

“The Shalom of God Is Like ... ”
February 12, 2023



first congregational
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
timeless worship + modern faith

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 12, 2023

10:00 am

We thank the following people for assisting with worship:

HEAD USHER:
Lyz Staman

LITURGIST:
Cheryl Smith

SPECIAL MUSICIANS
One Accord

The flowers this morning are in honor of the music ministry of Lucy Bledig and Judy Widrig. Thank you for your dedication.

COVER IMAGE
Pastor Katy Stenta

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 the Light of the World” LIGHT OF THE WORLD
refrain only, 2x

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Davi Weasley

please stay for the annual congregational meeting after worship on zoom or in the sanctuary

RINGING THE BELL

THE STORY

Sharon Benton

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Cheryl Smith

One Voice: The Shalom of God is like someone who planted good seed in their field...

All Voices: **What if we’re not farmers and don’t understand the subtly different characteristics of newly sprouted wheat versus weeds?**

One Voice: The Shalom of God is like a mustard seed...

All Voices: **What if we’ve never seen a full-grown mustard shrub?**

One Voice: The Shalom of God is like yeast... And don’t tell me you’ve never eaten bread!

All Voices: **But what if we’ve never kneaded sourdough starter into a dough?**

One Voice: The Shalom of God is around you and within you—even if you can’t quite comprehend it, spend some time pondering the possibilities.

All Voices: **Thanks be to God for Jesus, a teacher with both a sense of humor and some creativity to help us see what is already around us.**

**Rise in body or spirit*

***HYMN**

"Enter In the Realm of God"

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR



En - ter in the realm of God. It is come, and yet will be. It is known, and yet un-known.
God has loved and so we love, and we give that all may share in the heal - ing God sup - plies,
Christ re - vealed its my - ster - y. In com - mun - i - ties that serve, and a - mong the saints who care,
in good news that we de - clare. Come a - gain, O Christ to rule in the realm that has no end.
There is jus - tice for the poor, and new free - dom from de - spair.
May your child - ren e - very - where hear your greet - ing "Wel - come friend!"

by Lavon Bayler. Text: © 1994, The Pilgrim Press. Used under OneLicense #A-718199.
Tune: St. George's Windsor, public domain.

PASSING THE PEACE

Davi Weasley

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

THE SHALOM OF GOD IS LIKE ...

Sharon Benton

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Ted & Susan Huffman

After Time with Children, children are invited to Church School.

SUNG RESPONSE 154

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”
refrain only

AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

THE SHALOM OF GOD IS LIKE ...

Sharon Benton

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Judy Widrig

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.”

*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.*

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.**

ANTHEM

“Now Is the Cool of the Day”

One Accord

by Jean Ritchie, Arr. Peter Amidon
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A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Matthew 13:24-35
Common English Bible

Cheryl Smith

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Cheryl Smith

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.

THE SHALOM OF GOD IS LIKE ...

Sharon Benton

HYMN (seated)

“The Kingdom of God”

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system of music has the lyrics: "The king - dom of God is jus - tice and peace and joy in the Ho - ly Spi - rit." The second system of music has the lyrics: "Come, Lord, and o - pen in us the gates of your_ king - dom. The".

(Das Reich Gottes ist Gerechtigkeit, Friede und Freude im Heiligen Geist. Komm, Herr, und öffne in uns die Tore deines Reiches. *cf Rm 14, 17*)

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INVITATION TO OFFERING

Cheryl Smith

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

“Ode to Joy”

One Accord

by Beethoven, words by Henry Van Dyke, Arr. Keith Christopher

*HYMN 312

“We Love Your Realm, O God”
verses 1, 2, 5, 6

ST. THOMAS

*BENEDICTION

Davi Weasley

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Do you receive our Friday Announcements email? Contact office@fccb.net to sign up!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY AFTER WORSHIP! IN PERSON OR ON ZOOM.

WORSHIP:

- **Sundays, 10:00 am**—Hybrid worship in person, on Facebook Live, and now on Zoom, our #BiggerBalcony.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For details, see our Connection Calendar in the Friday email or contact office@fccb.net.

Monday

Board Meetings—2nd Mondays, **6:30 pm**

Church Council—4th Mondays, **7:00 pm**

Poetry Group—**7:00 pm**

Tuesday

Book Club—First Tuesday of the month, **9:30 am**

Wednesday

Meet Me in the Middle—**12:00 noon**

Glee Club—**3:00 pm**

Adult Forum—**7:00 pm**

Chancel Choir—**7:00 pm**

Thursday

Evening Book Study—**5:00 pm**

Friday

Knitting Group: weekly, **10:00 am**

SPIRIT Group, 2nd & 4th Fridays, **6:15** welcome, **6:30 pm**

Game Night—3rd Fridays, **6:00-9:00 pm**

Saturday

Creative Connections—1st Saturdays at **10:00 am**

Sunday

Chancel Choir—**8:30 am**

Worship—**10:00 am**. Children's Church during worship

Youth Group—**11:30 am**

Going Deeper—after worship, hybrid

*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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