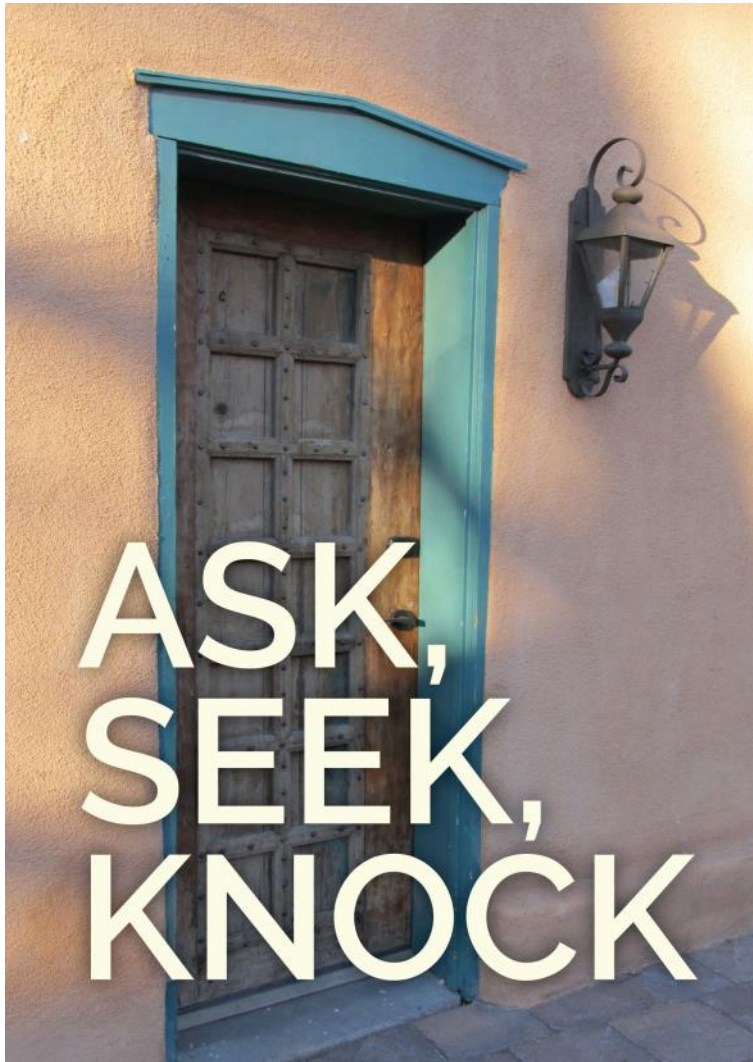


**“Ask, Seek, Knock”**  
**February 5, 2023**



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

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 5, 2023

10:00 am

*We thank the following people for assisting with worship:*

**HEAD USHER:**  
Carol Garguile

**LITURGIST:**  
Kelly Lerigny

**SPECIAL MUSICIANS**  
Unbroken Ground

*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.*

*"To dare is to lose one's footing momentarily. To not dare is to lose one's self."*  
~ Soren Kirekegaarde

**PRELUDE** Judy Widrig

**INTROIT 584** "I Am the Light of the World" LIGHT OF THE WORLD  
refrain only, 2x

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS** Sharon Benton & Davi Weasley

**RINGING THE BELL**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Kelly Lerigny

**One Voice:** Ask, and it will be given to you.

**All Voices:** **What does that even mean? What's the truth in that in the midst of so many unanswered questions, so many unmet needs?**

**One Voice:** Search, and you will find.

**All Voices:** **Some days it's hard to even know what I am looking for. Other days it's hard to have the courage to reach for it.**

**One Voice:** Knock, and the door will be opened for you.

**All Voices:** **Let's join in knocking together, and see what comes of once again joining in worship!**

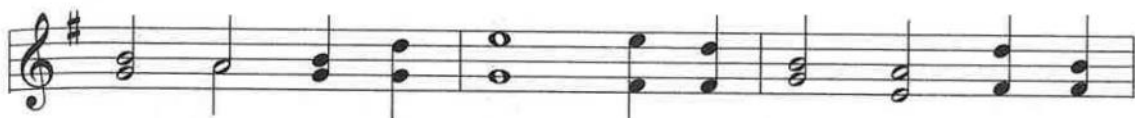
*\*Rise in body or spirit*

\*HYMN

"Ask the Complicated Questions"



1 Ask the com - pli - cat - ed ques - tions; do not  
2 Seek the dis - con - cert - ing an - swers; fol - low  
3 Knock on doors of new i - de - as, test as -  
4 For in strug - gle we dis - cov - er truth both



fear to be found out, for our God makes strong our  
where the Spir - it blows, test com - pet - ing truths for  
sump - tions long grown stale, for Christ calls from shores of  
sim - ple and pro - found: in the knock - ing, ask - ing,



weak - ness, forg - ing faith in fires of doubt.  
wis - dom, for in ten - sion new life grows.  
won - der, dar - ing us to try and fail.  
seek - ing, we are o - pened, an - swered, found.

by Joan Norris. Music - ©1989 MennoMedia Inc. Used under OneLicense #A-718199.

**PASSING THE PEACE**

Sharon Benton

*If you're willing to come to the microphone and offer "The peace of Christ" or "May God's peace be with you" or some other words of grace, please note you are also sending your message to those worshipping on line.*

**SUNG RESPONSE 524**

"This Little Light of Mine"  
verse 1

THIS JOY

**SUNG RESPONSE 154**

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

refrain only

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

**ANTHEM**

“Working on a Building”

Unbroken Circle

by Alvin Pleasant Carter  
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**A READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29  
New Revised Standard Version

Kelly Lerigny

**SCRIPTURE RESPONSE**

Kelly Lerigny

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**

“Ask, Seek, Knock”

Davi Weasley

**\*HYMN**

“Seek Ye First”

\*1.

The hymn is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody is written on a five-line staff. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff continues the melody and lyrics. The fourth staff concludes the hymn with the words 'Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.' The lyrics are: 1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God; 2. Ask, and it shall be given unto you; 3. You do not live by bread alone, and seek his righteous ness, but by ev - 'ry word; and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you; knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you; that comes forth from the mouth of God; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God  
2. Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you,  
3. You do not live by bread a - lone,

and seek, his right - eous - ness,  
but by you shall find,  
ev - 'ry word

and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you;  
knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you;  
that comes forth from the mouth of God;

Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

**Sung Invitation**

*Come, Let Us Bring*

*By Billema Kwillia & Marty Haugen*

*Come let us bring our gifts to God in praise,  
So that we might minister in countless ways.*

*Come, let us bring the warm and fragrant bread,  
Broken here so all God's people might be fed.*

*Come, let us bring the sweet, abundant wine.  
In this cup, we taste the joy of grace divine.*

*If you're joining us from home, gather something to eat and drink;  
the risen Christ will meet us wherever we are.*

*If you're worshipping in person today, you may come forward to receive communion. Stay distanced,  
please; and remove your mask briefly. If you wish to remain seated, someone will come around to you  
in your seat. Raise a hand or indicate that you would like communion as they come around,  
If you come forward you will be on the video stream*

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

Kelly Lerigny

*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 403**

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

SOLID ROCK

**\*BENEDICTION**

Davi Weasley

**\*SUNG BENEDICTION**

**“As You Go Out From Here”**

sung 2x

As you go out from here, may our God go  
with you. The face of God shine on you ev - 'ry day.  
We are sent by God wher - ev - er we are liv - ing,  
salt and light as peo-ple of the Way.

The image shows a musical score for the song "As You Go Out From Here". It consists of four staves of music in 2/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a 2/4 time signature, and a key signature of one flat. The melody is simple and melodic, with lyrics: "As you go out from here, may our God go". The second staff continues the melody: "with you. The face of God shine on you ev - 'ry day.". The third staff continues: "We are sent by God wher - ev - er we are liv - ing,", and the fourth staff concludes: "salt and light as peo-ple of the Way." The music ends with a double bar line.

Text: Bryan Moyer Suderman (Canada), 2001  
Music: Bryan Moyer Suderman, 2001; acc. Charlene Nafziger (Canada)  
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**POSTLUDE**

**“Higher Ground”**

Unbroken Circle

by Johnson Oatman, Jr. & Charles H. Gabriel

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**SANCTUARY ART**

*The three panels of art bring into our sanctuary some of the incredible colors in nature that make our daily lives alive. The art flows through a beginning, the present, and the future in a visual continuum using successively the basic colors of the rainbow. The stream flowing through each of the panels brings out the importance of water to our earthly existence.*

*The visual effect may evoke key Biblical passages, such as:*

- *In the beginning when God created the earth, the earth was a formless void, and the darkness covered the face of the deep ... then God said, “Let there be light” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good ... (Gen 1:1)*
- *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. (Ecc 3:1)*
- *I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come – the Almighty. (Rev 1:9)*

*The artist is Lyn Mehta from Alexandria, Virginia, who has an art degree from San Diego State. Lyn agreed to do the project for the price of the materials as a gift to our church. We hope the artwork deepens our worship experience.*

**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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