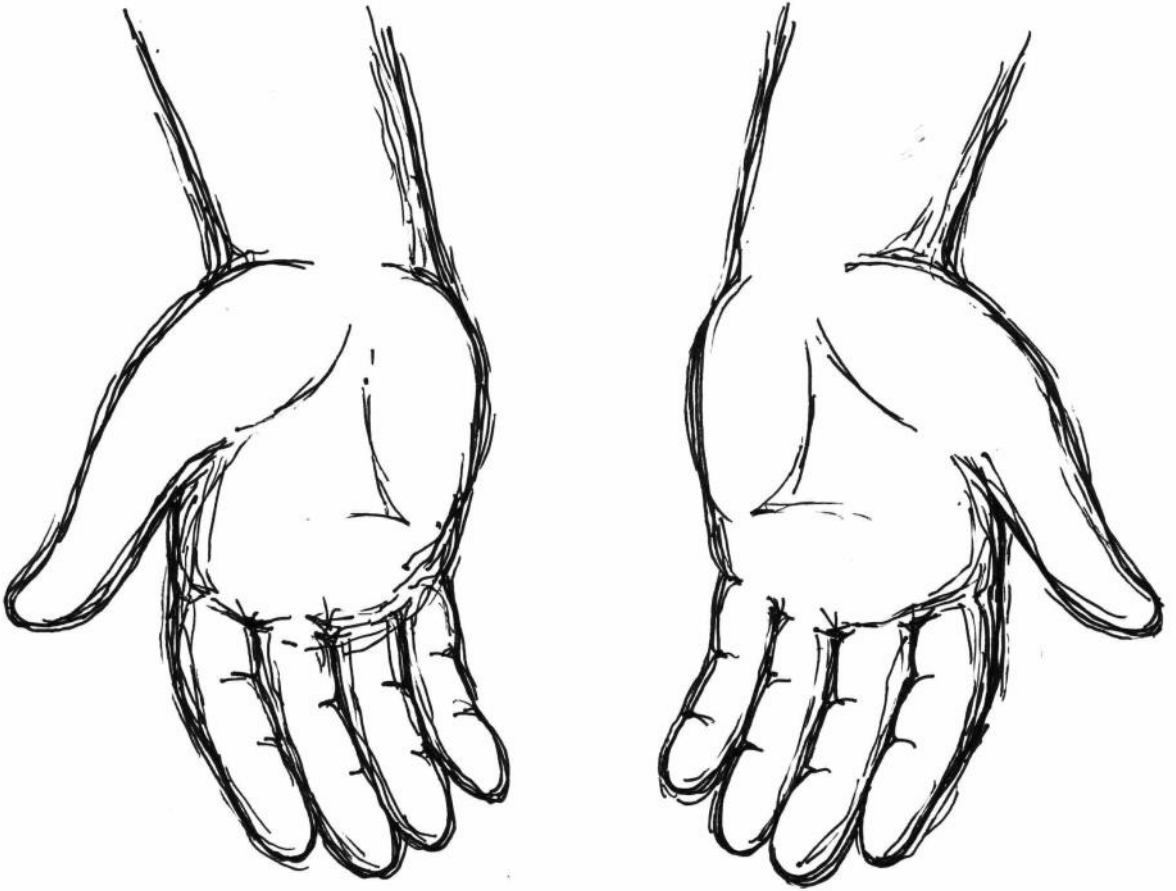


**Palm Sunday:  
Humility before Hero  
March 24, 2024**



## PALM SUNDAY

March 24, 2024

10:00 am



*How do we know that we are participating in God's innovation instead of co-opting God into ours? The quick answer is: we don't. Aligning our vision with God's vision is not as simple as checking a box; it is an ongoing, communal practice of discernment that connects dozens of tiny clues.*

*The life of faith is more about following breadcrumbs than blueprints, but here are a few principles that guide people who innovate for love:*

- 1. Who before Why*
- 2. Awe before Excellence*
- 3. Abundance, not Scarcity*
- 4. Humility before Hero*

*~ Kenda Creasy Dean*

*How does Jesus model each of these principles on Palm Sunday?*

**PRELUDE**

Judy Widrig

**WELCOME**

Sharon Benton

**RINGING THE BELL**

\*Rise in body or spirit

WELCOME SONG

“Hosanna”  
by Sharon Benton

LEADER:



"Ho - san-na!" the peo-ple sang to Je - sus, "Ho - san-na! Save us, Son of God!"

5 ALL:



"Ho - san-na! the peo-ple sang to Je - sus, "Ho - san-na! Save us, Son of God!"

9 LEADER:

ALL:

LEADER:

ALL:



1. Ho - ho - ho Ho - ho - ho Sa - a - na Sa - a - na  
2. (clap - clap - clap) (clap - clap - clap) (clap - clap - clap) (clap - clap - clap)  
3. (stomp-stomp-stomp) (stomp-stomp-stomp) (stomp-stomp-stomp) (stomp-stomp-stomp)

11 LEADER:

ALL:

LEADER:

ALL:



Ho - ho - ho Ho - ho - ho Sa - a - na Sa - a - na  
(clap - clap - clap) (clap - clap - clap) (clap - clap - clap) (clap - clap - clap)  
(stomp-stomp-stomp) (stomp-stomp-stomp) (stomp-stomp-stomp) (stomp-stomp-stomp)

13 ALL:



"Ho - san-na! the peo-ple sang to Je - sus, "Ho - san-na! Save us, Son of God!"

THE STORY

Sharon Benton

*How might you follow Jesus' humble example this Holy Week?*

\*HYMN 213 (black hymnal)

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

ELLACOMBE

## THE PRAYER OF JESUS

Jim Hollander

*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.*

## FOUR EXPERIENCES

*All of us will get to engage each of the four experiences.  
First we'll divide into three groups; then we'll follow a guide  
to either the Chapel, the Narthex, or the Social Hall.*

*After each experience, we will move to the next,  
all returning to the Sanctuary at the close of the service.*

*If you're worshiping in the Bigger Balcony or  
find it most comfortable to remain in your pew,  
each experience you may participate in via the screen.*

## WHO BEFORE WHY

Narthex

John Mark Slagle

*Riding the colt into Jerusalem, we imagine Jesus looking lovingly into the eyes of each person he passed: what did he see in them? what did they show him? how did he feel seeing all of these people?*

**AWE BEFORE EXCELLENCE**

Chapel

Scott Ward

*The disciples were never perfect, and yet they kept experiencing God's presence among them. The people around Jesus kept making mistakes, and still they followed Jesus' way the best they could.*

*Where do you share your gifts in an imperfect way, inviting an experience of the Holy for you or others?*

**ABUNDANCE, NOT SCARCITY**

Social Hall

Sharon Camblin

*As the people shouted "Hosanna!" they used what was available to them to pave the way: their cloaks and leafy branches. This congregation worshiped in three spaces before coming to this property; then we worshiped in three sanctuaries just here alone. We have been through many changes, as needs shaped our community. Which aspects of our history brought sadness?*

*Which allowed for new life? Which parts surprise you?*

**HUMILITY BEFORE HERO**

Sanctuary

*Jesus rode a colt, not a warhorse. His followers were a ragtag bunch, imperfect-but-hopeful, making do with what they had available to them. Jesus is our model for how we try to live: what is your colt this week? how might you step into humility this week?*

**\*HYMN 215** (black hymnal) "Ride On! Ride On in Majesty"  
verses 1, 2, 4

ST. DROSTANE

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING**

Davi Weasley

*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 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 on the back cover of the bulletin.*

## MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

\***HYMN 216** (black hymnal)    “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”  
verses 1, 2, 4

ST. THEODULPH

\***BENEDICTION**

Davi Weasley

**POSTLUDE & SHARING**

Judy Widrig

*After the postlude we encourage you share with someone your response to today's question:  
How might you follow Jesus' humble example this Holy Week?*



## Holy Week at First Congregational Church

- Maundy Thursday Service: **March 28, drop in 7:00-8:00 pm**
- Good Friday Service: **March 29, 7:00 pm**
- Easter Sunrise Service: **March 31, 6:30 am** (Bloedel Donovan Park)
- Easter Celebration Service: **March 31, 10:00 am**
- Easter Egg Hunt: **March 31, 11:15 am** (Cornwall Tot Lot)

## REFLECTIONS ON YOUR EXPERIENCES



**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-4:30 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**

**BOOKKEEPER: Eric Bowen, he/him**

**WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR:**

**Georgia Drost, she/they**

**MODERATOR: Scott Ward, he/him**

**PAST MODERATOR: Mark Schofield**

**CLERK: Janet Malley, she/her**

**TREASURER: Craig Jennings**

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