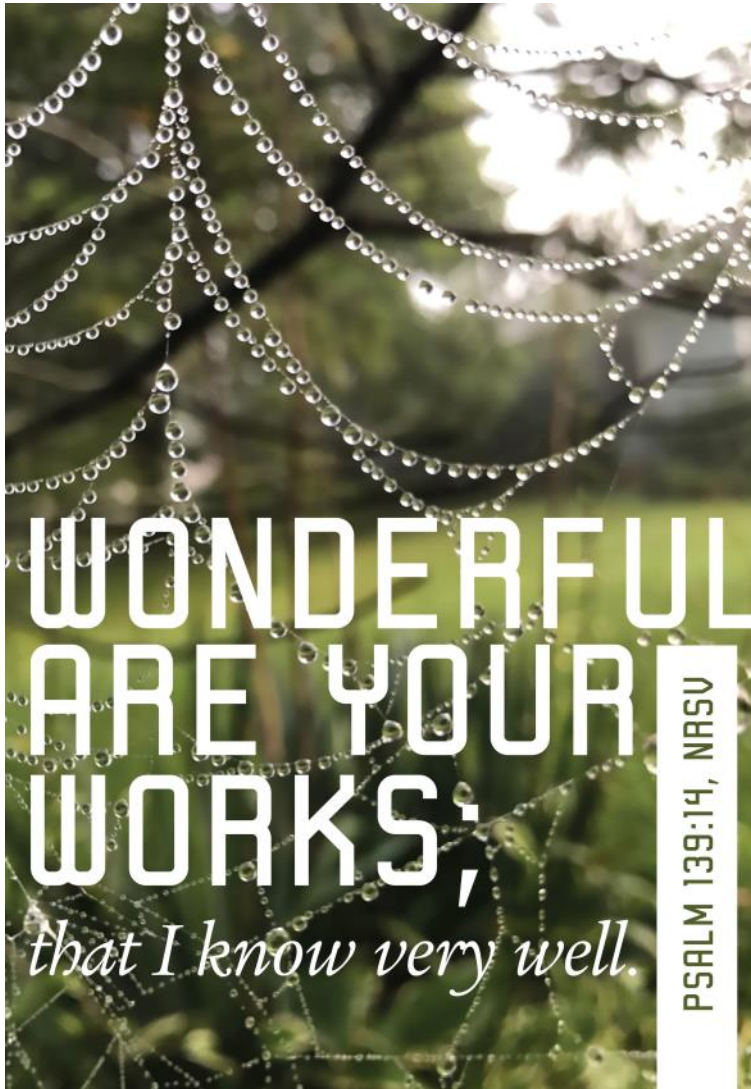


**Living Into God's Love**  
**October 22, 2023**



**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

October 22, 2023

10:00 am

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** (9:50 am)

**RINGING OF THE BELL** (10:00 am)

**WELCOME**

Page

**“What We Need Is Here”**

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**THE STORY**

Page

**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

Page

*Children may go with Josh to church school in the social hall  
or remain in the sanctuary as they choose.*

**MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION**

Judy Widrig

**\*COMMUNITY PRAYER**

from enfleshed

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

**All: We believe you delight In us!**

One: Make us people who recognize and proclaim your beauty and  
goodness in unexpected places

**All: Surprise us. Challenge us. Transform us.**

One: 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.

**All: May it be so!**

**\*HYMN**

“Womb of Life”

ODE TO JOY



Womb of life, and source of be-ing, home of ev-ery rest-less heart,  
Word of flesh, our broth-er Je-sus, born to bring us sec-ond birth,  
Brood-ing Spir-it, move a-mong us; be our part-ner, be our friend.  
Mo-ther, Broth-er, ho-ly Part-ner; Fa-ther, Spir-it, On-ly Son:



in your arms the worlds a-wak-ened; you have loved us from the start.  
you have come to stand be-side us, know-ing weak-ness, know-ing earth.  
When our mem-ory fails, re-mind us whose we are, what we in-tend.  
we would praise your name for-ev-er, one-in-three, and three-in-one.



We, your child-ren, gath-er 'round you, at the ta-ble you pre-pare.  
Priest who shares our hu-man strug-gles, Life of Life, and Death of Death,  
La-bor with us, aid the birth-ing of the new world yet to be,  
We would share your life, your pass-ion, share your word of world made new,



Shar-ing stor-ies, tears, and laugh-ter, we are nur-tured by your care.  
Ri-sen Christ, come stand a-mong us, send the Spir-it by your breath.  
Free of ser-vant, lord, and mas-ter, free for love and u-ni-ty.  
Ev-er sing-ing, ev-er prais-ing, one with all, and one with you.

## WE ARE A NURTURING BELOVED COMMUNITY

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Page

#### SILENT PRAYER

#### 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.*

## WE ARE GROWING AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN FAITH

### A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 139

*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.

### SERMON

“Living Into God’s Love”

Page

**MUSICAL REFLECTION** “Round on a theme from *Academic Festival Overture*”  
by Johannes Brahms, arranged by Martha Lynn Thompson  
Handbell Choir, directed by Allison Thomas

**WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION**

**TESTIMONY**

Creation Care Prayer  
Gail Warren, Larry Menninga, & Nancy Fayram

The Green Team

CREATOR GOD,  
who multiplies blessings,  
bless these symbols  
and the actions they represent  
as we join with you to heal and protect  
our planet from pollution and destruction.

HELP US  
to set aside the desire for material riches,  
opening our hearts to the myriad life forms  
around us and the rich beauty  
of this planet that we hold dear.

GUIDE US  
as we learn to make sustainable changes  
in our everyday lives.

AND BLESS  
the scientists, researchers, activists,  
and advocates for climate justice  
as they multiply the blessings we offer.

WE PRAY  
in awe  
of the life and the beauty  
on this planet that we call home.

AMEN

**\*SENDING SONG**

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**\*BENEDICTION**

Page

**POSTLUDE & SHARING**

*Please leave your offering gift in the plates as you leave the sanctuary.*

*Your generosity allows the work of this place nurture beloved community,  
grow authentic Christian faith, and live Christ-inspired action. Thank you! .*

*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 above or on the back cover of the bulletin.*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Do you receive our Friday Announcements email? Contact [office@fccb.net](mailto:office@fccb.net) to sign up!*

### **Save the Date: Trunk or Treat, October 29**

#### **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](mailto:office@fccb.net).*

#### **Monday**

Walking Group: weekly, **10:00 am**, Barkley Pond

Board Meetings: **2nd Mondays, 6:30 pm**

Church Council: **4th Mondays, 7:00 pm**

Poetry Group: **1st & 3rd Mondays 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: weekly, **5:00 pm**

Adult Forum: weekly, **7:00 pm**

SPIRIT Group: **1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7:00 pm on Zoom**

#### **Thursday**

Grandparent Group: **2nd Thursdays, 10:30 am**, Fireplace Room

Evening Book Study: **2nd & 4th Thursdays, 5:00 pm**

Young Adult Peer Philosophy Group: weekly, **7:00 pm**, Fireplace Room

#### **Friday**

Knitting Group: weekly, **10:00 am**

Quilters: weekly, **12:00 noon**, off-site

Game Night: **3rd Fridays, 6:00-9:00 pm**

#### **Sunday**

Chancel Choir: weekly, **8:30 am**

Children's Church: weekly, **during worship**

Going Deeper: weekly, **11:30 am**

Handbells: weekly, **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**

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