

# Good News About Gender

## July 21, 2024

What's Going  
On?

I struggle with  
people's  
pronouns.

**NINETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

July 21, 2024

10:00 am

*True community is based upon equality, mutuality, and reciprocity. It affirms the richness of individual diversity as well as the common human ties that bind us together. ~ Pauli Murray*

*Give young people a greater voice. They are the future  
and they are much wiser than we give them credit for. ~ Desmond Tutu*

**PRELUDE**

Judy Widrig

**WELCOME**

Sharon Benton

*We love children in worship—their noises and wiggles are welcome, too. There are pillows and a coloring, book, and play area in the front and in the corner near the windows. Younger kids may enjoy the Narthex play area. Their movements back and forth are a joy for us as they participate fully.*

**RINGING THE BELL**

**WELCOME SONG**

*“Woyaya/We Are Going”  
by Osibisa*

**THE STORY**

Page

**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

Meg Best

*During the summer, children are welcome to move about, sharing in the activities in the children’s corner or moving to the tables and pillows in the front.*

\*Rise in body or spirit



1. Love a - stound - ing, Love con - found - ing lim - its fear - ful minds im - pose.  
 2. Love re - ceiv - ing Love be - liev - ing, we re - joice with thanks and song,



Love re - new - ing, Love pur - su - ing ev - ery heart un - til it knows  
 faith re - gain - ing, hope pro - claim - ing; Love has taught us, we be - long



Love's trans - form - ing, heal - ing good - ness, Love's a - bid - ing gen - tle grace,  
 safe with - in Love's ten - der keep - ing, safe from fear's per - sis - tent cal.



Love's en - dur - ance, Love's as - sur - ance, Love's con - sol - ing strong em - brace.  
 Love de - fend - ing, Love un - end - ing, Love of God en - fold - ing all.

©1999 Jeannette M. Lindholm

### WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

#### COMMUNITY PRAYER

from *enfleshed*

Janet Ott

One Voice: In the image of God, you created everything and called it good!

**All Voices: In abundant diversity, your likeness is found in us.**

One Voice: We reject all that belittles or degrades any among us.

And so in faithfulness to God and one another we proclaim:

**All Voices: Sacred are our bodies, each as they are.**

**Blessed are our sexualities, drawing us towards love of many kinds.**

**Beloved is every gender, revealing you in different ways**

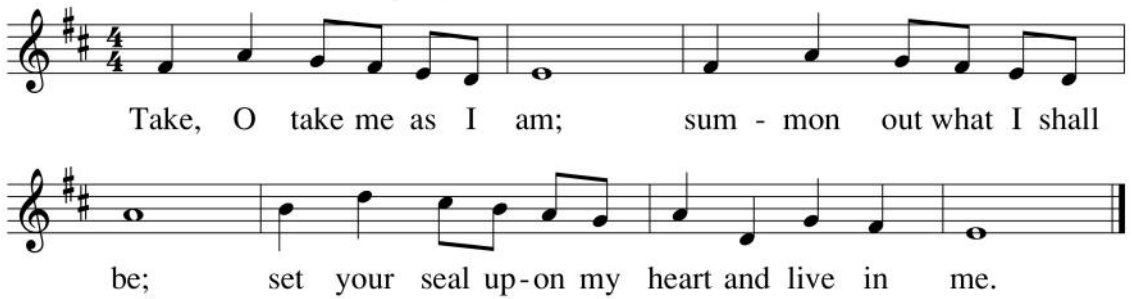
One Voice: To our skin, beautiful in every shade, we say hallelujah!

**All Voices: Praise God, our Creator, who blesses us with this world,**

**these bodies, and our sibling creatures, all created good, very good.**

**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  
© 1995, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Used under OneLicense #A-718199.

**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/](http://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**

Galatians 3:23-28

Janet Ott

*New Revised Standard Version*

**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**

“Good News About Gender”

Page  
Noah  
Emma Blue

**MUSICAL REFLECTION**

“What a Wonderful World”  
by George David Weiss and Bob Thiele  
Elaine Woods, Craig Jennings, and Darlene Mathias

**WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.**

**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.*



**MUSICAL OFFERING**

“Ashokan Farewell”  
by Jay Ungar  
Elaine Woods, Craig Jennings, and Darlene Mathias

\*HYMN

"Sing a New World Into Being"  
by Mary Louise Bringle

NETTLETON

1. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sound a bold and hope - ful theme.  
2. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where each gen - der class and race  
3. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where the home - less find a home.  
4. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Join the an - cient proph - ets' cry

Find a tune for si - lent yearn - ings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:  
brings its rain - bow gifts and col - ors to God's lim - it - less em - brace;  
where no chil - dren ev - er hun - ger but are filled with God's sha - lom;  
for a time of health and plen - ty when all tears have been wiped dry;

dream a church where all who wor - ship find their lives and loves be - long.  
where the lines that once di - vi - ded form in - stead the ties that bind.  
where all peo - ple work for jus - tice, where all hate and vengeance cease.  
when com - pas - sion flows like wa - ters, pour - ing balm for all who grieve.

Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sing as Christ in - spires your song!  
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: risk trans - form - ing heart and mind!  
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: raise the har - mo - nies of peace.  
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: live the prom - ise you be - lieve!

**\*BENEDICTION**

Sharon Benton

**POSTLUDE & PASSING THE PEACE**

Judy Widrig

*Judy will play quietly underneath our connecting with one another.  
May you go out in peace and justice!*

**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**

OneLicense #A-718199

CCS #12615

