

“Sabbath Seeking” August 21, 2022



ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 21, 2022

10:00 am

Welcome! Please participate in as much or as little of the service as you feel comfortable.

*We love children in worship—their noises and wiggles are welcome, too.
There are pillows in the front where they can see the instruments and participate fully,
or the coloring, book, and play area is available in the corner near the windows.
Their movements back and forth are a joy for all of us.*

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sharon Benton & Davi Weasley

SABBATICAL RETURN RITUAL

Pastor Davi to Congregation:

Will you welcome back the Rev. Sharon Benton as she returns from sabbatical?
Will you continue to hold her in prayers, learn from her wisdom, and grow in
response to the invitations of her leadership? Will you make space for her
continuing ministry, her continuing rest and her continuing growth?

Congregation: We will, God being our help.

Pastor Davi to Pastor Sharon:

Will you celebrate your return to ministry in this place? Will you find space to
share the wisdom gathered in the midst of your sabbatical, and to hear anew how
the Spirit is freshly leading this congregation? Will you continue to minister with
love, to attend to your own rest with diligence, and to serve the Spirit in justice
and peace?

Pastor Sharon: *I will, God being my help.*

May God bless us all as we continue to journey together in this sacred ministry.

RINGING THE BELL

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Stacy Malone-Miller

One Voice: Rest and return; work and sabbath—
All Voices: **a lifelong cycle that the Divine calls us to.**
One Voice: Sometimes renewal happens in community;
All Voices: **sometimes we seek solitude to recenter.**
One Voice: This is a learning we remind one another as we gather
All Voices: **the Sabbath is made for the people!**

*HYMN 478

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

PEACE LIKE A RIVER

*PASSING THE PEACE

Davi Weasley

If you're willing, please come to the microphone to offer “peace” to those worshiping online; or you might stay in your seat and type a message into your smartphone to someone at home; or you might wave, bump elbows, or show other signs of peace with others.

*SUNG RESPONSE

“God, We Thank You For Our People”

HOLY MANNA

God, we thank you for our peo-ple, roots dug deep with - in the soil,
5 hard-dy spir - its, rich in lov - ing, strong for strug - gle, bold for toil.
9 Faith-ful Rock of gen - er - a - tions, you whom par - ents' par - ents praised:
13 Here in hope as we re - mem-ber may our song to you be raised.

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Tune: HOLY MANNA, by William Moore, 1825.

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

SUNG RESPONSE

“In Solitude”

LAND OF REST

The musical notation is written on two staves in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "In sol - i-tude, in gath - er-ing, I come to God in prayer. In si - lence and sim - pli - ci - ty, my spir - it blos - soms there." The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff begins with a measure rest marked with a '5' above it.

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 Tune, traditional United States melody, harm by Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938.
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A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 13:10-17
Common English Bible

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

Ted & Susan Huffman

SUNG RESPONSE

“This Little Light of Mine”

THIS JOY

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with a final double bar line at the end. The lyrics are printed below the staff, aligned with the notes.

This lit - tlelight of mine, I'm gon - na let it shine.

5 This lit - tlelight of mine, I'm gon - na let it shine.

9 This lit - tlelight of mine, I'm gon - na let it shine,

12 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

“This Little Light of Mine” Traditional Negro Spiritual.
Tune: THIS JOY, Traditional Negro Spiritual.

SERMON

“Sabbath Seeking”

Sharon Benton

MUSICAL MEDITATION

“All That We Let In”

By Emily Ann Saliers

Lucy Bledig, Kathryn Liddicoet, Darlene Mathias

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Stacy Malone-Miller

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/fccbu](https://www.paypal.com/mefccbu).*

Offering Music

Judy Widrig

***HYMN 459**

“Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”

NETTLETON

***BENEDICTION**

Sharon Benton

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POPSICLES AND PRAYERS: Join us after worship today for an informal gathering to celebrate Pastor Sharon's return from sabbatical. We'll eat popsicles and catch up with each other! Cards will also be available so you can write a simple prayer or blessing that Pastor Sharon may reach for over the coming years. Join us in the main parking lot, after worship today.

FRIENDLY REMINDER: We are still wearing masks in the building and practicing social distancing. COVID-19 rates are slowly declining but Whatcom County is still in a high risk of transmission, according to the Washington State Health Department.

Flowers for Sunday Worship: Sign up to participate in worship by sharing the beauty of your garden with us! [Sign up online.](#)

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: see the blog for the summer schedule—<https://www.fccb.net/blog/adult-forum-summer-2022/>
- **Friday**
 - ◆ Knitting Group, **Fridays, 10:00 am**
 - ◆ Exploring Prayer, **Fridays, 6:30 pm**
- **Sunday**
 - ◆ Youth Group, **Sundays, 11:30 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

ACCOUNTANT: Erin Kennedy

OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE: Kurt Aagard

WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR:

Georgia Drost

MODERATOR: Beth Tyne

VICE MODERATOR: Mark Schofield

PAST MODERATOR: Bill Henkel

CLERK: Janet Malley

TREASURER: Jen Sandoval

HISTORIAN: Stacy Miller

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