

Becoming Church: Confirmation

May 12, 2024



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

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

May 12, 2024

10:00 am

"Always a more beautiful answer that asks a more beautiful question." -e.e. cummings

PRELUDE

Penelope Keep

WELCOME

Davi Weasley

We love children in worship—their noises and wiggles are welcome, too. There are pillows in the front where they can see the instruments and participate fully, or the coloring, book, and play area is available in the corner near the windows or in the Narthex.

Their movements back and forth are a joy for us.

RINGING THE BELL

**Rise in body or spirit*

WELCOME SONG

"Be Not Afraid"

Find a rhythm with an egg shaker!

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

The image shows two systems of musical notation for the song "Be Not Afraid". Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a vocal line with lyrics underneath. The bass staff contains a rhythmic accompaniment consisting of chords and eighth notes. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are "Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!". The first system ends with a repeat sign, and the second system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Text: Taizé Community
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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THE STORY

Ezra Bubb

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Jonna Gillham

Children are invited to remain in the sanctuary for this service.

***HYMN 286** (black hymnal)

"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

SPIRIT (Manley)

WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY PRAYER

David Fayram

One Voice: In the story, O God, you create the world in seven days.

All Voices: What are we called to create?

One Voice: You divide the waters and make the sky.

All Voices: What are we called to divide? What are we called on to create?

One Voice: You call up plants from the earth.

All Voices: What are we called to summon, to raise up?

One Voice: You create the flying and swimming and walking creatures.

All Voices: How are we called to witness to diversity?

One Voice: You, O God, create humans and call them good.

All Voices: How are we called to tend this garden?

How are we called to proclaim all creation good? Amen.

SUNG PRAYER

“With Sighs Too Deep for Words”

Sharon Benton

by Anne Krentz Organ. Used with permission.



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.

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.*

WE ARE GROWING AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN FAITH.

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:1-2:3

Ezra Bub

New Revised Standard Version

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Ezra Bub

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.

REFLECTIONS

“I Believe”

Davi Weasley
Ezra Bubb
Jonna Gillham

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Davi Weasley

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

RITUAL OF CONFIRMATION

Questions to the Confirmands

Congregational Response (unison)

We celebrate the talents and the gifts you bring to share with us. We celebrate that you have chosen to join with us in the study of God’s Word; in discerning the Spirit’s movement; in serving those within this church and within the wider community. Together may we deepen our faith and continue to learn, question and give thanks as we journey together.

Laying on of Hands & Confirmation Prayer

MUSICAL MEDITATION

“Ev’ry Time I Feel the Spirit”
Arr.by Bill Ingram

Handbell Choir

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

Sharon Benton

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://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.



MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

Penelope Keep

***HYMN 351** (black hymnal) “I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry”

BORNING CRY

***BENEDICTION**

Jonna Gilham

POSTLUDE

Penelope Keep

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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