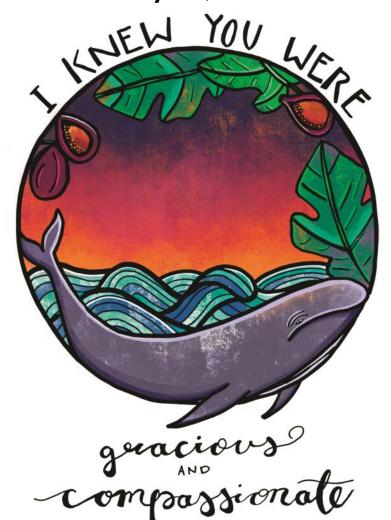
Faces of Our Faith Facing Trouble — Jonah July 23, 2023



JONAH 4:2



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."

~ *Ionah* 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.

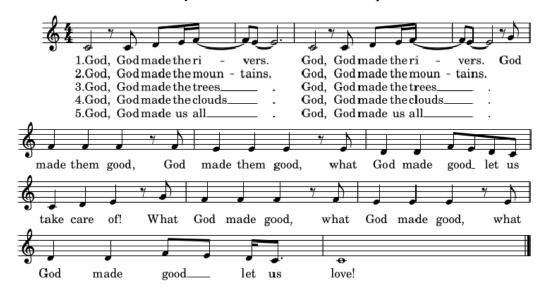
All: That's not fair, God!

*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



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

A READING FROM RIGHT NOW! REAL KIDS SPEAKING UP FOR CHANGE

Ianet Ott

"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/ 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.



- 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.
- Use God's world with gentle care, uh-huh (3x) Love God's people everywhere, uh-huh.
- 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://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.
 - 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@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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