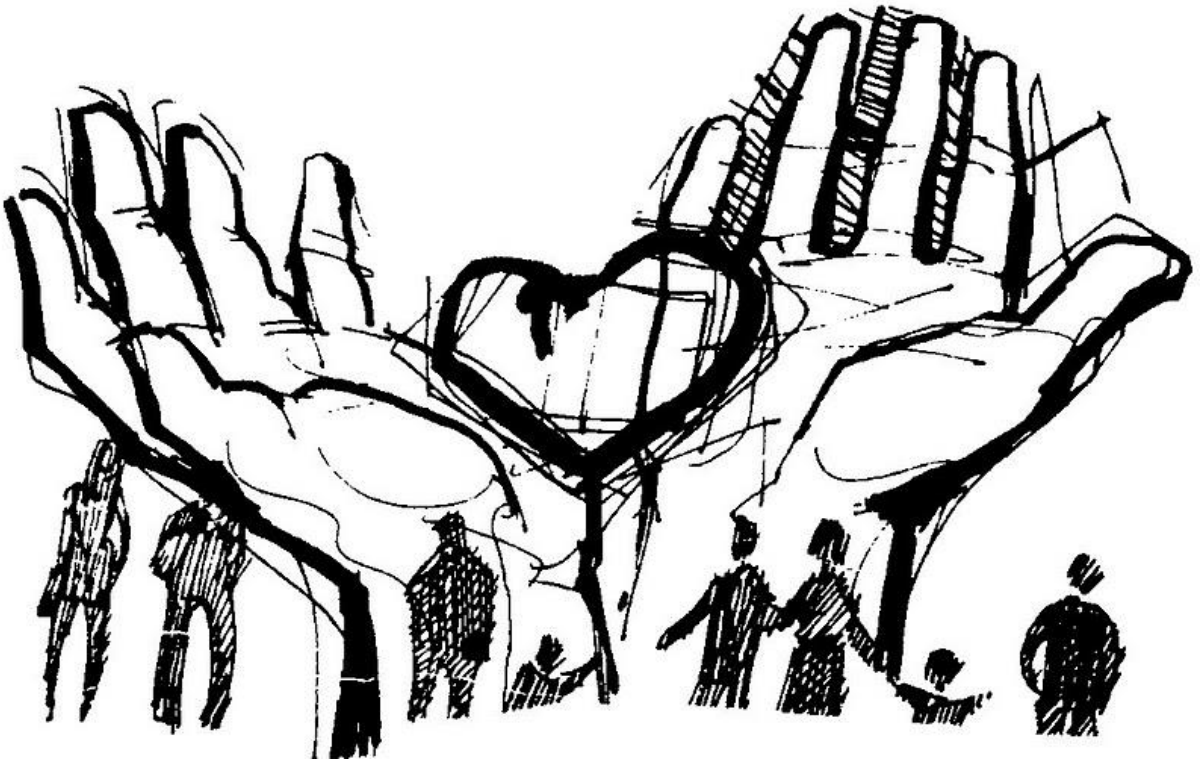


Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
November 5, 2023



TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 5, 2023

10:00 am

*Too long we have wandered
Burdened and undone.
But there is room at the table for everyone.
Let us sing the new world in,
This is how it all begins,
There is room at the table for everyone.*
~ Carrie Newcomer, "Room at the Table"

ANNOUNCEMENTS (9:55 am)

WELCOME

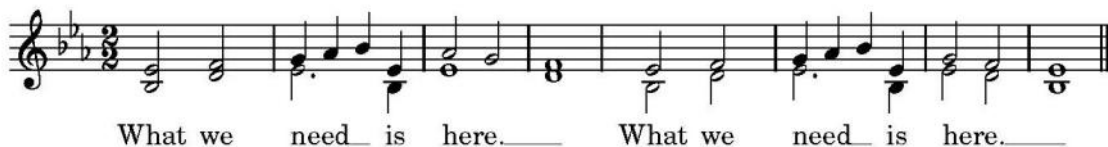
Sharon Benton & Davi Weasley

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME SONG

"What We Need Is Here"

Text by Wendell Berry. Tune by Amy McCreath.



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THE STORY

Sharon Benton

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Davi Weasley

*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

*What has kept (or currently keeps) you away from worshiping community?
How do you remain intentionally connected with the Divine
when you're away from worshiping community?*

***COMMUNAL PRAYER**

by Teri Peterson, BibleWorm

Jim Hollander

All: Remind us who we are, O God.

One: Remind us today of the story you are still telling,

All: and our place in it.

One: Remind us that in times of division

All: we still are one with your people through the ages and today.

One: Give us a glimpse of the great cloud of witnesses surrounding us,

All: that we might be strengthened to hold fast to your way.

One: In the midst of so many voices and stories competing for our allegiance,

**All: Remind us who we are
and to whom we belong. Amen.**

***HYMN 311** (black hymnal)

"Renew Your Church"

ALL IS WELL

WE ARE A NURTURING BELOVED COMMUNITY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharon Benton

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/ to send a message or call the church to talk with a pastor.*

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

"With Sighs Too Deep for Words"
by Anne Krentz Organ. Used with permission.

Judy Widrig

WE ARE GROWING AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN FAITH

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 18:[17-19] 20-39
Common English Bible

Jim Hollander

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Jim Hollander

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

Sharon Benton

MUSICAL REFLECTION

"We Thank You God"
by Ryan Nowlin

One Accord

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.*

Sharing the Elements

You may come forward to receive communion or 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.

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

You may leave your offering in the plates. 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://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 Song

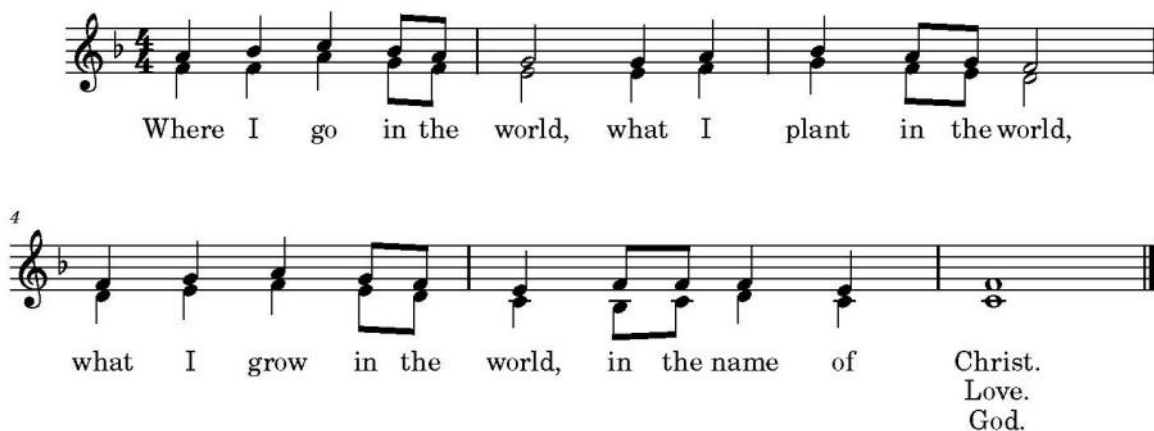
"Let Us Break Bread Together"
arr. Lloyd Larson

One Accord

***CLOSING SONG**

"Where I Go in the World"

by Ana Hernández



Where I go in the world, what I plant in the world,

what I grow in the world, in the name of Christ.
Love.
God.

***BENEDICTION**

Davi Weasley

POSTLUDE & SHARING

Judy Widrig

*After the postlude we encourage you share with someone your response to today's question: ?
What has kept (or currently keeps) you away from worshipping community?
How do you remain intentionally connected with the Divine
when you're away from worshipping community?*



COMMUNION ELEMENT INGREDIENTS:

Communion loaf— whole wheat flour, molasses, yeast, salt. Juice— grape juice, vitamin C.
Gluten free—sorghum, tapioca, millet & rice flours; sea salt, honey, canola oil, water, ginger ale, egg.

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: **davi@fccb.net**

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

LEAD PASTOR: Sharon Benton, she/her

PASTOR: Davi Weasley, they/them

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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