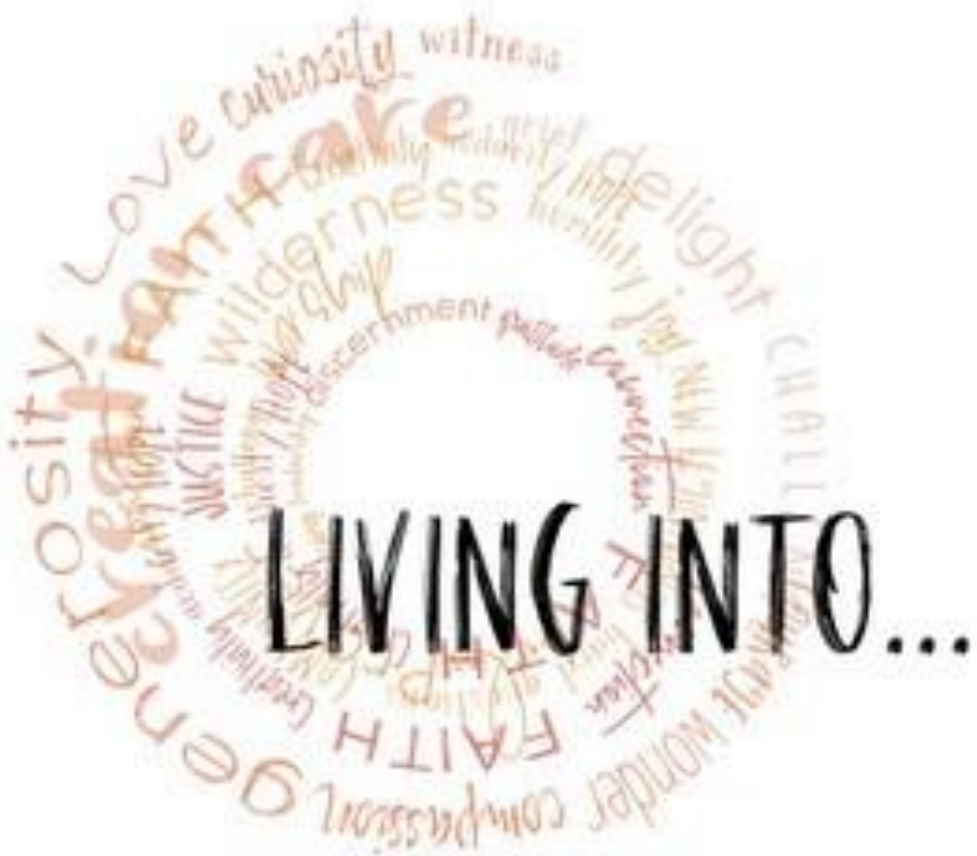


**Gathering In Sunday
Living Into Radical Hospitality
September 17, 2023**



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 17, 2023

10:00 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS (9:50 am)

RINGING OF THE BELL (10:00 am)

WELCOME

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THE STORY

Page

What promise could God make to you that would leave you laughing in disbelief?

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Sharon Benton

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

Judy Widrig

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Louis Vetri

One: God rejoices at our presence here today,

All: And welcomes us home with a celebration.

One: We come from different places, bring different needs,

All: And God's love accepts and provides for us all.

One: God, help us extend your radical hospitality,

All: And share the gift of beloved community.

**Rise in body or spirit*

Marty Haugen



1. Here in this place, new light is stream-ing, now is the
 2. We are the young, our lives are a mys - try, we are the
 3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will
 4. Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin - ing, not in some



1. dark - ness, van - ished a - way, See, in this space, our
 2. old who yearn for your face, We have been sung through-
 3. take the bread of new birth, Here you shall call your
 4. heav - en, light years a - way, but here in this place, the



1. fears and our dream-ings, brought here to you in the light of this
 2. out all of his - try, called to be light to the whole hu - man
 3. sons and your daugh - ters, call us a - new to be salt for the
 4. new light is shin - ing, now is the Kin - dom now is the



1. day. Gath - er us in the lost and for - sa - ken, Gath - er us
 2. race. Gath - er us in the rich and the haugh - ty, Gath - er us
 3. earth. Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, Give us to
 4. day. Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, Gath - er us



1. in the blind and the lame; Call to us now, and we shall a -
 2. in the proud and the strong; Give us a heart so meek and so
 3. eat the bread that is you; Nour - ish us well, and teach us to
 4. in and make us your own; Gath - er us in all peo - ples to -



1. wa - ken, we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 2. low - ly, give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 3. fash - ion, lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 4. geth - er, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

WE ARE A NURTURING BELOVED COMMUNITY.

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.fcgb.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

The musical score is written for a single voice part in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: "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 melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

WE ARE GROWING AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN FAITH

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7
Common English Bible

Louis Vetri

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Louis Vetri

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

"Living Into Radical Hospitality"

Page

MUSICAL REFLECTION

"Simple Gifts"
arr. Carl Strommen

Pick-Up Choir

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION

***HYMN 402 (black hymnal)**

"De Colores" (Sing of Colors)

DE COLORES

POSTLUDE & SHARING

Judy Widrig

*After the postlude we encourage you to share
with someone your response to today's question:*

What promise could God make to you that would leave you laughing in disbelief?

*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://fcb.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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Do you receive our Friday Announcements email? Contact office@fccb.net to sign up!

Gathering In Sunday Picnic Today at Squalicum Creek Park!

Today's flowers were provided by KJ Hayes.

WORSHIP:

- **Sundays, 10:00 am**—Hybrid worship in person, and on Facebook or on Zoom, our #BiggerBalcony.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For details, see our Connection Calendar in the Friday email or contact office@fccb.net.

Monday

Walking Group, **10:30 am**, Barkley Pond
Board Meetings—**2nd Mondays, 6:30 pm**
Church Council—**4th Mondays, 7:00 pm**
Poetry Group—**7:00 pm**

Tuesday

Book Club—**1st Tuesdays, 9:30 am**
Pilgrim Circle—**2nd Tuesdays, 12:00 noon**
Green Team—**2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7:00 pm**

Wednesday

Glee Club—**5:00 pm**
Adult Forum—**7:00 pm**

Thursday

Evening Book Study—**5:00 pm**

Friday

Knitting Group: weekly, **10:00 am**
Quilters: weekly, **12:00 noon**, off-site
Game Night—**3rd Fridays, 6:00-9:00 pm**
SPIRIT Group—**2nd & 4th Fridays, 6:15 welcome, 6:30 pm discussion on Zoom**

Sunday

Youth Group—**11:30 am**

*To stay up to date, follow us on social media, subscribe to our Friday Email,
or check in with our Full Circle Blog, <https://www.fccb.net/blog/>.*

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

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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