

Where the Star Leads

January 8, 2023



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

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

January 8, 2023

10:00 am

We thank the following people for assisting with worship:

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 us.

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

INTROIT 584

“I Am Light of the World”
Refrain only

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sharon Benton

RINGING THE BELL

THE STORY

Sharon Benton

* Rise in body or spirit

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

by @enfleshed

Mark Gale

One Voice: Behold, the glistening sign of hope.

**All Voices: A distant but shining star is
cupped by the darkness
that gently holds
the future.**

One Voice: Do we dare to feel its warming glow
in these days so cold with fear?

**All Voices: Do we dare to wonder where it leads us,
or choose the path we know?**

One Voice: The Holy has painted possibility
across the night sky.

**All Voices: It flickers with potential,
trembles with vulnerability,
shimmers with beauty, still.**

One Voice: Come, seekers.

**All Voices: The journey is before us.
A new day is born.**

***HYMN 168**

“O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word”
verses 1, 2, 4

DICKINSON COLLEGE

THE MAGI

“Gold”
from “Home by Another Way” by Liza B. Knapp

Lou Vetri

TIME WITH CHILDREN**Gifts for the Christ Child**

Each Epiphany First Congregational Church presents gifts to the Christ Child; these support the Bellingham Food Bank. Nonperishable food items and financial offerings help remind us that every person is a beloved child of God. The children will gather these gifts and place them around the manger. Thank you for your contribution.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Jim Hollander, Lou Vetri, Bobbi & Pasi Virta

New Member Covenant

We promise to worship God, preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, celebrate the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion and encourage the realization of God's will in the lives of people from birth to death, individually and collectively, as seen in the life, teaching, death and living presence of Jesus Christ. In keeping with Christ's teaching, we are "Welcoming all, Growing in Faith, Living God's Love, Justice, Compassion ..."

Congregational Covenant

We, the members of First Congregational Church of Bellingham, United Church of Christ, warmly welcome you: not to a congregation of the sinless, but to a living community of faith that seeks to find new ways of being in relationship with God and enacting God's intention for the wholeness of humankind. We give thanks for your life stories, your faith journeys, your diversity of gifts. We pray that God will help us provide a nurturing environment for you and enable us to take time for one another as we establish a shared faith and common history.

SUNG RESPONSE 525

"This Little Light of Mine"
verse 1

LATTIMER

The children are invited to go to Children's Church during the song.

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

“We Three Kings”

KINGS OF ORIENT

Refrain

O star of won-der, star of night, star with roy-al beau-ty bright,
west-ward lead-ing, still pro-ceed-ing, guide us to thv per-fect light!

THE MAGI	“Frankincense” from “Home by Another Way” by Liza B. Knapp	Pat Gillham
MUSICAL MEDITATION	“Waltz in A Minor” by Frédéric Chopin	Skyler G.
THE MAGI	“Myrrh” from “Home by Another Way” by Liza B. Knapp	Margie Kinberley
A READING FROM SCRIPTURE	Matthew 2:1-12 Common English Bible	Mark Gale
SCRIPTURE RESPONSE	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.	Mark Gale
2022 STAR WORD REFLECTION		David Fayram
HYMN 157 (seated)	“Brightest & Best” verses 1, 3, 4	MORNING STAR

INVITATION TO OFFERING & STAR WORDS

Mark Gale

There are plates around the sanctuary for you to place your offering as you come forward to choose a star word from the Communion table. Please note that if you come forward you will be on the video feed. If you'd prefer to stay in your seat, someone will come around with a basket. The star word is an invitation for your meditation or a guiding light in your faith life throughout 2023.

- 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 Breeze app. Download from your app store, set up an account, and give!
4) Give by text. Text a dollar amount to (360) 205-1297, and set up your account.*

Offering Music

Judy Widrig

***HYMN 154**

“Go, Tell It On the Mountain”

AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

***BENEDICTION**

Sharon Benton

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig

**Save the Date:
February 12
Annual Meeting
after worship**

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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