

# Faces of Our Faith: Facing Ourselves — Peter

## September 3, 2023

[They] were astonished,  
because the gift  
of the Holy Spirit  
had been poured out  
even on the Gentiles.

ACTS 10:45, NRSV

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

September 3, 2023

10:00 am

*“We have been taught to fear the very things that have the potential to set us free.”*

~ Alok Vaid-Menon

**PRELUDE**

Judy Widrig

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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*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**

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*\*Rise in body or spirit*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

from Enfleshed

Lyz Staman

One: Listen! Listen for the voice of God, name us all: Holy. Beloved.  
Cherished. Valued.

All: **Make us a people who recognize and proclaim your beauty and goodness  
in unexpected places.**

One: Surprise us. Challenge us. Transform us.

All: **We trust in you, Holy One, to reveal to us the sacredness of every life,  
of every way of being, of every physical manifestation of your Spirit.**

One: May it be so!

**\*HYMN 73 (black hymnal)**

“Enter, Rejoice, and Come In”

ENTER REJOICE

**WE ARE A NURTURING BELOVED COMMUNITY.**

**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

Scott Ward

**SUNG RESPONSE**

“God Welcomes All”

God wel - comes all, stran - gers and friends;  
God's love is strong and it ne - ver ends.

The image shows a musical score for a sung response. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system contains the lyrics 'God wel - comes all, stran - gers and friends;' and the second system contains 'God's love is strong and it ne - ver ends.' The piano accompaniment features chords and single notes, with some rests.

**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.*

**ANTHEM**

**“You Do No Walk Alone”**

**by Elaine Hagenberg**

**One Accord**

**WE ARE GROWING AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN FAITH**

**A READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

**Acts 10:9-36**

*Common English Bible*

**Lyz Staman**

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Lyz Staman

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.

SERMON

“Facing Ourselves: Peter’s Vision”

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HYMN

“New Patterns of Loving”

TUNE



1. New pat - terns of lov - ing make room for new ways,  
2. Our an - ces - try marks us with vis - i - ble signs;  
3. God bless all the mo - thers and fa - thers to - day;



cre - at - ing new fam - ilies to care for and raise.  
we bear in our bod - ies ge - net - ic de - signs.  
help us to raise chil - dren to walk in God's way,



All those who have loved us and helped us to grow  
But love, be - yond lim - its of gen - der or race,  
to care for each oth - er as chil - dren of God,



are fam - ilies of choice by the car - ing they show.  
can fash - ion new fam - ilies and new ways em - brace.  
whose love is in - clu - sive, far - reach - ing, and broad.

Barbara Hamm

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ST. DENIO

## WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION

### SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

#### Invitation

#### Sung Invitation

#### *Come, Let Us Bring*

*By Billema Kwillia & Marty Haugen*

*Come let us bring our gifts to God in praise,  
So that we might minister in countless ways.*

*Come, let us bring the warm and fragrant bread,  
Broken here so all God's people might be fed.*

*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 to the right or on the back cover of the bulletin.*



#### Communion Music

Judy Widrig

**\*HYMN**

“Sing a New World into Being”

NETTLETON



1. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sound a bold and hope - ful theme.  
2. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where each gen - der class and race  
3. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where the home - less find a home.  
4. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Join the an - cient proph - ets' cry



Find a tune for si - lent year - ings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:  
brings its rain - bow gifts and col - ors to God's lim - it - less em - brace;  
where no chil - dren ev - er hun - ger but are filled with God's sha - lom;  
for a time of health and plen - ty when all tears have been wiped dry;



dream a\_\_\_ church where all who wor - ship find their\_ lives and loves be - long.  
where the\_\_\_ lines that once di - vi - ded form in - stead the ties that bind.  
where all\_\_\_ peo - ple work for jus - tice, where all\_\_\_ hate and vengeance cease.  
when com - pas - sion flows like wa - ters, pour - ing\_\_\_ balm for all who grieve.



Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sing as Christ in - spires your song!  
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: risk trans - form - ing heart and mind!  
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: raise the har - mo - nies of peace.  
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: live the prom - ise you be - lieve!

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**\*BENEDICTION**

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**POSTLUDE**

“We Praise You”

One Accord

Matt Redman, Brandon Lake, Brian Johnson and Phil Wickman

Arranged by Ross Rodgers

**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](mailto:sharon@fccb.net)

Davi:        On Sabbatical

You can also email our Office Manager Cydne at [office@fccb.net](mailto: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](mailto:office@fccb.net) • [www.fccb.net](http://www.fccb.net)

Facebook: [facebook.com/fccbucc](https://facebook.com/fccbucc)

*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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