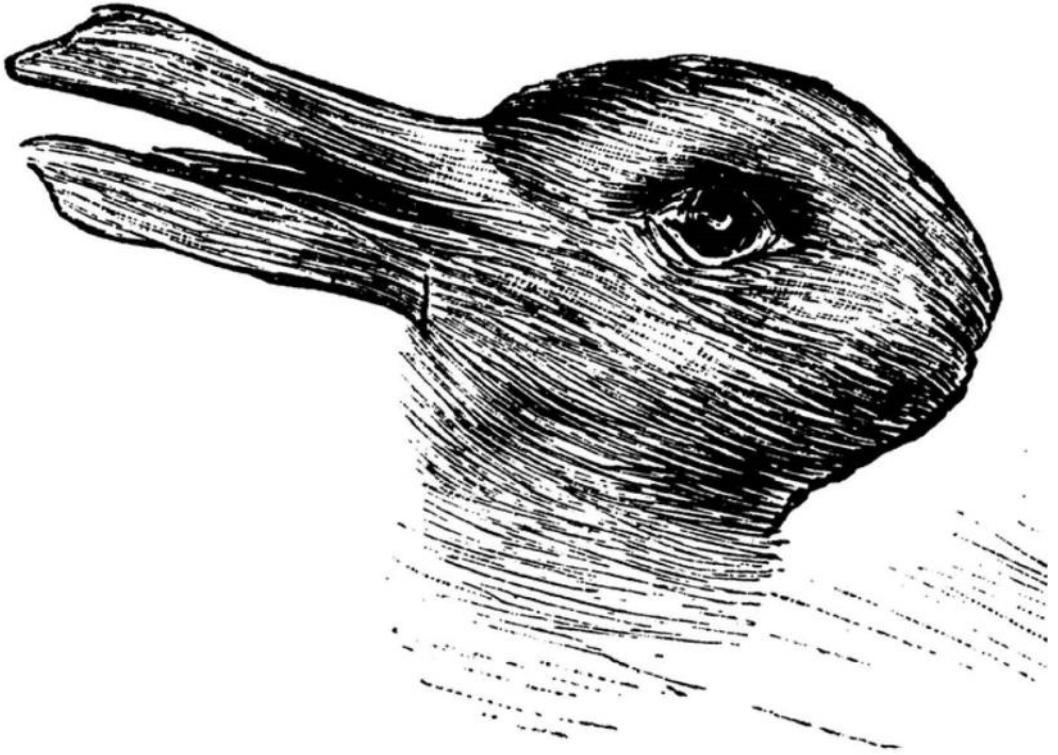


# Oppressed & Powerful

## September 25, 2022



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

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

September 25, 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.*

*Content warning for today's sermon:*

*the scripture reading includes scenes of human enslavement and attempted rape; please take care of yourself if these topics could be harmful to your spirit. A Stephen Minister will be available if you'd like to talk with someone, just ask an usher to direct you.*

**PRELUDE**

Judy Widrig

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Sharon Benton

**RINGING THE BELL**

**THE STORY**

Sharon Benton

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Lyz Staman

One Voice: Sometimes it's hard to know the truth.

**All Voices: We believe our perceptions, but sometimes our own senses deceive us.**

One Voice: Is this house beautiful or ugly? Is our music joyful or disruptive?

**All Voices: Is my hug welcoming or intrusive?**

**Is my anger about you or about me?**

One Voice: May God grant us the ability to look again, listen again, check in again.

**All Voices: May God grant us the humility and courage to try again.**

One Voice: Thanks be to God for Your faithfulness!

**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.*

If you look at the images projected on the screen or in your bulletin,  
are you able to see two possible interpretations in a single image?  
How can our perception affect our actions and understandings?  
Can you think of a time when you misperceived a situation?



**MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

Judy Widrig

**SUNG RESPONSE**

“God Bless Every Step”



God bless ev-ery step that I am ta-king, and bless the earth be-neath my feet.

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**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

Jen & John Green

*After Time with Children, preschool & elementary children are invited to attend Church School.*

SONG

“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.

Words and Music: Jim Strathdee

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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 [www.fccb.net/contact-us/](http://www.fccb.net/contact-us/) to send a message or call the church to talk with a pastor.*

**SUNG RESPONSE**

“God Bless Every Step”



God bless ev-ery step that I am ta-king, and bless the earth be-neath my feet.

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**A READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

Genesis 39:1-23  
Common English Bible

Lyz Staman

**SCRIPTURE RESPONSE**

Lyz Staman

**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.

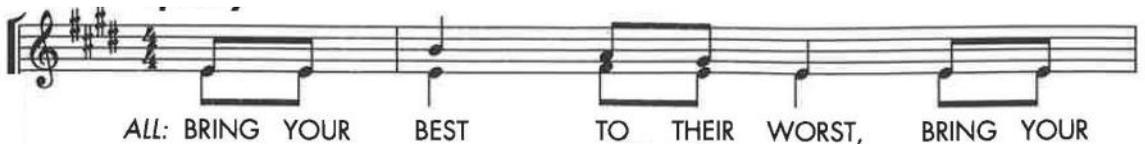
**SERMON**

“Oppressed & Powerful”

Sharon Benton

**SONG**

Bring Your Best to Their Worst” Lucy Bledig, Song Leader  
by John Bell



ALL: BRING YOUR BEST TO THEIR WORST, BRING YOUR



PEACE TO THEIR PAIN, GOD OF LOVE, HEAL YOUR PEO - PLE.

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**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

Lyz Staman

*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**

"Joyful, Joyful"

Spontaneous Handbell Ringers

**\*HYMN 439**

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

EIN' FESTE BURG

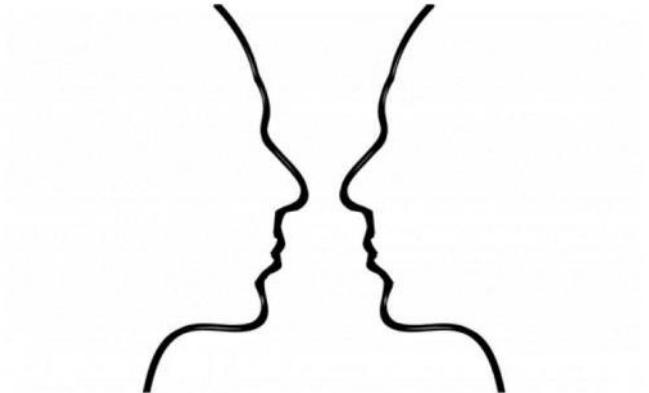
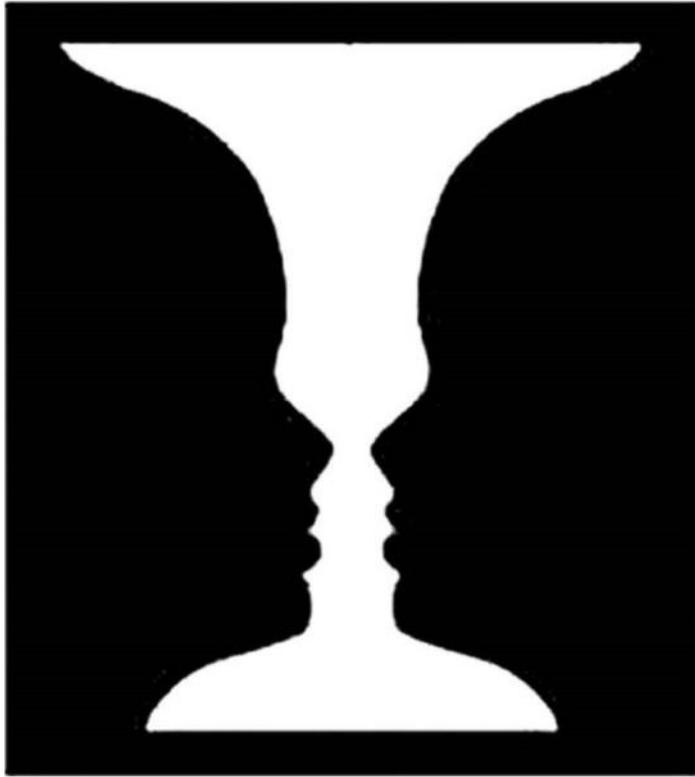
**\*BENEDICTION**

Davi Weasley

**POSTLUDE**

Judy Widrig

**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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