if every institution had such a weekly rhythm? Friends, we can light the way. Let us be brave in our truth-telling and honest in our confession. For we will always be met by grace. Let us pray.

All Voices: **Jesus of Nazareth, we admit that often we tuck our faith into our pockets, hiding in a place of comfort rather than proudly declaring:**  
*yes we are Christian, yes we believe, yes this faith has changed me.*  
**We are so afraid of offending others or embarrassing ourselves that we have established rules:**  
*no faith at the dinner table, no faith in politics, no faith with strangers.*  
**Forgive us for whispering when we could be singing. Forgive us for staying quiet when we could be part of rewriting the narrative. We want to be brave. We want to pour out perfume over your feet. These things we pray...**

## 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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## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

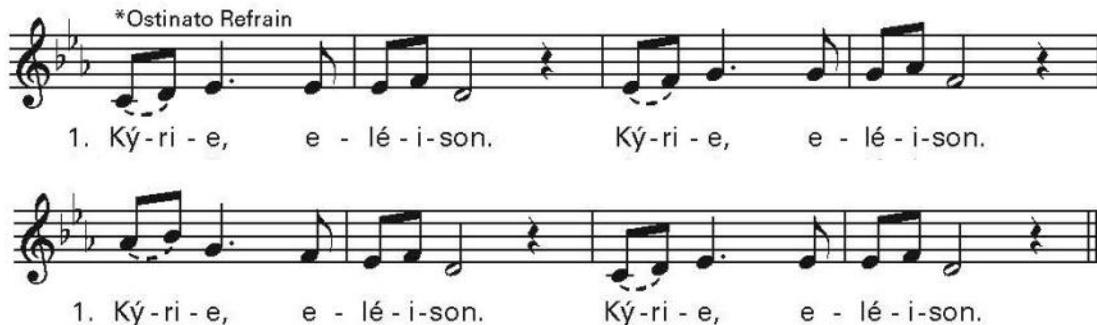
Sharon Benton

*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

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.**

*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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**MOMENT FOR MISSION**

Poor People's Campaign

Ian Schaefer Lorenz

[www.poorpeoplescampaign.org](http://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org)

*Ian Lorenz is a student of Environmental Science at Western, and a long-time restaurant and retail worker. He currently serves as the State Organizer for the Washington Poor People's Campaign and has come here today to invite our congregation to join people from all over the country in taking action on June 18 for the Mass Poor People's and Low Wage Workers' Assembly and Moral March on Washington DC!*

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

“Everybody's Got a Right to Live” Poor People's Campaign

vocals - Charon Hribar, Ciara Taylor, Pauline Pisano

Spoken Word - Lu Aya . Sound Engineering - Kevin Salem

**A READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

John 12:1-8

Janet Ott

Common English Bible

**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.**

SUNG RESPONSE

“May the Love of God Fill You”  
by Tom Hunter

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 o - ver flows.

SERMON

“Full to the Brim { Brazen Acts of Beauty”

Sharon Benton

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

*If you're joining us from home, gather something to eat and drink;  
the risen Christ will meet us wherever we are.*

*If you're worshipping in person today, you may come forward to receive communion. Stay distanced,  
please; and remove your mask briefly. If you wish to remain seated, someone will come around to you  
in your seat. Just raise a hand or indicate that you would like communion as they come around,  
remembering that if you come forward you will be on the video.*

Communion Music

Penelope Keep

**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/mefccbucc).*

**Offertory**

"Love Is Love"

by

Kay Marsh, Lucy Bledig, Leslee Probasco, Larry Menninga

**BENEDICTION**

Sharon Benton

**POSTLUDE**

Penelope Keep



**Cover Image Artist's Statement:** *Brazen Beauty* by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity. Inspired by John 12:1-8. Acrylic on raw canvas with digital drawing. Artist statement: *This image began as a painting on raw canvas. With fluid strokes of paint, I allowed the colors to run and bleed into each other. As I drew Mary kneeling, I omitted the other details in the scene, removing Jesus' feet, the other guests, the table full of food. I wanted to focus on Mary's brazen act of pouring out the expensive perfume, a commodity valued at a year's worth of wages ... The vessel she holds is lined with gold, a reference to the ancient Japanese practice of Kintsugi, of repairing broken pottery with gold lacquer. In this embodied act of worship, Mary is practicing Kintsugi—boldly celebrating the beauty of life even as death approaches.*

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

**COMMUNION ELEMENT INGREDIENTS:**

*Communion loaf— whole wheat flour, molasses, yeast, salt.*

*Gluten free wafers—Rice flour, safflower oil, salt. Juice— grape juice, vitamin C*

**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**

**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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