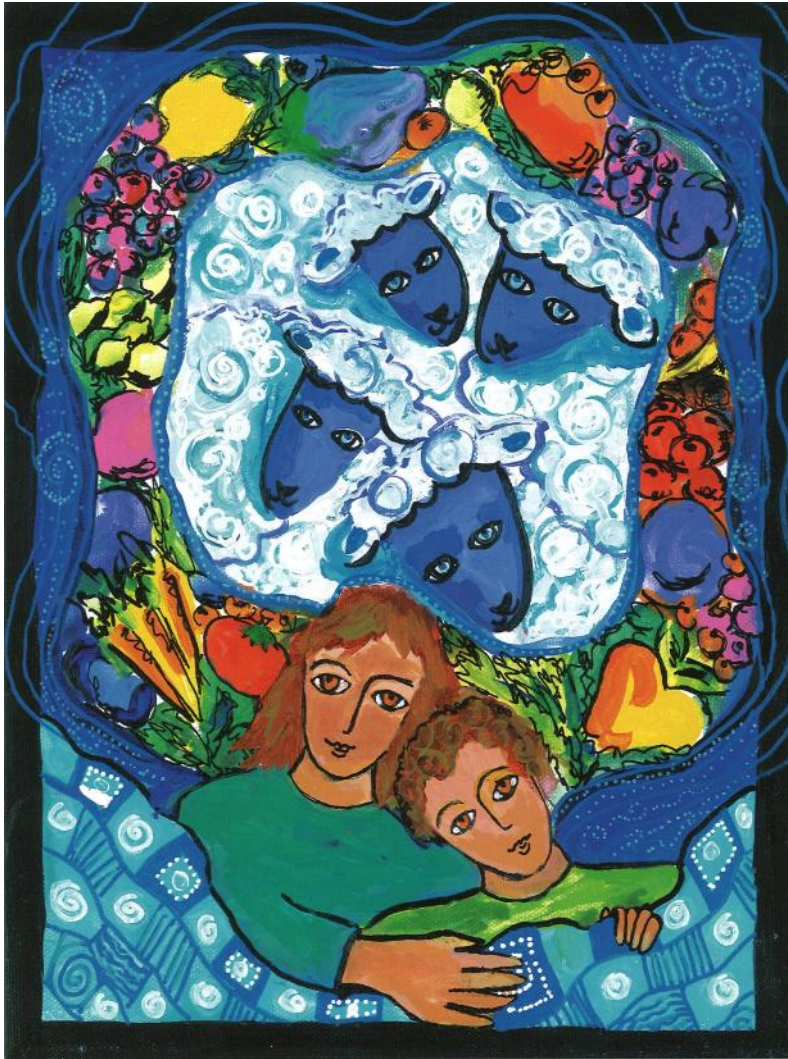


Finding the Fruits of Peace

November 12, 2023



first  **congregational**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
timeless worship + modern faith

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 12, 2023

10:00 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS (9:55 am)

WELCOME

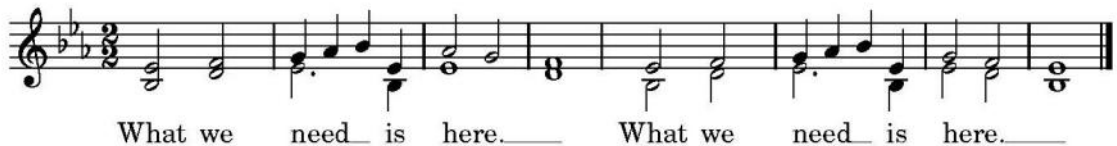
Sharon Benton

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

Joyce Sweeney

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

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

“World Peace Prayer”

Judy Widrig

by Marty Haugen

Are there ways you’ve helped “create peace” in your family, neighborhood, or community?

What is a small way you might reach out to another this week?

***COMMUNAL PRAYER**

SAB

Stacy Miller

One: Creating One, you’ve made all of us in your image,

All: yet we often fail to see you in one another.

One: Our animal instincts tell us to fear difference,

All: even as our minds and hearts have grown to recognize diversity as a gift.

One: In the midst of pain, help us deeply listen to one another.

All: Help us find the fruits of peace.

One: If not us, then who?

All: If not now, then when?

One: Let us answer your call, each as we are able:

All: Here I am, God. Use me. Amen.

***HYMN** (back cover black hymnal) “Here I Am, Lord”

HERE I AM, LORD

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.*

ANTHEM

"Come, O Come, Our Voices Raise"

by Peter Niedmann

Chancel Choir

WE ARE GROWING AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN FAITH

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Genesis 4:1-16

Common English Bible

Stacy Miller

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Stacy Miller

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

"Finding the Fruits of Peace"

Sharon Benton

Cain & Abel: Finding the Fruits of Peace by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso,
illustrated by Joani Keller Rothenberg, used by permission of the publisher

***HYMN 581** (black hymnal)

"Lead Us from Death to Life"

WORLD PEACE PRAYER

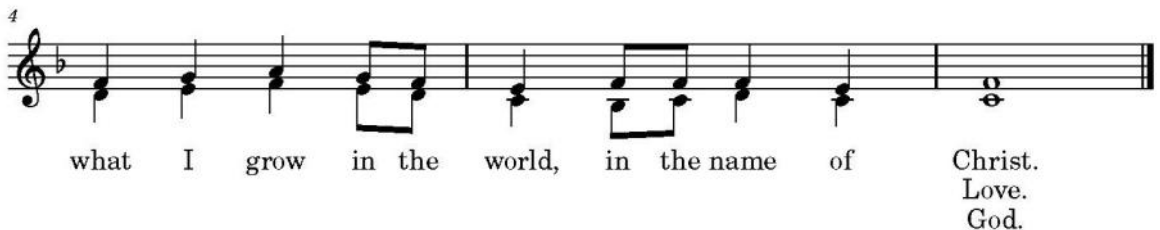
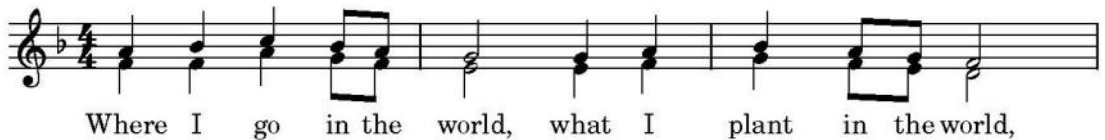
WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION

TESTIMONY

Tim Shepherd

***CLOSING SONG**

"Where I Go in the World"
by Ana Hernández



POSTLUDE, OFFERING, & SHARING

Judy Widrig

*Offering plates will be passed during the postlude
for you to share a gift to support the ministries we serve.*

*After the postlude we encourage you share with someone your response to today's question:
Are there ways you've helped "create peace" in your family, neighborhood, or community?
What is a small way you might reach out to another this week?*

*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 below or on the back cover of the bulletin.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Next Sunday, November 19, 10:00 am—Breakfast Worship! Breakfast potluck & worship in the Social Hall.

Bring a dish to share, if you'd like, and your pledge card to
celebrate the generosity of our members & friends!

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
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**
SPIRIT Group, **1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6:30 pm**
Green Team, **2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7:00 pm**

Wednesday

Glee Club, **3:00 pm**
Adult Forum, **7:00 pm**

Thursday

Grandparent Group, **2nd Thursdays, 10:30 am**
Evening Book Study, **5:00 pm**

Friday

Quilters: weekly, **12:00 noon**, off-site
Game Night, **3rd Fridays, 6:00-9:00 pm**

Sunday

Chancel Choir, **8:30 am**
Going Deeper, **11:30 am**
Youth Group, **11:30 am**
Handbell Choir, **11:45 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: **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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