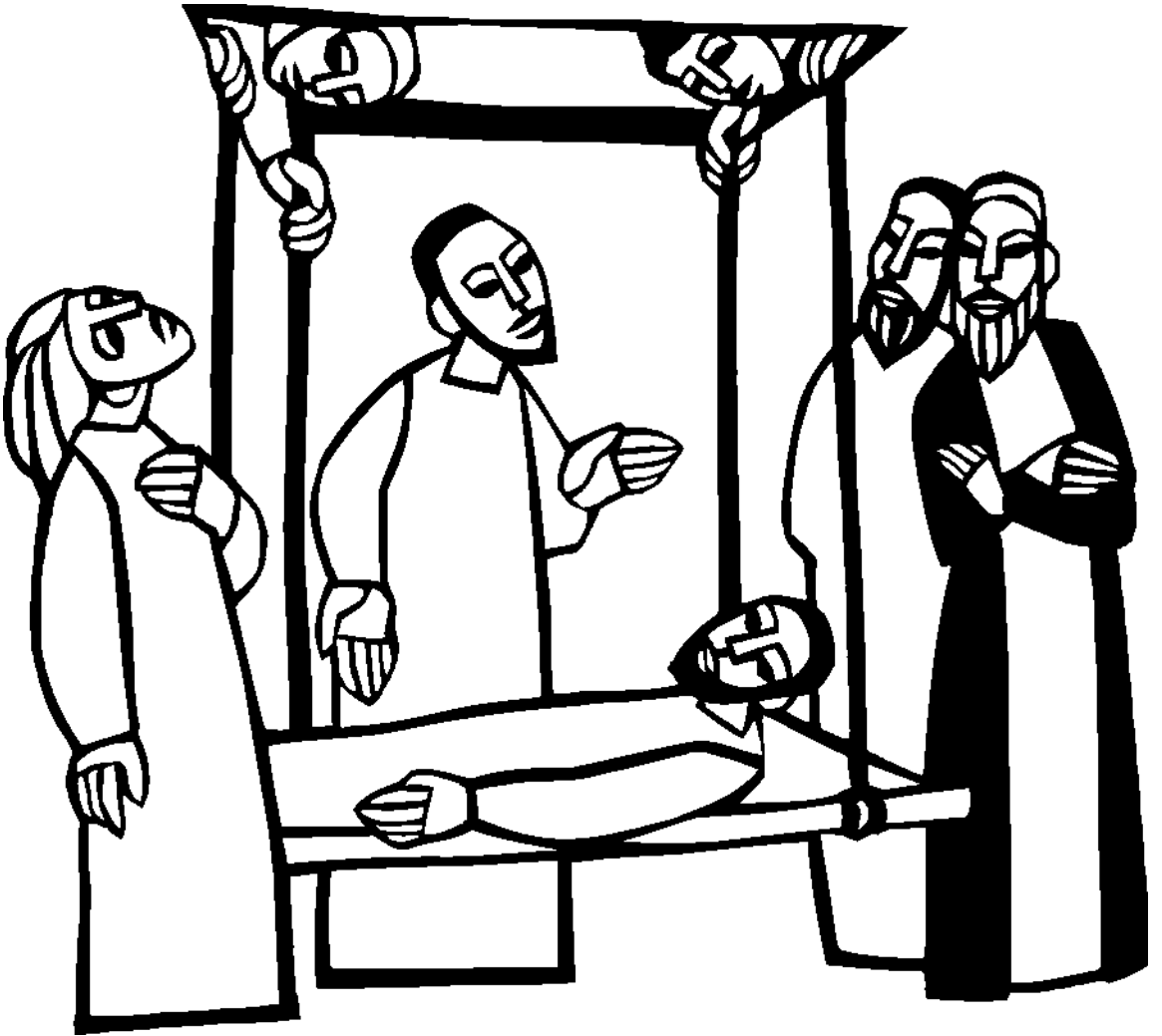


Healing Community

January 14, 2024



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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

January 14, 2024

10:00 am

Right now we are living inside the results of other peoples' imaginations — people who couldn't imagine Black people being free, fat girls being sexy, disabled people being leaders. People who could only imagine their own power and dominance. When more people imagine together, and then step from imagining into thinking through the structures and protocols of a society together, then more needs are attended to.

~ adrienne maree brown

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sharon Benton

RINGING THE BELL

*Rise in body or spirit

WELCOME SONG

"God Welcomes All"

by John Bell

Energetically

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef on the top staff and a bass clef on the bottom staff. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with chords in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;". The second system also has a treble clef on the top staff and a bass clef on the bottom staff. The melody continues in the treble clef, with chords in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "God's love is strong and it ne - ver ends." The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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THE STORY

Sharon Benton

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Jen Sandoval

*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

*When was a time when you experienced a community that helped heal a part of your life?
How do you pass that experience forward in your other communities?*

WE ARE A NURTURING BELOVED COMMUNITY.

***COMMUNITY PRAYER** written for *BibleWorm* by Teri Peterson Stacy Malone Miller

One: The crowds gathered around you, Jesus...
what did you say to them?

All: What will you say to us, today?
We who come to hear your word,
to see your power,
to marvel...or to grumble...
what will you reveal today?

One: We pray for great wonders, of course,
and also for understanding of your way,
and courage to walk it,

All: which would be a wonder for all the world to see.
Amen.

***HYMN 23** (black hymnal) "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

IN BABILONE

A READING FROM THE POETS

from "Miracle"

Stacy Malone Miller

by Seamus Heaney

*Not the one who takes up his bed and walks
But the ones who have known him all along
And carry him in —*

SUNG PRAYER

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

Leader:



This is the sound of our Prayers And the Spirit in - ter - cedes for us

All:



with sighs, with sighs too deep for words. With sighs, with sighs too deep for words.

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.fcb.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

Mark 2:1-17
New Revised Standard Version

Stacy Malone Miller

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Stacy Malone 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

“Healing Community”

Sharon Benton

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Prelude in D Minor”
by J. S. Bach

Mia Kelly, cello

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

TESTIMONY

Stacy Malone Miller

***HYMN 261** (red hymnal)

“I Danced in the Morning”
verses, 1,2,3,5

LORD OF THE DANCE

POSTLUDE & SHARING

“Sonata, 3rd mvmt Allegro Assai”
by Lera Auerbach

Mia Kelly, cello

*After the postlude we encourage you share with someone your response to today’s question:
When was a time when you experienced a community that helped heal a part of your life?
How do you pass that experience forward in your other communities?*



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.

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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