

# Hope, Part 1

## Building Hope as Followers of Jesus

July 28, 2024



**TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

July 28, 2024

10:00 am

*“Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness.” ~ Desmond Tutu*

**PRELUDE**

Penelope Keep

**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**

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**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

Sharon Benton

*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

**WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY**

**COMMUNITY PRAYER**

Stacy Malone Miller

One Voice: When the world is frightening, when injustice tears at our heart,  
and we worry about what tomorrow will bring

**All Voices: We come to God and community eagerly seeking hope.**

One Voice: The hope we seek is not a wishful hope.

**All Voices: But a hope grounded in truth of ages past.**

One Voice: We call on God for direction. We turn our faces toward what is good.

**All Voices: We call on one another to be sustained for the journey ahead.**

One Voice: The way forward will not always be easy.

**All Voices: Will you go with me?**

One Voice: We will go together with the wind of the Spirit at our backs. Amen

**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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

**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**

Isaiah 41:10-13

Stacy Malone Miller

*English Standard Version*

**SCRIPTURE RESPONSE**

Stacy Malone Miller

**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**

“Building Hope as Followers of Jesus”

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**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

“Things That Never Die”  
by Charles Dickens Arr. Brad Nix

One Accord

*The pure, the bright, the beautiful  
That stirred our hearts in youth,  
The impulses to wordless prayer,  
The streams of love and truth,  
The longing after something lost,  
The spirit's yearning cry,  
The striving after better hopes-  
These things can never die.  
The timid hand stretched forth to aid  
A brother in his need;  
A kindly word in grief's dark hour  
That proves a friend indeed;*

*The plea for mercy softly breathed,  
When justice threatens high,  
The sorrow of a contrite heart-  
These things shall never die.  
Let nothing pass, for every hand  
Must find some work to do,  
Lose not a chance to waken love-  
Be firm and just and true  
So shall a light that cannot fade  
Beam on thee from on high,  
And angel voices say to thee-  
“These things shall never die.”*

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

Megan Douglas

**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 on the back cover of the bulletin.*

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

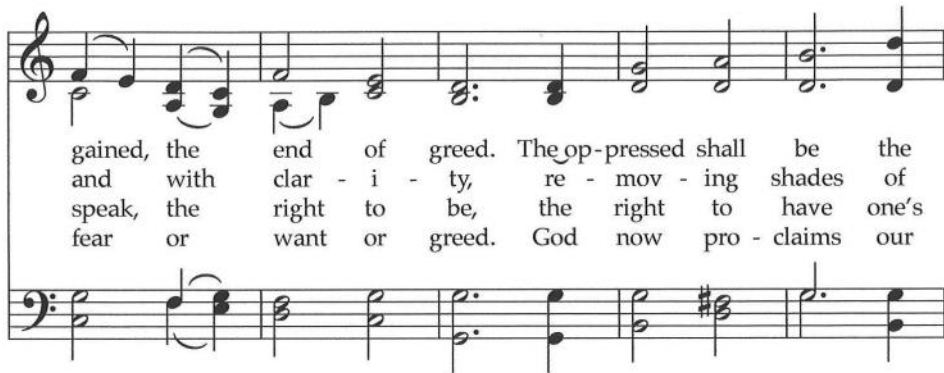
“I'm Gonna Sing”  
Arr. Don Besig

One Accord

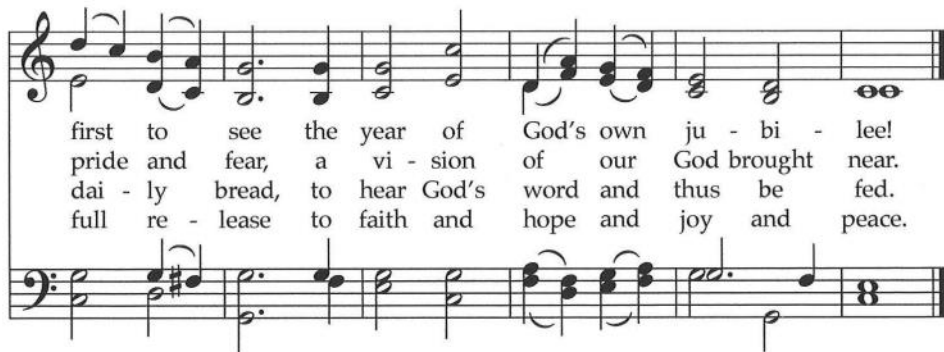
"Live Into Hope"  
verses 1, 3, 4



1 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed, of sight re -  
2 Live in - to hope! The blind shall see with in - sight  
3 Live in - to hope of lib - er - ty, the right to  
4 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed from chains of



gained, the end of greed. The op-pressed shall be the  
and with clar - i - ty, re - mov - ing shades of  
speak, the right to be, the right to have one's  
fear or want or greed. God now pro - claims our



first to see the year of God's own ju - bi - lee!  
pride and fear, a vi - sion of our God brought near.  
dai - ly bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.  
full re - lease to faith and hope and joy and peace.

This text on Luke 4:16–20, the author's first, was written for the United Presbyterian Women's National Meeting in July 1976 because the team planning worship could not find a suitable hymn on that passage. She wrote the words with this vigorous 18th-century tune in mind.

**\*BENEDICTION & PASSING THE PEACE**

Sharon Benton

**POSTLUDE**

Penelope Keep

*Penelope 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**

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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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