

Stories in the City: “Jesus Christ Superstar”

March 19, 2023



We thank the following people for assisting with worship:

HEAD USHER:
Janet Ott

LITURGIST:
Jim Hollander

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

All music from *Jesus Christ Superstar* is by Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber and is used under CCS License #12615.

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.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 26, 2023

10:00 am

Pop culture references faith stories all the time, even if the wider culture may miss some of those influences. That doesn't mean storytelling always keeps the stories the same—stories change, are reinterpreted, as we hand them down—whether by the fireside or in theaters. To emphasize different points, even the Gospel writers changed the stories in places. Still, meaning and faith come through. Sometimes it comes through even better when it's clothed in culture.

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

INTROIT

"Heaven on Their Minds"

Christopher Giffen

*My mind is clearer now.
At last all too well
I can see where we all soon will be.
If you strip away
The myth from the man,
You will see where we all soon will be. Jesus!
You've started to believe
The things they say of you.
You really do believe
This talk of God is true.
And all the good you've done
Will soon get swept away.
You've begun to matter more
Than the things you say.
Listen Jesus I don't like what I see.
All I ask is that you listen to me.
And remember, I've been your right hand
man all along.
You have set them all on fire.
They think they've found the new Messiah.
And they'll hurt you when they find they're
wrong.
I remember when this whole thing began.
No talk of God then, we called you a man.
And believe me, my admiration for you
hasn't died.
But every word you say today
Gets twisted 'round some other way.
And they'll hurt you if they think you've
lied.*

*Nazareth, your famous son should have
stayed a great unknown
Like his father carving wood He'd have made
good.
Tables, chairs, and oaken chests would have
suited Jesus best.
He'd have caused nobody harm; no one
alarm.
Listen, Jesus, do you care for your race?
Don't you see we must keep in our place?
We are occupied; have you forgotten how put
down we are?
I am frightened by the crowd.
For we are getting much too loud.
And they'll crush us if we go too far.
If they go too far....
Listen, Jesus, to the warning I give.
Please remember that I want us to live.
But it's sad to see our chances weakening
with every hour.
All your followers are blind.
Too much heaven on their minds.
It was beautiful, but now it's sour.
Yes it's all gone sour.
Listen, Jesus, to the warning I give.
Please remember that I want us to live.
see'mon, see'mon
He won't listen to me ...
see'mon, see'mon
He won't listen to me ...*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sharon Benton

RINGING THE BELL

INTERLUDE

“Superstar”

Handbell Choir

THE STORY

Davi Weasley

SONG

“Everything’s Alright”

Jeanne Quinn
Scott Ward & Davi Weasley

*Try not to get worried, try not to turn on to
Problems that upset you, oh
Don't you know
Everything's alright, yes, everything's fine
And we want you to sleep well tonight
Let the world turn without you tonight
If we try, we'll get by, so forget all about us tonight*

*Everything's alright, yes
Everything's alright, yes*

*Sleep and I shall soothe you
Calm you, and anoint you
Myrrh for your hot forehead, oh
Then you'll feel
Everything's alright, yes, everything's fine
And it's cool and the ointment's sweet
For the fire in your head and feet
Close your eyes, close your eyes
And relax, think of nothing tonight*

*Everything's alright, yes
Everything's alright, yes*

*Woman, your fine ointment, brand new and expensive
Should have been saved for the poor
Why has it been wasted? We could have raised maybe
Three hundred silver pieces or more
People who are hungry, people who are starving
Matter more than your feet and hair!*

*Try not to get worried, try not to turn on to
Problems that upset you, oh
Don't you know
Everything's alright, yes, everything's fine
And we want you to sleep well tonight
Let the world turn without you tonight
If we try, we'll get by, so forget all about us tonight*

*Everything's alright, yes
Everything's alright, yes*

*Surely you're not saying we have the resources
To save the poor from their lot?
There will be poor always, pathetically struggling
Look at the good things you've got
Think while you still have me!
Move while you still see me!
You'll be lost, and you'll be sorry when I'm gone*

*Sleep and I shall soothe you
Calm you, and anoint you
Myrrh for your hot forehead, oh
Then you'll feel*

*Everything's alright, yes, everything's fine
And it's cool and the ointment's sweet
For the fire in your head and feet
Close your eyes, close your eyes
And relax, think of nothing tonight*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jim Hollander

One Voice: Many things brought Jesus to the cross in Holy Week.

All Voices: Was it my sin that he died for?

One Voice: Jesus spoke against powers and principalities.

He taught people to work for justice and compassion.

He walked straight into the heart of where he could make the most change.

All Voices: Could I have saved him?

One Voice: Jesus chose to face arrest and death to show us the way of God's Shalom.

All Voices: How should I tell his story?

One Voice: Don't let the world tell the tale;

shout out that Jesus led so we would follow.

All Voices: We have been led to the heart of the city.

We will follow and tell that Jesus' life, not death, is God's message.

***SONG**

"Hosanna"

Congregation

Ho - san - na Hey - san - na

San-na San-na Ho San-na Hey San-na Ho San - na HeyJ

C, J C won'tyou smile at me? San-na Ho SannaHey Super-

star Ho - san-na Hey - san-na San-na San-na Ho San-na

Hey SannaHo San - na HeyJ C, J Cyou'real - right by me Sanna

Ho San-naHey Super - star Ho - san-na Hey - san-na

San-na San-na Ho San-na Hey San-na Ho San - na HeyJ

C, J C won'tyou fight for me? San-na Ho SannaHey Super-

star

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!

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jim Hollander

Loving One, we recognize that sometimes we confuse what matters.

We listen to the world around us in its fear and ambition, and we let ourselves get sucked into following that. We want to do better, be better. Help us, Holy One. Forgive us and lead us forward...

SONG

"Pilate's Dream"

Lucy Bledig

*I dreamed I met a Galilean
 A most amazing man
 He had that look you very rarely find
 The haunting, hunted kind
 I asked him to say what had happened
 How it all began?
 I asked again, he never said a word
 As if he hadn't heard*

*And next, the room was full of
 Wild and angry men
 They seemed to hate this man
 They fell on him, and then disappeared again
 Then I saw thousands of millions
 Crying for this man
 And then I heard them mentioning my name
 And leaving me the blame*

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

Jim Hollander

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.

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:31-26:4
Common English Bible

Jim Hollander

SONG

"I Don't Know How to Love Him"

Frenchy Hollander

*I don't know how to love him
What to do, how to move him
I've been changed, yes really changed
In these past few days
When I've seen myself
I seem like someone else*

*I don't know how to take this
I don't see why he moves me
He's a man, he's just a man
And I've had so many men before
In very many ways
He's just one more*

*Should I bring him down?
Should I scream and shout?
Should I speak of love?
Let my feelings out?*

*I never thought I'd come to this
What's it all about?*

*Don't you think it's rather funny?
I should be in this position
I'm the one who's always been
So calm, so cool
No lover's fool
Running every show
He scares me so*

*I never thought I'd come to this
What's it all about?*

*Yet, if he said he loved me
I'd be lost, I'd be frightened
I couldn't cope, just couldn't cope
I'd turn my head, I'd back away
I wouldn't want to know
He scares me so
I want him so
I love him so*

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.*

SONG

“The Last Supper”

Chancel Choir

*Look at all my trials and tribulations
Sinking in a gentle pool of wine.
Don't disturb me now, I can see the answers
'Till this evening is this morning, life is fine.
Always hoped that I'd be an apostle.
Knew that I would make it if I tried.
Then when we retire, we can write the Gospels,
So they'll still talk about us when we've died.*

*Look at all my trials and tribulations
Sinking in a gentle pool of wine.
What's that in the bread? It's gone to my head,
'Till this morning is this evening, life is fine.
Always hoped that I'd be an apostle.
Knew that I would make it if I tried.
Then when we retire, we can write the Gospels,
So they'll all talk about us when we've died.*

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Matthew 26:36-40
Common English Bible

Jim Hollander

SONG**“Gethsemane (I Only Want To Say)”**

Scott Ward

*I only want to say
If there is a way
Take this cup away from me
For I don't want to taste its poison
Feel it burn me
I have changed*

*I'm not as sure, as when we started
Then, I was inspired
Now, I'm sad and tired
Listen, surely I've exceeded expectations
Tried for three years, seems like thirty
Could you ask as much from any other man?*

*But if I die
See the saga through and do the things you ask of me,
Let them hate me, hit me, hurt me, nail me to their tree
I'd want to know, I'd want to know, my God
I'd want to know, I'd want to know, my God
Want to see, I'd want to see, my God
Want to see, I'd want to see, my God*

*Why I should die
Would I be more noticed than I ever was before?
Would the things I've said and done matter any more?
I'd have to know, I'd have to know, my Lord
Have to know, I'd have to know, my Lord
Have to see, I'd have to see, my Lord
Have to see, I'd have to see, my Lord
If I die what will be my reward?
If I die what will be my reward?
Have to know, I'd have to know, my Lord
I'd have to know, I'd have to know, my Lord*

*Why should I die? Oh why should I die?
Can you show me now that I would not be killed in vain?
Show me just a little of your omnipresent brain
Show me there's a reason for your wanting me to die
You're far to keen and where and how, but not so hot on
why*

*Alright, I'll die!
Just watch me die!
See how I die!
Then I was inspired
Now, I'm sad and tired
After all, I've tried for three years, seems like ninety
Why then am I scared to finish what I started
What you started, I didn't start it*

*God, thy will is hard
But you hold every card
I will drink your cup of poison
Nail me to your cross and break me
Bleed me, beat me
Kill me
Take me, now!
Before I change my mind*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Jim Hollander

- 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.*

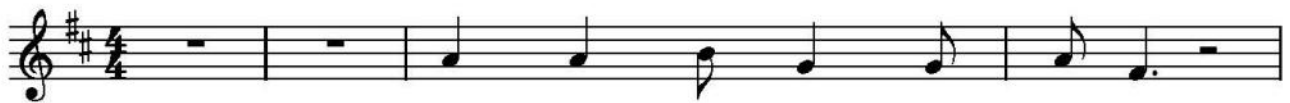
Offering Music

Judy Widrig

SONG

"Could We Start Again, Please"

Congregation



I've been liv - ing to see you.
 I've been hope - ful so far.
 I think you've made your point now.
 I've been liv - ing to see you.



Dy - ing to see you, but it should-n't be like this.
 Now, for the first time, I think we - 're go - ing wrong.
 You've gone a bit too far to get the mess-age home.
 Dy - ing to see you, but it should-n't be like this.



This was un - ex - pec - ted. What do I do now?
 Hur - ry up and tell me this is just a dream,
 Be - fore it gets fright - ning, we should call a vote.
 This was un - ex - pec - ted. What do I do now?



Could we start a - gain, please?
 could we start a - gain, please?
 Could we start a - gain, please?
 Could we start a - gain, please?

BENEDICTION

Sharon Benton

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"Superstar"

Handbell Choir

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig

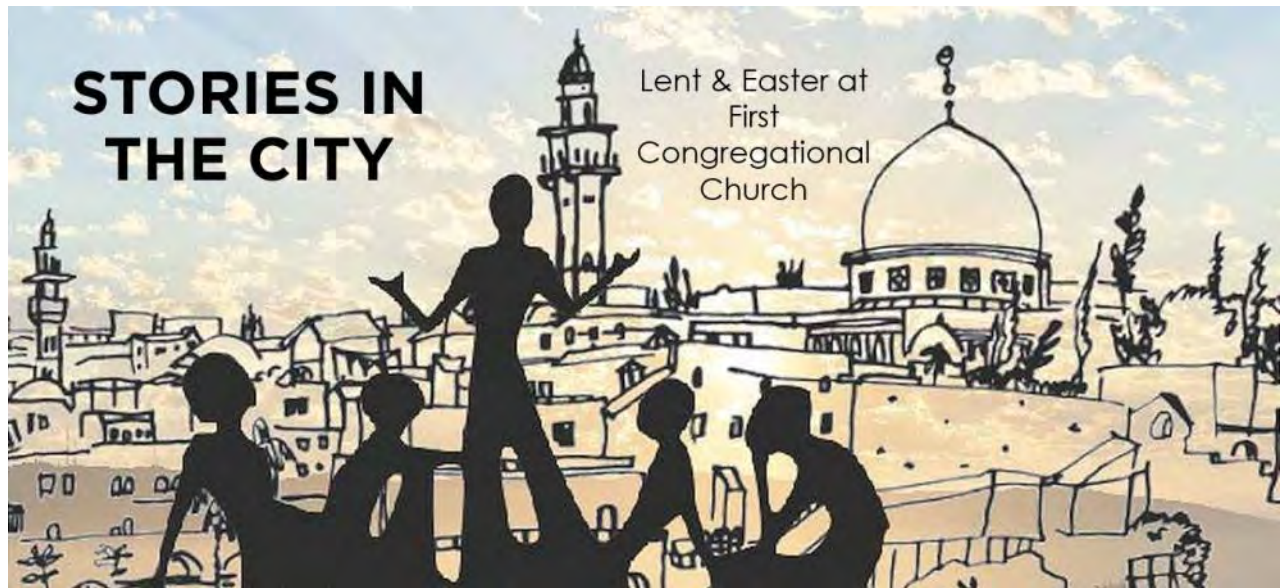
Many thanks to Lucy Bledig for your vision, invitation, and action in bringing today's service together.

Thank you to Judy Widrig for sharing your amazing gifts in a new way.

Thank you to each of the musicians for bringing your heart, your spirit, your joy.

Thank you to the congregation for recognizing that worship of God happens in so many diverse ways.

Join us for Coffee Hour after worship!



Join us throughout Lent and into Easter.

Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday Intergenerational Service:

April 2, 10:00 am, Sanctuary, Facebook, & Zoom

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.

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, she/her

PASTOR FOR YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS,

& MISSION: Davi Weasley, they/them

INTERIM MINISTERS OF FAITH FORMATION:

Ted Huffman, he/him & Susan Huffman, she/her

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Lucy Bledig, she/her

ORGANIST: Judy Widrig, she/her

ACCOUNTANT: Erin Kennedy, she/her

OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran, she/her

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE: Kurt Aagard, he/him

WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR:

Georgia Drost, she/her

MODERATOR: Mark Schofield

VICE MODERATOR: Scott Ward

PAST MODERATOR: Beth Tyne

CLERK: Janet Malley

TREASURER: Jen Sandoval

HISTORIAN: Stacy Miller

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