

Re-reading Our Origin Stories

September 10, 2023



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 10, 2023

10:00 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS (9:45 am)

RINGING OF THE BELL (10:00 am)

WELCOME

Page

SONG

"You Are Welcome Here"

Linda Allen

by Linda Allen. Used with permission.

No mat-ter who you are, where you've tra - veled If
No mat-ter who you are, what name you choose The
If you feel loved, and long to share it If
all you've known has come un - rav-eled Are you tired? Too
miles you walked in some-one el - se's shoes Who you are, the
you feel lone-ly we'll help you bear it. If you are strong, strong
tired to bare it? We will walk with you, we will share it
work you do, Does not de - fine our care for you
as an oak tree If you're a ri - ver seeking my-ster - y
You are wel-come here, wel-come here You are wel-come here.

**Rise in body or spirit*

THE STORY

Page

When we read this story with our own eyes, what do we see?

TIME WITH CHILDREN

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

Judy Widrig

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from *Hold Fast to What Is Good*

Matthew Best

One: A love that never ceases

All: A creativity that designed the universe

One: A hope that cannot be quenched

All: A pursuit of reconciliation no matter the cost;

One: These are the things that are of God,

All: Then let us worship.

***HYMN 556 (black hymnal)** “God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens” HOLY MANNA

WE ARE A NURTURING BELOVED COMMUNITY.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Page

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.*

SILENT PRAYER

SUNG PRAYER

"Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New"

BEHOLD BEHOLD

Be - hold, be - hold, I make all things new, be -
gin-ning with you and start - ing from to - day. Be -
hold, be - hold, I make all things new, my
prom-ise is true, for I am Christ, the way.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Text: John L. Bell, b.1949

Tune: John L. Bell, b.1949

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WE ARE GROWING AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN FAITH**A READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

Genesis 2:4b-25

Matthew Best

*Common English Bible***SCRIPTURE RESPONSE**

Matthew Best

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.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

"Womanspirit"

Linda Allen

by Linda Allen

She is moving across the water

Spirit's moving like a woman

She is moving out over the land

She is creation, she is the birth

She is moving through the darkness

Spirit's moving, always reaching

Holding the stars in her mighty hand

Head in the heavens, Heart in the earth

She is moving like a heartbeat

She is moving in a lover's sigh

She is moving like a whisper

Hearing the world in a baby's cry

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION

TESTIMONY

Meg Best

***HYMN 32 (black hymnal)**

"God of the Sparrow God of the Whale"

ROEDER

POSTLUDE & SHARING

Judy Widrig

*After the postlude we encourage you to share
with someone your response to today's question:
When we read this story with our own eyes, what do we see?*

*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.



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

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Facebook: 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, she/her

TREASURER: Craig Jennings

HISTORIAN: Stacy Miller

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