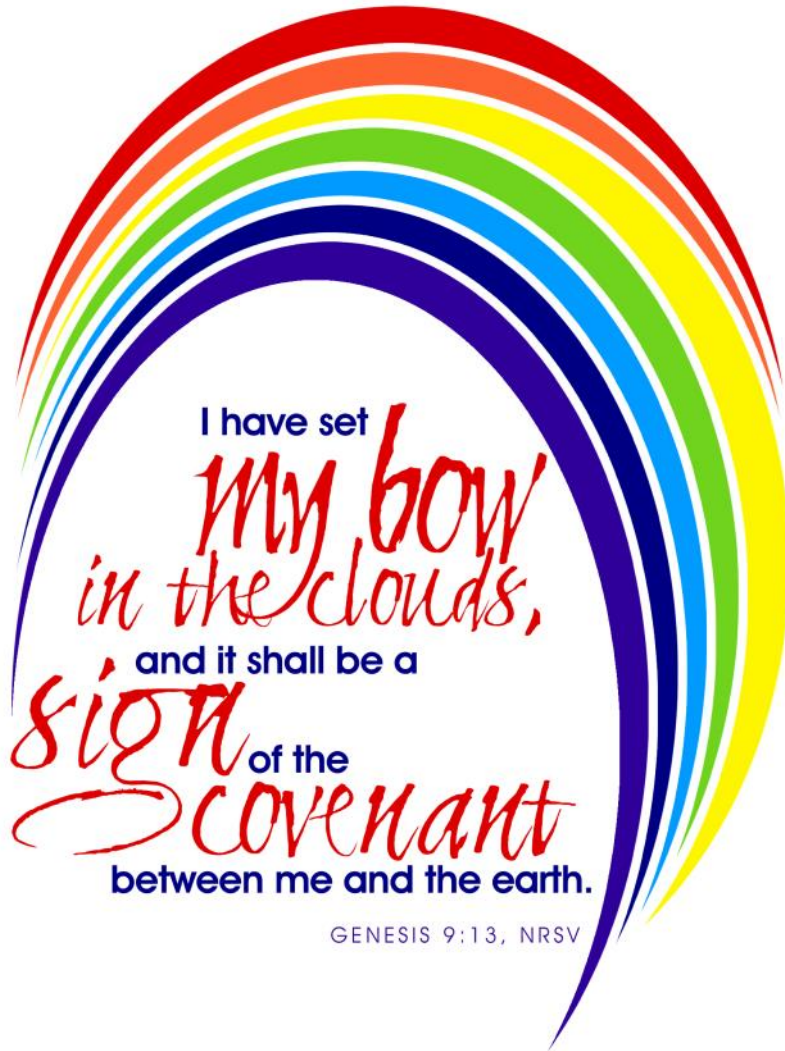


Ravens & Doves
September 11, 2022



I have set
my bow
in the clouds,
and it shall be a
sign of the
Covenant
between me and the earth.

GENESIS 9:13, NRSV

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 11, 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.*

“We have an obligation to imagine.” ~ Neil Gaiman

PRELUDE

“Violin Sonata in G major”
by Johannes Brahms

Adrian Kelly

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sharon Benton & Davi Weasley

RINGING THE BELL

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mark Schofield

One Voice: We stand, O God, at the beginning of Creation

All Voices: Today and yesterday and tomorrow

One Voice: Stir up in us wonder and reverence for your dear world

All Voices: Inspire us to just action on behalf of our planet

One Voice: Teach us to read your scriptures

All Voices: in word and in stone, in story and tree and poem and snail

One Voice: Send us out, O God

All Voices: and draw us into worship

Sing verses 1 & 2 in English, then sing the Spanish verse.

CONNECTION REFLECTION

Davi Weasley

*To go deeper into today’s story, turn to others and reflect on the question;
if you prefer to reflect on your own, use the open space in your bulletin to write or draw.
If you need more space, use the “Room for Reflection” space on the last page.*



MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Judy Widrig

A READING FROM THE POETS

“Noah’s Raven”

Mark Schofield

by W. S. Merwin. Used with permission.
*Why should I have returned?
My knowledge would not fit into theirs.
I found untouched the desert of the unknown,
Big enough for my feet. It is my home.
It is always beyond them. The future
Splits the present with the echo of my voice.
Hoarse with fulfillment, I never made promises.*

SUNG INVITATION TO PRAYER

“In Love You Summon”

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 2/2 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the last staff.

In love you sum - mon, in love I fol - low,
liv - ing to - day for your to - mor - row.
Christ to re - lease me, Christ to en - fold me,
Christ to re - strain me, Christ to up - hold me.

Text: John L. Bell, b.1949
Tune: John L. Bell, b.1949
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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 www.fcb.net/contact-us/ to send a message or call the church to talk with a pastor.*

MUSICAL MEDITATION

"Womanspirit"

Linda Allen

by Linda Allen. Used with permission.

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17

Mark Schofield

New Revised Standard Version

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mark Schofield

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 PRAYER

"Open Our Hearts"

O - pen our hearts, o - pen our minds:
O - pen our lives to you, O lov - ing
God. O - pen our hearts.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in 12/8 time. The first staff contains the lyrics "O - pen our hearts, o - pen our minds:" with a double bar line and repeat sign. The second staff contains "O - pen our lives to you, O lov - ing". The third staff contains "God. O - pen our hearts." with a double bar line and repeat sign.

Words and Music: Jim Strathdee

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SERMON

“Doves & Ravens”

Davi Weasley

SONG

“You Are Welcome Here”
by Linda Allen

Linda Allen

<i>No matter who you are, where you've traveled</i>	<i>If you feel loved, and long to share it</i>
<i>If all you've known has come unraveled</i>	<i>If you feel lonely, we'll help you bear it.</i>
<i>Are you tired? Too tired to bear it?</i>	<i>If you are strong, strong as an oak tree</i>
<i>We will walk with you, we will share it</i>	<i>If you're a river seeking mystery</i>
<i> You are welcome here, welcome here</i>	<i> You are welcome here, welcome here.</i>
<i> You are welcome here.</i>	<i> You are welcome here, welcome here.</i>
	<i> You are welcome here.</i>
<i>No matter who you are, what name you choose</i>	<i> You are welcome here.</i>
<i>The miles you walked In someone else's shoes</i>	
<i>Who you are, the work you do,</i>	
<i>Does not define our care for you</i>	
<i> You are welcome here, welcome here.</i>	
<i> You are welcome here.</i>	

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Mark Schofield

- 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/donate/?url=https://www.fccbucc.org).*

Offering Music

“Meditation” from Piano Concerto No.2
by Johannes Brahms

Mia Kelly

***HYMN 567**

“Stars and Planets Flung in Orbit”
verses 1, 3, 4, & 6

LAUDA ANIMA

***BENEDICTION**

Sharon Benton

POSTLUDE

“Piano Trio in G Minor”
by Clara Schumann

Judy Widrig
Adrian and Mia Kelly

ROOM FOR REFLECTION

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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