

**The Ground Floor
Fifth Anniversary
January 21, 2024**



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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

January 21, 2024

10:00 am

*Without community, there is no liberation,
only the most vulnerable and temporary armistice
between and individual and her oppression.*

~ Audre Lorde

*As we make sense of our callings, may we do so with an unflinching awareness of the exterior
world—the weeping of our neighbor, the groans of creation—so we would understand our vocation
in relationship to those around us and their needs.*

~ Cole Arthur Riley

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 in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a treble clef and contains the lyrics: "God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;". The piano accompaniment has a bass clef and consists of chords and single notes. The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a treble clef and contains the lyrics: "God's love is strong and it ne - ver ends.". The piano accompaniment has a bass clef and continues with chords and single notes. The score ends with a double bar line.

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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

"I Dreamed of Rain"

One Accord

by Jan Garrett

*In your lifetime, what seeds have you seen grow into hopeful parts of God's Beloved Community?
Or, what seeds are being planted in you these days that may help build the Kin-dom of God
here in our community?*

WE ARE A NURTURING BELOVED COMMUNITY.

***COMMUNITY PRAYER** written for *BibleWorm* by Teri Peterson

One: Listen!

All: What are we meant to hear?

One: Stories of how God works...

**All: in seeds and soil,
in the darkness of the earth,**

One: in the unexpected consequences of growth,
in people whose methods surprise us.

All: What if we don't understand?

One: Listen again!

**All: Holy One, let your message speak
in and through us,
in and through your word,
in and through the community in which you plant us.
Re-orient us, our habits, and our attention,
so that more and more love might shine forth,
making your kin-dom way of life not only visible
but accessible. Amen.**

***HYMN 540** (black hymnal) "We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed"
verses 1-4

NEW BEGINNINGS

THE GROUND FLOOR 5th ANNIVERSARY REFLECTION

Jason McGill,
NWYS Executive Director

WE ARE GROWING AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN FAITH.

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Mark 4:1-20, 26-34
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.

THE GROUND FLOOR 5th ANNIVERSARY REFLECTION

Madison Emry,
The Ground Floor

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“All the Way Home”
by Sarah Quartel

One Accord

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Sharon Benton

*HYMN 572 (red hymnal)

“Pass It On”

PASS IT ON

POSTLUDE & SHARING

Judy Widrig

*After the postlude we encourage you share with someone your response to today's question:
In your lifetime, what seeds have you seen grow into hopeful parts of God's Beloved Community?
Or, what seeds are being planted in you these days that may help build the Kin-dom of God
here in our community?*

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://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 above or on the back cover of the bulletin.

**Please join us in The Ground Floor
to tour the space and chat with the staff!
Just down the ramp at the southwest corner
outside the building.**

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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