

Faces of Our Faith  
Facing Trouble — Jonah  
July 23, 2023



*gracious*  
AND  
*compassionate*

JONAH 4:2

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

**EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

July 23, 2023

10:00 am

*But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to Adonai and said, "O God! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment."*

~ Jonah 4:1-2

**PRELUDE**

Adrian Kelly

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Sharon Benton

*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.*

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**THE STORY**

From Spark Story Bible

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Janet Ott

One: Love your neighbors and pray for those who hurt you.

**All: That's not fair, God!**

One: The Mighty One has filled the hungry with good things but sent the rich away hungry.

**All: That's not fair, God!**

One: Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Human One.

**All: That's not fair, God!**

One: I have welcomed your brother home and prepared a feast for him, for he was lost and now is found.

**All: That's not fair, God!**

\*Rise in body or spirit

One: Jonah had to tell people to act better, or else they'd face big trouble. Jonah wanted them to be punished by God, not forgiven! It didn't seem fair that God would give them grace—it seemed like letting them get away with how they'd acted. Let's pray:

All: **There are so many ways you love us, God, even when we don't seem to deserve it. Help us love other people—and of your all of creation—the same way you love us. Amen.**

\*SONG

"What God Made Good"

COOPERRIDER

Written by SAB for Creation Care Camp 2023

1. God, God made the ri - vers. God, God made the ri - vers. God  
2. God, God made the moun - tains. God, God made the moun - tains.  
3. God, God made the trees\_\_\_\_. God, God made the trees\_\_\_\_.  
4. God, God made the clouds\_\_\_\_. God, God made the clouds\_\_\_\_.  
5. God, God made us all\_\_\_\_. God, God made us all\_\_\_\_.

made them good, God made them good, what God made good. let us  
take care of! What God made good, what God made good, what  
God made good\_\_\_\_ let us love!

WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

PASSING THE PEACE

One: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

SUNG RESPONSE 476

"How Can I Keep from Singing"

ENDLESS SONG

“Millions of Children Are Speaking Up for Voiceless Animals”

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

**HANDBELL DUET**

“This Little Light of Mine” Lucy Bledig & Ted Huffman  
arr. Barbara Rocker

**WE ARE GROWING AUTHENTIC, CHRISTIAN FAITH**

**THE DRAMA**

“The Wrong Way to Nineveh”

All original text © 2004 - 2014, LD McKenzie, revised

Verses interspersed with The Drama

TRADITIONAL SHANTY

*We sail a ship with a man named Jonah! (repeat 3x)*

*Early in the morning*

*Fall on your knees for the storm is raging!*

*Who is the guilty one among us?*

*Rock, paper, scissors — it's you, Jonah!*

**HYMN 12**

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

ELLACOMBE

**HOMILY**

“Facing Trouble: Jonah”

Sharon Benton

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

Adrian Kelly

**WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION**

**HONORING SUSAN & TED HUFFMAN’S MINISTRY**

Introduction and Ritual

Vows of Release

Mark Schofield, Moderator

**One:** Two years ago, this congregation hired Susan and Ted Huffman to serve as Interim Ministers of Faith Formation. They have served faithfully and well. At the end of this month we let them return to their place among us as members and friends, no longer staff. We thank them for the gifts and knowledge they have brought to us; and we thank them for helping lead us to this moment of letting go.

Will you, members and friends of First Congregational Church of Bellingham, release Ted and Susan from the duties of Faith Formation Ministers?

**All: We do, with the help of God.**

**One:** Do you, Susan and Ted, release this local church from turning to you and depending on you?

**Ministers: We do, with the help of God.**

“Sow Seeds, Trust the Promise”  
by Jim Manley

1. Sow\_ seeds, trust the pro - mise, uh - huh

Sow\_ seeds, trust the pro - mise, uh - huh

Trust the pro - mise, sow the seeds,

God\_ wants to give you ev' - ry - thing you need, uh - huh.

2. Sun come up and the rain come down, uh-huh  
Sun come up and the rain come down, uh-huh  
Sun come up and the rain come down  
Promise is a'growin' underground, uh-huh.
3. Use God's world with gentle care, uh-huh (3x)  
Love God's people everywhere, uh-huh.
4. Work and pray with your heart and your hand, uh-huh (3x)  
Every acre is promised land, uh-huh.

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*Offering plates are available near the doors as you leave;  
thank you for your gift helping to build justice and compassion.*

*There are several other ways to give: 1) Give at our website, <https://fcb.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.*

*5) Scan the QR code below or on the back cover of the bulletin.*

**\*BENEDICTION**

Davi Weasley

**POSTLUDE**

Adrian Kelly

*Please join us in the Children's Garden and Tot Lot  
for a celebration of Ted & Susan's ministry  
and kick-off to Creation Care Camp.*



*Head Usher: Carol Garguile*

*Cover image by Sarah Are and Lauren Wright Pittman, graphic image inspired by Jonah 1-4. Artist statement: "This story is about a man who was reluctant to forgive and a God who is so loving that grace and forgiveness are the only option. It's a powerful truth. May this story, and Jonah's grudge, remind us all of the ways in which we need saving. May it remind us just how good and compassionate our God truly is, for not a day goes by when I don't need that same unrelenting grace that God showed Jonah and the Ninevites."*

**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

*Summer Office Hours: M-Th, 10:00 am-4:00 pm*

**LEAD PASTOR: Sharon Benton, she/her**

**PASTOR: Davi Weasley, they/them**

**INTERIM MINISTERS OF FAITH FORMATION:**

**Ted, 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**

**OFFICE ASSISTANT: Monica Morton, she/her**

**CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE:**

**Kurt Aagard, he/him**

**WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR:**

**Georgia Drost, she/they**

**MODERATOR: Mark Schofield**

**VICE MODERATOR: Scott Ward, he/him**

**PAST MODERATOR: Beth Tyne**

**CLERK: Janet Malley**

**TREASURER: Craig Jennings**

**HISTORIAN: Stacy Miller**

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