

In the Image of a Creative God
Laity Sunday
May 1, 2022



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 1, 2022

10:00 am

"We are God's work of art." -Ephesians 2:10

*"Not all are called to be artists in the specific sense of the term.
Yet, as Genesis has it, all [people] are entrusted with the task of crafting
their own life: in a certain sense, they are to make of it a work of art, a masterpiece."
-John Paul II, "Letter to Artists"*

"I think we are most God-like when we are creative." ~ Kathy Coffey

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scout Mitchell

RINGING THE BELL

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Stacy Malone Miller

One Voice: In the beginning God created...

All Voices: God created creativity!

One Voice: In the beginning God created...

All Voices: God created clouds that form elephants, dragons, and butterflies!

One Voice: In the beginning God created...

All Voices: God created the ability to dream of rocket ships and microscopes!

One Voice: In the beginning God created...

All Voices: God created greens of all shades of leaf and sea and crayon!

One Voice: In the beginning God created...

All Voices: God created us, in all our diverse beauty!

May we bring beauty to the creation around us!

***HYMN 31**

"All Things Bright & Beautiful"

ROYAL OAK

* Rise in body or spirit

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Scout Mitchell

As you share “the peace of Christ” with those around you (an elbow bump or verbal greeting, remaining distanced), please also consider coming forward to the microphone to share peace with worshipers in the Bigger Balcony (online). Those of you in the Bigger Balcony, consider calling or texting someone to wish them peace!

***SUNG RESPONSE 236**

“Halle, Halle, Halle”

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER excerpt from *From the Psalms to the Cloud* Stacy Malone Miller

One Voice: Let’s pray together:

All Voices: **Dancing God,**

**you whirl through our lives seemingly without taking breath,
spinning around and through our every moment.**

**You merrily approach then bow to our wall-flower spirits—
your dance partners in creation—
and reach out to take our reluctant hands.**

**You begin with the slow swaying of our lamentations,
holding us tightly in your arms as we fear to trip and fall
when death and disease advise us to sit this one out;
when overwhelming international news berates us for
“dancing while the world burns.”**

And still you tease us into the dance of life, O God!

**You circle us as in a Tango, and,
with a grinning glance over your shoulder,
dare us not to join you.**

**For even as lives and experiences come to an end,
new life begins—**

**in infants and new-born relationships,
in resurrected hope and time’s healing:**

Spring’s buds pirouetting in the wind.

And just when we think we can take no more—

**no more joy or sorrow in our filled-up dance cards,
no more breath for another wondrous round—**

then you pull us out again

to dance for the re-making of this world.

THE PRAYER OF JESUS

Stacy Malone Miller

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 www.fccb.net/contact-us/ to send a message or call the church to talk with a pastor.*

RESPONSE

*“Woyaya”
by Osibisa*

Christopher Giffen &
Clara Lindstrom

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:1-5 & 2:1-4

Stacy Malone Miller

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Stacy Malone Miller

One: For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us:

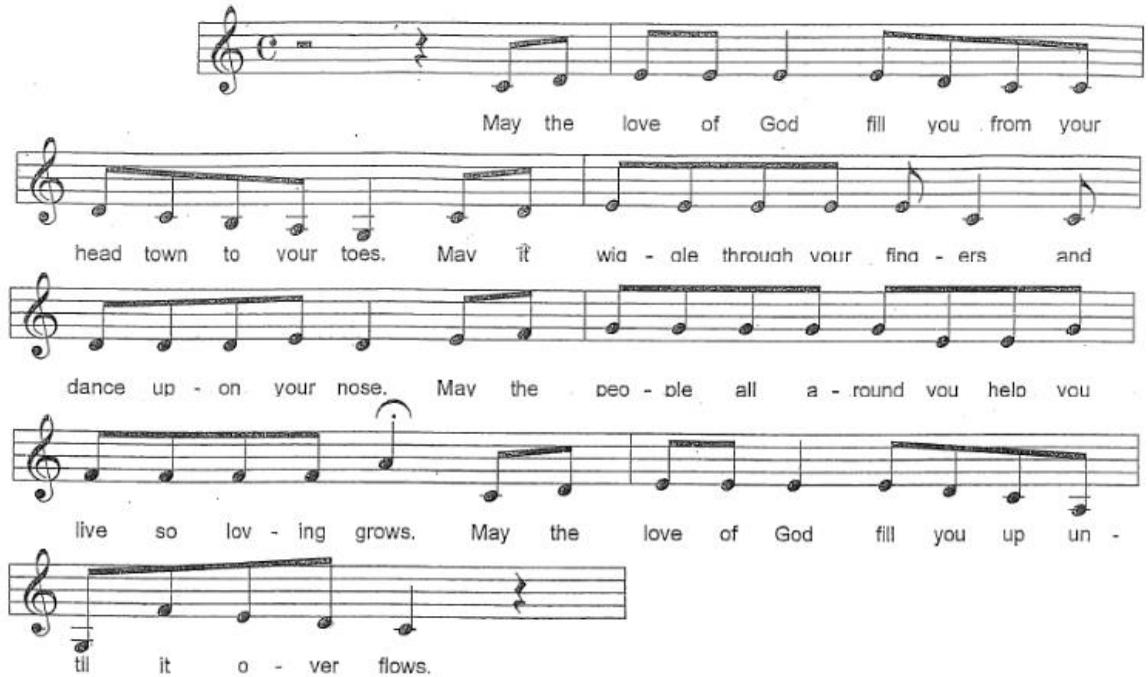
All: **Thanks be to God.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Jean Scribner

SUNG RESPONSE

"May the Love of God Fill You"
by Tom Hunter



May the love of God fill you from your
head town to your toes. May it wide 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.

ARTIST'S REFLECTION

Emily Wagnitz-Tracy

HYMN 30

"Colorful Creator"

HOUGHTON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Stacy Malone Miller

- There are several options for giving: 1) Give at our website, <https://fcb.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/fcbbucc](https://www.paypal.com/mefcbbucc).*

Offering Music

Judy Widrig

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Bert Malone Miller

ALL are welcome to Communion, no matter what.

Please know you will be on the worship camera online if you come forward to the Table.

If you'd like to remain in your seat, someone will come to you with the bread and juice.

Please leave your seat via your left-hand aisle, and return to your seat by your right-hand aisle

(or just follow the person next to you!).

Communion Hymns

Judy Widrig

330

"Let Us Break Bread"

788

"Eat This Bread"

***BENEDICTION**

Scout Mitchell

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers for Sunday Worship: Sign up to bring flowers for the Sanctuary on Sunday! [Sign up online.](#)

Worship Next Sunday, May 8—Welcome Pastor Phiwa! Join us to help welcome Visiting Pastor Rev. Phiwa Langeni.

Breaking Bread, May 22: This is an opportunity to connect over a soup and bread potluck dinner. You can volunteer to be a host and have up to four folks at your home, or sign up to be a participant. Sign up in the narthex or [online](#) by **May 8**. The Ministry Area Coordinators (MACs) will assign groups and your host will contact you the week before the dinner. Decisions around masking will be made by consensus in each group.

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.

- **Monday**
 - ◆ Poetry Writing Group: **1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:00 pm**
- **Wednesday**
 - ◆ 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**
 - ◆ 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/>.

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

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 –
on Sabbatical**

**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: Jen Sandoval

HISTORIAN: Stacy Miller

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