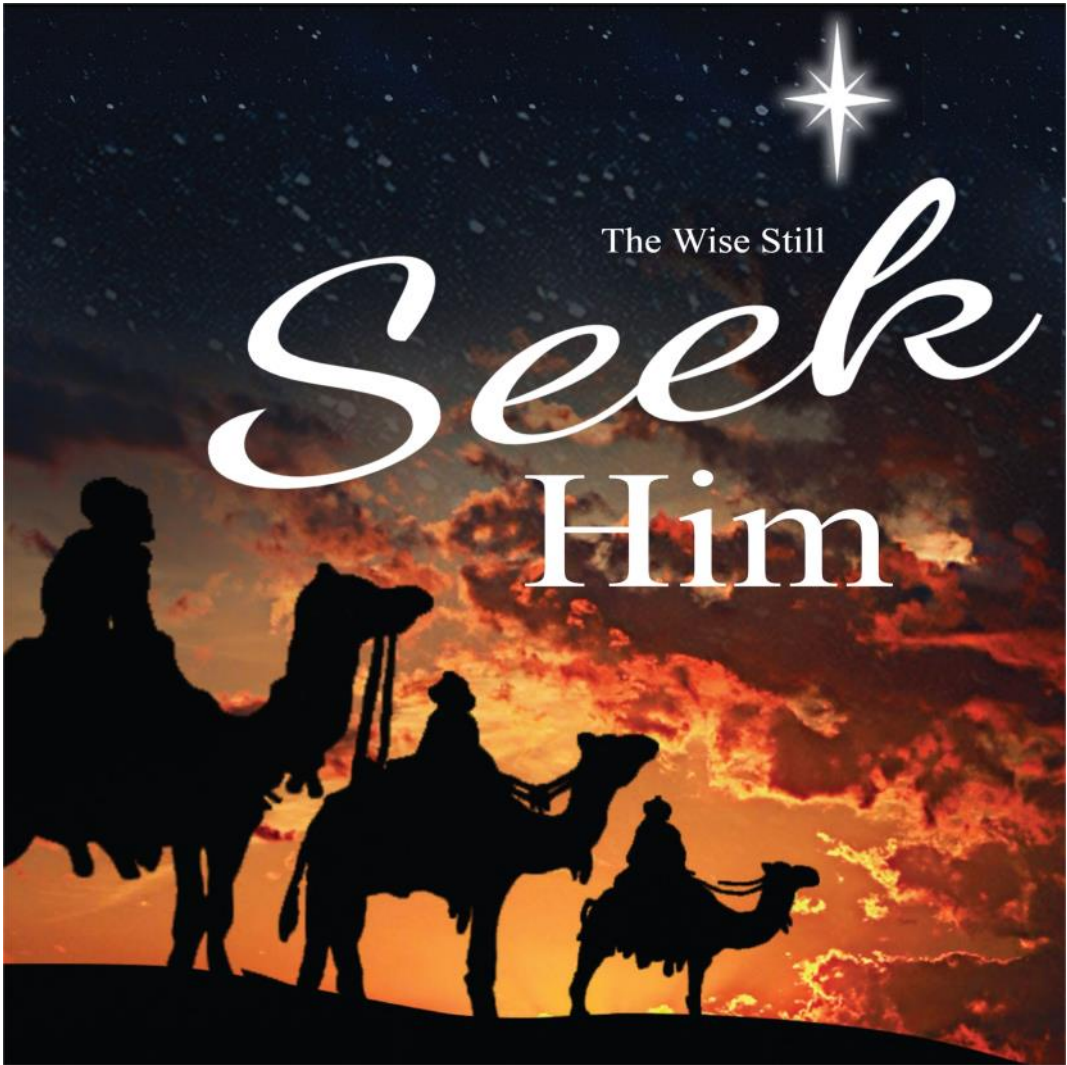


Epiphany: Star Words  
January 7, 2023



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

**EPIPHANY SUNDAY**

January 7, 2024

10:00 am

**WE ARE A NURTURING BELOVED COMMUNITY.  
WE ARE GROWING AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN FAITH.  
WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.**

*"Not knowing is a good place to start." ~ Lori Gottlieb*

**PRELUDE**

Judy Widrig

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Sharon Benton & Davi Weasley

**RINGING THE BELL**

**WELCOME SONG**

*"God Welcomes All"*

by John Bell

*Energetically*

God wel - comes all, stran - gers and friends;

God's love is strong and it ne - ver ends.

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*\*Rise in body or spirit*

## THE STORY

Davi Weasley

## TIME WITH CHILDREN

Sharon Benton

*Each Epiphany First Congregational Church presents gifts to the Christ Child; these support the Bellingham Food Bank. Nonperishable food items and financial offerings help remind us that every person is a beloved child of God. The children will gather these gifts and place them around the manger. Thank you for your contribution.*

## MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

Judy Widrig

*Did you have a Star Word last year that touched or surprised you? Is there a particular theme you'd like to carry into the year to come? If you had to describe your 2023 in one word, what would it be?*

## \*COMMUNITY PRAYER

Janet Ott

One: In the midst of long nights, we look to the skies.

**All: What star will guide us? What reminder will guide us to our next destination?**

One: How might we clear our heads and shade our eyes, the better to see farther?

**All: How will Love lead us this time?**

One: Our ancient siblings followed the star to the Christ Child,  
and returned home by another route.

**All: How will what we witness leave us changed?**

\*HYMN 165 (black hymnal)

"Love Came Down at Christmas"

WHITNEY

## STAR WORD REFLECTION

David Fayram

**SUNG PRAYER**

**"Healer of Our Every Ill"**



Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, Light of each to - mor - row,



Give us peace be - yond our fear And hope be - yond our sor - row.

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950  
Tune: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, 88 9 with refrain; Marty Haugen, b.1950  
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**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.fccb.net/contact-us/](http://www.fccb.net/contact-us/) to send a message or call the church to talk with a pastor.*

**STAR WORD REFLECTION**

Tina Anderson

**A READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 2: 1-12

Janet Ott

New Revised Standard Version

## SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Janet Ott

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.**

## ANTHEM

“What Star Is This?”

Chancel Choir

arr. by David Lentz III. ©2009 Hope Publishing Company.  
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## 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.*

*You may either dip your bread in the communal cup  
or take a single-serving of juice from the center server.*

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

*As you come forward you may choose a star word from the Communion table. The star word is an  
invitation for your meditation or a guiding light in your faith life throughout 2024.*

**INVITATION TO REFLECTION**

Davi Weasley

**\*HYMN 584** (black hymnal)

“I Am the Light of the World!”

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

**\*BENEDICTION**

Sharon Benton

**POSTLUDE & SHARING**

Judy Widrig

*After the postlude we encourage you share with someone your response to today’s question:  
Did you have a Star Word last year that touched or surprised you? Is there a particular theme you’d  
like to carry into the year to come? If you had to describe your 2023 in one word, what would it be?*

*You may make an offering either in the plates at the door or online.*



*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.*

**COMMUNION ELEMENT INGREDIENTS:**

*Communion loaf— whole wheat flour, molasses, yeast, salt. Juice— grape juice, vitamin C.*

*Gluten free bread—sorghum, tapioca, millet & rice flours; sea salt, honey, canola oil, water, ginger ale, egg.*

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

*Do you receive our Friday Announcements email? Contact [office@fccb.net](mailto:office@fccb.net) to sign up!  
For more information, see our Connection Calendar in the Friday email  
or contact [office@fccb.net](mailto:office@fccb.net).*

### **Sunday**

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

### **Monday**

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

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

Poetry Group: **1st & 3rd Mondays 7:00 pm**, Zoom

### **Tuesday**

Book Club: **1st Tuesdays, 9:30 am**, Fireplace Room

Pilgrim Circle: **2nd Tuesdays, 12:00 noon**, Narthex

Green Team: **2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7:00 pm**, Mt. Baker Room

### **Wednesday**

Glee Club: weekly, **3:00 pm**, Narthex

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

### **Thursday**

Men's Breakfast Group, **1st Thursday, 9:00 am**, Country Club

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

Thursday Book Group: **Thursdays, 5:00 pm**, Zoom

20s/30s/40s/ Group, **5:30 pm, last Thursday** of the month, various locations

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

### **Friday**

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

### **Sunday**

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

Children's Church School: weekly, **during worship**, Social Hall

Handbells: weekly, **11:30 am**, Room 16

*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.

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

*Office Hours: 10:00 am-5:00 pm*

**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**

**OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran, she/her**

**CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE:**

**Kurt Aagard, he/him**

**INTERIM ACCOUNTANT:**

**Erin Kennedy**

**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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