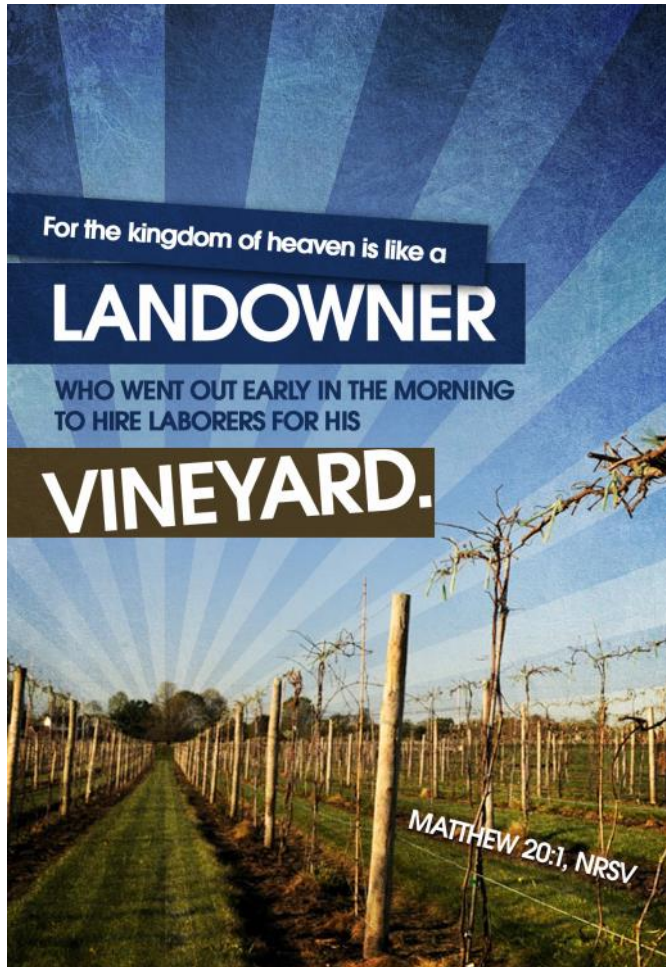


Stories in the City
“The Last Hour”
March 5, 2023



We thank the following people for assisting with worship:

HEAD USHER:
Rudy Cortez

LITURGIST:
Tammi Laninga

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.

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

March 5, 2023

10:00 am

“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.” -James Baldwin

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

INTROIT

“First Born of Mary” **FIRST BORN OF MARY**

with a bounce

First-born of Ma - ry, pro - voc - at - ive prea - cher, it - in - er - ant tea -
- cher, out - sid - er's choice; Je - sus in - spires and dis -
- arms and con - fus - es who - ev - er choos - es to hear his voice.

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sharon Benton

RINGING THE BELL

THE STORY

Davi Weasley

**Rise in body or spirit*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Tammi Laninga

One Voice: Laborers in the Vineyard. And a Landowner to call them.

**All Voices: Some of us find ourselves in moment of power,
others in moments of vulnerability.**

One Voice: Somewhere in the story is something about grace;

All Voices: Grace that refuses to be imprisoned by broken systems.

One Voice: Can I be too late for grace?

All Voices: Grace that calls the last as the first,

One Voice: Grace that breaks all our assumptions,

All Voices: Grace that makes a Way for all of us.

ANTHEM

"The Sun is on the Land and Sea"
arr. Austin Lovelace

Chancel Choir

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Ted & Susan Huffman

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

SUNG RESPONSE*"Come Into the Streets With Me" SEE SAW SACCARA DOWN*

Come in-to the streets with me! Come to where the crowds will be,



see a strange and gen - tle king on a don-key tra - vel - ling.

Refrain

Come and fol-low my lea - der, come and fol-low my lea - der,



Je - sus Christ is ri - ding by, come and fol-low my lea - der!

by Shirley Erena Murray. © 1992, Hope Publishing Company. Used under OneLicense #A-718199.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Tammi Laninga

God of Workers, we have not been kind with our money. We have purchased products made in sweatshops, we have invested in industries that destroy creation, we have ignored the labor that sustains us. In the midst of a broken economic system, we confess our enmeshment in that brokenness. We cannot imagine a new way, because we are usually not brave enough. We confess our complicity, we confess our ignorance, and we confess our fear. Lead us, God, in the midst of our broken-ness.

KYRIE ELEISON

gently

Cantor: Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. ALL: KY - RI - E E - LEI - SON.

Musical notation for the first system, featuring a treble and bass clef. The treble clef staff contains the vocal line with lyrics 'KY - RI - E' and a long horizontal line indicating a sustained note. The bass clef staff contains the piano accompaniment with a long horizontal line indicating a sustained note.

Cantor: Chri - ste e - lei - son. ALL: CHRI - STE E - LEI - SON.

Musical notation for the second system, featuring a treble and bass clef. The treble clef staff contains the vocal line with lyrics 'CHRI - STE' and a long horizontal line indicating a sustained note. The bass clef staff contains the piano accompaniment with a long horizontal line indicating a sustained note.

Cantor: Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. ALL: KY - RI - E E - LEI - SON.

Musical notation for the third system, featuring a treble and bass clef. The treble clef staff contains the vocal line with lyrics 'KY - RI - E E - LEI - SON' and a long horizontal line indicating a sustained note. The bass clef staff contains the piano accompaniment with a long horizontal line indicating a sustained note.

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ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One Voice: God, we proclaim your grace.

All Voices: Grace that holds every story,
grace that redeems every dream,
grace that reveals Love stronger than death.

Give us strength to hear the good news of our own forgiveness,
the good news of our own belovedness.

Give us strength to proclaim belovedness and peace to our siblings.

One Voice: The peace of Christ be with you.

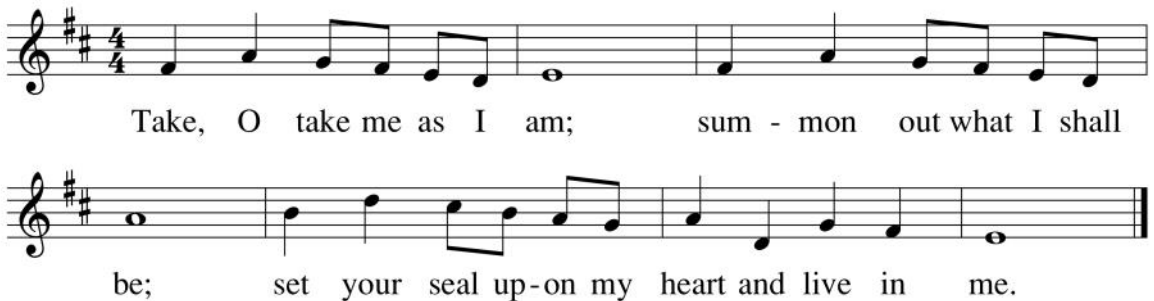
All Voices: And with God's world.

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 worshiping on line.

SUNG INVITATION TO PRAYER "Take, O Take Me as I Am"



The musical notation is written on two staves in a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me."

Text: John L. Bell, b.1949

Tune: John L. Bell, b.1949

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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.*

***HYMN 423**

"Great Is Your Faithfulness"

FAITHFULNESS

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Matthew 20: 1-16
New Revised Standard Version

Tammi Laninga

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Tammi Laninga

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

"The Last Hour"

Rev. Davi Weasley



1. To us all, to ev - ery na - tion comes the mo - ment
 2. By the light of burn - ing mar - tyrs, Je - sus' bleed - ing
 3. Though the cause of e - vil pros - per, yet 'tis truth a -



to de - cide, in the strife of truth with false - hood,
 feet I track, toil - ing up new Cal - varies ev - er
 lone is strong, truth for - ev - er on the scaf - fold,



for the good or e - vil side;
 with the cross that turns not back;
 wrong for - ev - er on the throne.



some great cause, God's new en - dea - vor, of - fering each the
 new oc - ca - sions teach new du - ties, time makes an - cient
 Yet that scaf - fold sways the fu - ture, and, be - hind the



bloom or blight, and the choice goes by for - ev - er
 good un - couth; they must up - ward still and on - ward,
 dim un - known, God is stand - ing in the shad - ow



'twixt that dark - ness and that light.
 who would keep a - breast of truth.
 keep - ing watch be - side God's own.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Tammi Laninga

- 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

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Davi Weasley & Sharon Benton

Sung Invitation

Chancel Choir

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*

***HYMN 563**

"We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky"

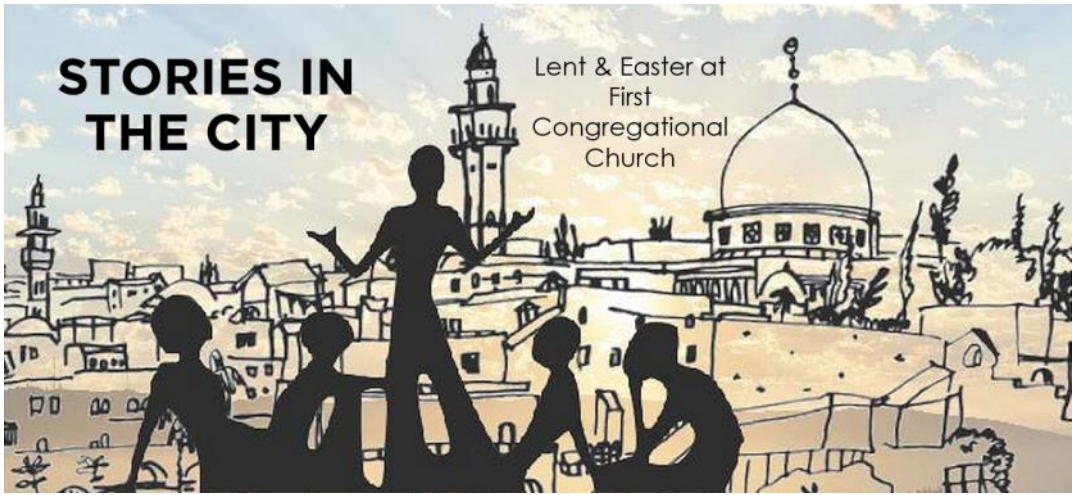
ENDLESS SONG

***BENEDICTION**

Sharon Benton

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig



Join us throughout Lent and into Easter.

Holy Week Worship

Maundy Thursday Storytelling Service:

April 6, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary, Facebook, & Zoom

Good Friday Tenebrae Service:

April 7, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary, Facebook, & Zoom

Easter Sunrise Service:

April 9, 6:30 am, Bloedel Donovan Park

Easter Celebration Service:

April 9, 10:00 am, Sanctuary, Facebook, & Zoom

See the Connection Calendar & Friday Announcement emails for special opportunities to connect during Lent.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Congregational Meeting March 12—Solar Panel Project

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**
Pilgrim Circle—Second Tuesday of the month, **12:00 noon**

Wednesday

Meet Me in the Middle—**12:00 noon**
Glee Club—**3:00 pm**
Adult Forum—**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: Mark Schofield

VICE MODERATOR: Scott Ward

PAST MODERATOR: Beth Tyne

CLERK: Janet Malley

TREASURER: Jen Sandoval

HISTORIAN: Stacy Miller

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