

Holding Disappointment

June 23, 2024

What's Going
On?

Things haven't
happened the
way I hoped.

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 23, 2024

10:00 am

*“The deeper our faith, the more doubt we must endure;
the deeper our hope, the more prone we are to despair;
the deeper our love, the more pain its loss will bring:
these are a few of the paradoxes we must hold as human beings.”*

~ Parker Palmer

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

WELCOME

Sharon Benton

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

“Windy God”
by Rachael Weasley

Windy God, take the fi-re of my tongue and let it sing for you! Windy
God, take the fi-re of my tongue and let it sing for you! Win-dy
God, take the fi-re of my tongue, Windy God, take the fi-re of my tongue and Windy
God, take the fi-re of my tongue and let it sing for you!

The musical score is written on four staves. Each staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and a time signature of 2/2. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff has a repeat sign at the end. The second staff also has a repeat sign. The third staff has a repeat sign. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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THE STORY

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TIME WITH CHILDREN

Margie Kimberley

The regular Church School class has concluded for the year. During the summer, the children are welcome to move about, sharing in the activities in the children's corner or moving to the pillows in the front.

*HYMN 275 (black hymnal) "Come Now, Almighty God"
verses 1-3

ITALIAN HYMN

WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY PRAYER "A Blessing for When Things Don't Make Sense"
by Kate Bowler

Janet Ott

One Voice: God, I'm fumbling around
for answers, reasons, meaning.
I can't find any purpose in this pain.
Why me?
Why them?
Why now?

**All Voices: Blessed are we who need to be reminded
that there are some things we can fix
...and some things we can't.
Blessed are we who can say:
my life isn't always getting better.**

One Voice: Right in the midst of the pain
and fear and uncertainty,
may we hunt for beauty
and meaning and truth... together.

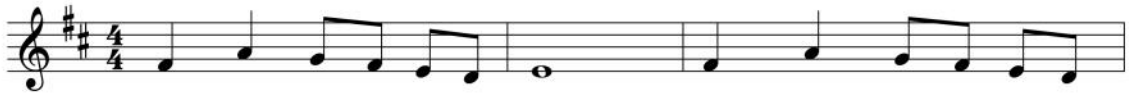
**All Voices: : Not to erase the pain or solve the pain,
(though surely that would be nice),
but to remind us that
beauty and sorrow coexist.**

One Voice: And that doesn't mean we're broken
or have been forgotten.
In our hope.
In our disappointment.
In our joy.
In our pain.

**All Voices: God is here
and we are never—were never
and will be never—alone.**

SUNG PRAYER

"Take, O Take Me As I Am"



Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall



be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b.1949

Tune: John L. Bell, b.1949

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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/ to send a message or call the church to talk with a pastor.*

WE ARE GROWING AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN FAITH.

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:13-19
English Standard Version

Janet Ott

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.**

SERMON

“Holding Disappointment” Page, Deanna Murray
Robin Williams for Karen Troianello

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“The Ash Grove”
arr. by Martha Lynn Thompson

Handbell Choir

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

SHARING OUR DISAPPOINTMENTS

Sharon Benton

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 on the back cover of the bulletin.



MUSICAL OFFERING

Judy Widrig

***HYMN 438** (black hymnal)

“When Peace, Like a River”
verses 1, 2, 4

VILLE DU HAVRE

***BENEDICTION**

Sharon Benton

POSTLUDE

“The Ash Grove” reprise
arr. by Martha Lynn Thompson

Handbell Choir

Allison Thomas has directed our Handbell Choir for 15 years, and today is the last day for her in this ministry. Please share appreciations with Allison for all that she has shared with us over the years.

Join us for pie in the Social Hall!

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**

Page **page@fccb.net**

Davi: **on parental leave**

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
(on parental leave)**

INTERIM PASTOR: Page, she/they

CHURCH SCHOOL COORDINATOR:

Josh Marchand, they/them

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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