

Faces of Our Faith
Facing Trouble — Rahab
July 30, 2023



first  congregational
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
timeless worship + modern faith

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 30, 2023

10:00 am

*“Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength,
while loving someone deeply gives you courage.”*

~ Lao Tzu

PRELUDE

Eva Sauvé

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

Sharon Benton

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jim Hollander

One: You who keep us safe through the years,

All: Help us to cling to you in the midst of other claims of safety

One: Keep us safe when we are afraid

All: and bless the fears that lead us towards health.

One: Keep us safe when there are strangers all around us

All: and teach us how to become neighbors.

One: Keep us safe in the midst of doubt

All: and help us learn how to love the questions.

One: Keep us safe in these times of trouble

All: and help us become places of safety for all .

***HYMN 309 (black hymnal)**

“We Are Your People”

WHITFIELD

*Rise in body or spirit

WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY

Leadership Team

PASSING THE PEACE

Davi Weasley

One: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

SUNG RESPONSE 476 (black hymnal) "How Can I Keep from Singing"

ENDLESS SONG

1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en -
ta - tion, I hear the sweet, though far - off hymn that
hails a new cre - a - tion. Through all the tu - mult
and the strife, I hear the mu - sic ring - ing; It
finds an ech - o in my soul— how can I keep from sing - ing?

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "How Can I Keep from Singing". It consists of five systems of music, each with a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

A READING FROM *RIGHT NOW! REAL KIDS SPEAKING UP FOR CHANGE*
"Sophie Cruz"

Jim Hollander

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharon Benton

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

"One Voice"

by Ruth Moody

Kay Marsh, Jeanne Quinn, Leslee Probasco—Vocals
Craig Jennings—Guitar

WE ARE GROWING AUTHENTIC, CHRISTIAN FAITH

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Joshua 2:1-24

Jim Hollander

New Revised Standard Version

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Jim Hollander

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.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Ted and Susan Huffman

RESPONSE 772 (black hymnal)

"Nothing Can Trouble"

TAIZÉ

SERMON

"Facing Trouble: Rahab
Crimson Cords"

Davi Weasley

HYMN 497 (black hymnal)

"Guide My Feet"

GUIDE MY FEET

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION**SABBATICAL SENDING**

Davi Weasley

*Today is Pastor Davi Weasley's final Sunday before beginning sabbatical August 1—
October 31. We will welcome them back on Sunday, November 5.*

*Introduction**Mark Schofield**Sending Liturgy**Moderator*

One: Davi, we the gathered community of First Congregational Church of Bellingham, United Church of Christ bring our spirits together to send you on your sabbatical journey. We pray that you will have wisdom, courage, and peace as you rest, travel, learn, and grow. We will pray a blessing on you, but first some questions to affirm our covenant—

Will you hold our congregation in your heart and prayers as you take this time away from ministry among us?

Davi: With God's help, I will.

One: Will you refrain from offering pastoral services to members of the congregation during this sabbatical time, so that you can focus on rest and on your inner work?

Davi: With God's help, I will.

One: Will you bring your whole heart and body to your call for this sacred time, learning more about who God is for you by learning more about your own heritage?

Davi: With God's help, I will.

One: Will you honor your own needs, and those of your family, in the midst of study, travel, and discernment?

Davi: With God's help, I will.

One: And will you return to share the fruits of your experience with First Congregational Church when your sabbatical has ended?

Davi: With God's help, I will!

One: And to the congregation:
Will you hold Pastor Davi in your prayers while they are resting, traveling, learning, and growing?

Congregation: With God's help, we will.

One: Will you refrain from contacting Pastor Davi during their sabbatical, and seek care, comfort, and advice from other sources?

Congregation: With God's help, we will.

One: Will you seek your own growth, learning, and rest while Pastor Davi is on sabbatical, and will you welcome them warmly when they return?

Congregation: With God's help, we will.

One: I invite you to pray with me: God, we now bless and send Pastor Davi on this sabbatical journey. We pray that it will be—for them and for us—a time of meaning, a time of challenge, a time of renewal, and a time of wonder. Bless their curiosity, bless their justice-seeking, bless their passion, and bless their wisdom. May they return to us blessed by the time away, and blessed by the opportunity to come back to pastoral leadership here.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

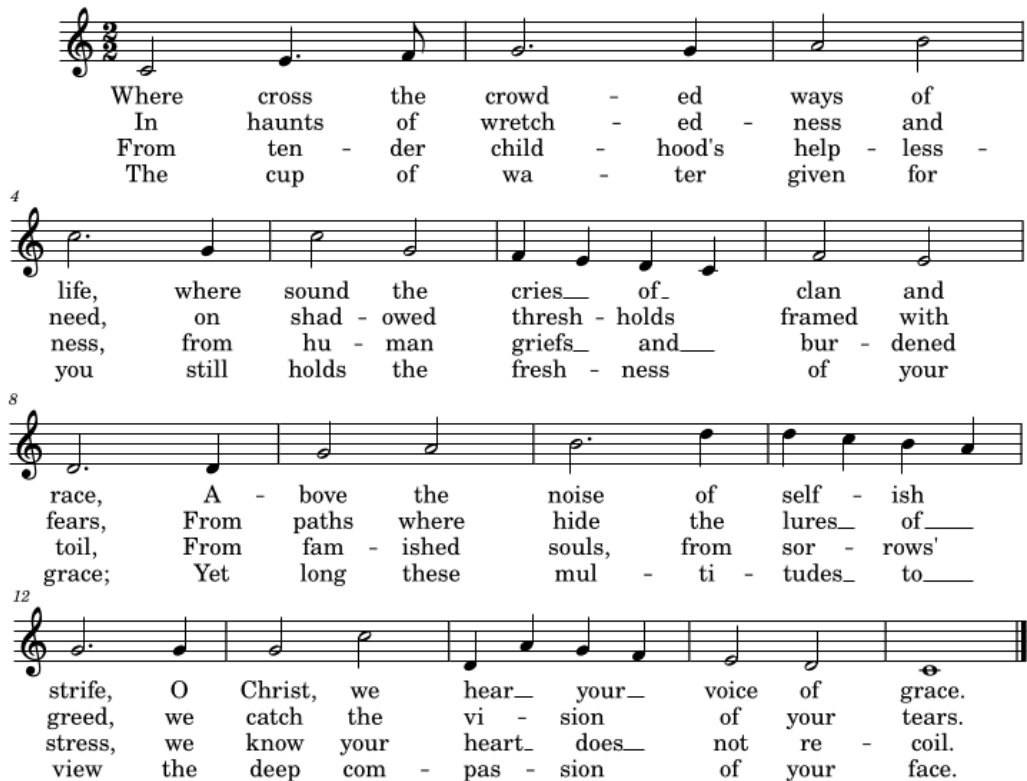
Symbolic Response

Davi removes their stole to signify that they are laying down their responsibilities to this congregation throughout the sabbatical period; they will take that yoke back up upon their return.

***HYMN**

“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”

TRURO



Where cross the crowd - ed ways of
In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and
From ten - der child - hood's help - less -
The cup of wa - ter given for
life, where sound the cries_ of_ clan and
need, on shad - owed thresh - holds framed with
ness, from hu - man griefs_ and_ bur - dened
you still holds the fresh - ness of your
race, A - bove the noise of self - ish
fears, From paths where hide the lures_ of_
toil, From fam - ished souls, from sor - rows'
grace; Yet long these mul - ti - tudes_ to_
strife, O Christ, we hear_ your_ voice of grace.
greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.
stress, we know your heart_ does_ not re - coil.
view the deep com - pas - sion of your face.

***BENEDICTION**

Sharon Benton

POSTLUDE

Eva Sauvé

*Please stay for coffee in the Social Hall, or grab a cup and join the
“Going Deeper” conversation about today’s service and/or sermon
in the Mount Baker Room.*

Head Usher: Janet Ott



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

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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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