

Stories in the City
“It’s Not About the Oil”
March 19, 2023



We thank the following people for assisting with worship:

HEAD USHER:
Carol Garguile

LITURGIST:
Stacy Malone
Miller

As a reminder, all vocalists take rapid Covid tests before singing without a mask.

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 17, 2023

10:00 am

*“Do all your work as if you had a thousand years to live, and as you would if you knew you must die tomorrow.”
-Mother Ann Lee of the Shaker community*

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

Davi Weasley

RINGING THE BELL

THE STORY

Sharon Benton

**Rise in body or spirit*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Stacy Malone Miller

One Voice: Are you ready for what's coming?

All Voices: None of us is ever really ready.

We must depend on one another.

One Voice: Are you ready to depend on one another?

All Voices: Our independence matters to us.

We must be intentional about connection.

One Voice: Are you ready to be intentional about connection?

All Voices: There are a lot of things vying for our time.

We must look to the Divine to encourage us.

One Voice: Are you ready to look to the Divine?

All Voices: We are ready! Help us, God, to be ready!

***HYMN 312**

"We Love Your Realm, O God"
verses 1-4

ST. THOMAS

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

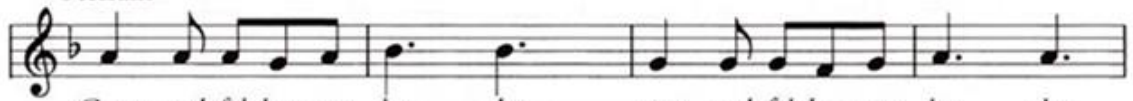


Come in-to the streets with me! Come to where the crowds will be,



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.

MOMENT FOR MISSION

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

Mark Gale

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

by Teri Peterson

Stacy Malone Miller

Holy One, we confess that we want you to work to our timetable.

We recognize that the world is not as it should be,

and we long for your coming to make things right,

yet we delay and slow down because justice is not profitable or comfortable.

We pray for you to change things now, when we want them fixed,

yet we make excuses about how we are not ready to change.

Forgive us, God, for our lamps are going out,
 and we have stumbled in the shadows as we sought our own way.
 Forgive us, and let your forgiveness fill us to overflowing
 that we may have light to share.

KYRIE ELEISON

gently

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

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

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

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ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Stacy Malone Miller

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

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 worshiping on line.

SUNG INVITATION TO PRAYER

"Take, O Take Me as I Am"

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the lyrics: "Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me." The music is written in a simple, accessible style with clear note heads and stems.

Text: John L. Bell, b.1949

Tune: John L. Bell, b.1949

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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/ to send a message or call the church to talk with a pastor.*

ANTHEM

"Keep Your Lamps"
arr. Jay Althouse;

Chancel Choir
John Green, drum

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:1-13
Common English Bible

Stacy Malone Miller

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Stacy Malone Miller

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

“It’s Not About the Oil”

Sharon Benton

HYMN 309 (seated)

“We Are Your People”
verses 1-4

WHITFIELD

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Stacy Malone Miller

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 391**

“In the Midst of New Dimensions”
verses 1-3, 4

NEW DIMENSIONS

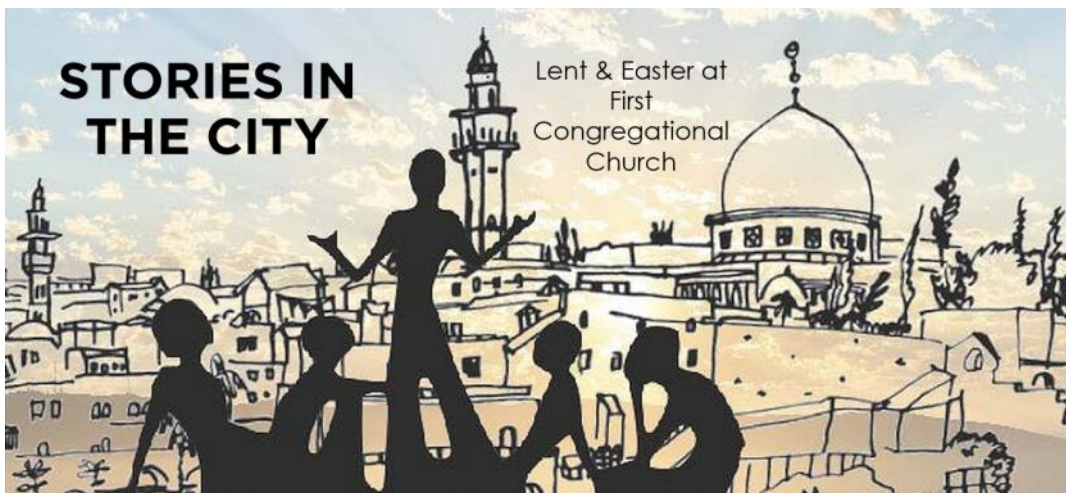
***BENEDICTION**

Davi Weasley

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig

Join us for Coffee Hour after worship!



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!

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—**5:00 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/>.*

Order Easter Tulips!

Let's make our Sanctuary beautiful for Easter and renew a Lenten tradition! Order a pot of tulips for \$10 and take them home after worship on Easter Sunday. This is a ministry of the Arts & Worship Board.

You can also order using this online form: <https://fccb.breezechms.com/form/e5290e32>

I/We (name): _____ would like to purchase (#) _____

tulips(s) for \$10.00 each for Easter Sunday.

_____ Purchased as a gift to the church

_____ Purchased in Memory of: _____

_____ Purchased in Recognition of: _____

Please return this order form with payment (cash or checks written to First Congregational Church with the notation "Tulips" to the Church Office or by mailing to: First Congregational Church, 2401 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225.

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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