

# Faces of Our Faith: Facing Trouble— Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego August 6, 2023



**TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

August 6, 2023

10:00 am

**PRELUDE**

Judy Widrig

**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**

One: In essentials, unity.

All: **In non-essentials, liberty.**

One: In all things, charity.

All: **Let us stand firm in our faith when it really matters.**

One: Let us make room when difference is a gift.

All: **Let us always act with love, no matter what.**

One: May God give us wisdom to discern  
when we need to stand firm and when we must make room.

**\*HYMN 383 (black hymnal)**

“Come Let Us Join With Faithful Souls”

AZMON

*\*Rise in body or spirit*

## WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

### PASSING THE PEACE

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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?

*In various nineteenth-century hymnals this hymn was attributed to different poets, including Anna Warner. The earliest published source credits Robert Lowry as the composer, although Silas Vail later claimed the music. The third stanza was written by Doris Plenn in the 1950s when her friends were imprisoned during the McCarthy era.*

Tune: ENDLESS SONG 8.7.8.7.D.  
Attrib. to Robert Lowry in *Bright Jewels*  
for the Sunday School, New York, 1869

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## "Greta Thunberg"

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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## 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.*

## MUSICAL MEDITATION

"In Memoriam to the Victims of Chornobyl"

Judy Widrig

by Larysa Kuzmenk

*In Memoriam to the Victims of Chornobyl was composed in 1997 to reflect on the tragedy of the world's worst nuclear accident. It's in three sections. The opening theme is ominous. It sets the mood for the upcoming tragic event. Following this motive, I quote a rather sad yet lyrical Ukrainian folk tune, which text describes a person walking in a graveyard to visit a loved one. The tempo suddenly quickens and the material becomes loud and rhythmic--the mechanical sound of the reactor. Amid all the chaos, the folk tune is harmonized over dissonant chords and is rhythmically and melodically manipulated. The music eventually arrives at its first climax. At this point, the music signals the reactor's first explosion. The music then becomes very quiet and the tempo slows. Here, the folk tune takes on a kind of pointillist texture. This section represents the invisible, yet fatal radioactive particles that are poisoning the environment. The tempo quickens, and the music builds towards the second climax signaling the second explosion. Here, I quote a sacred chant from the Ukrainian Orthodox church, asking God for forgiveness. The piece ends with the reappearance of the folk tune and the opening material, setting a mood that questions the future of our planet.*

# WE ARE GROWING AUTHENTIC, CHRISTIAN FAITH

## A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Daniel 3  
Common English Bible

## SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

Joyce Sweeney

## RESPONSE 772 (black hymnal)

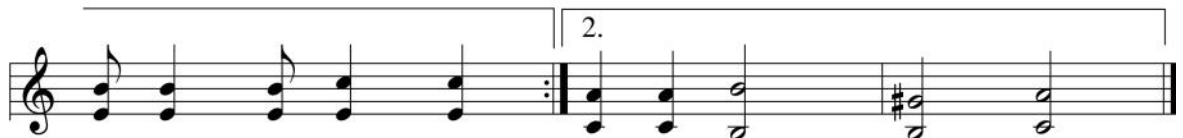
“Nothing Can Trouble”

NOTHING CAN TROUBLE

### Ostinato Refrain



Na - da te tur - be, na - da te es - pan - te. Quien a Dios tie - ne  
*Noth - ing can trou - ble, noth - ing can fright - en. Those who seek God shall*



na - da le fal - ta. So - lo Dios bas - ta.  
*nev - er go want - ing. God a - lone fills us.*



*Come, let us bring the sweet, abundant wine.  
In this cup, we taste the joy of grace divine.*

*If you're worshipping at home, gather something to eat and drink:  
the risen Christ will meet you right where you are.*

*If you're worshipping in person today, you may come forward to receive communion. If you wish to remain seated, someone will come around to you in your seat. Raise a hand or indicate that you would like communion as they come around. If you come forward you will be on the video stream.*

*You may also leave your offering in the plates.*

*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.*

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

**Communion Music**

Judy Widrig

**\*HYMN 273**

*"Praise with Joy the World's Creator"*

LAUDA ANIMA

**\*BENEDICTION**

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**POSTLUDE**

Judy Widrig

**COMMUNION ELEMENT INGREDIENTS:**

*Communion loaf— whole wheat flour, molasses, yeast, salt.*

*Gluten free wafers—Rice flour, safflower oil, salt. Juice— grape juice, vitamin C*

**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:       On Sabbatical

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**

**SABBATICAL PASTOR: L Page, she/they**

**CHURCH SCHOOL COORDINATOR:**

**Josh Marchand, they/them**

**MINISTER OF MUSIC: Lucy Bledig, she/her**

**ORGANIST: Judy Widrig, she/her**

**ACCOUNTANT: Marinda Seholm, she/her**

**OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran, 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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