

**Hope, Part 2**  
**Waypower**  
**August 4, 2024**



**ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

August 4, 2024

10:00 am

*Hope is the belief that your future can be brighter and better than your past  
and that you actually have a role in making it better.*  
~ Casey Gwinn & Chan Hellman, HOPE Rising

*Hope is not the thing with feathers...  
It's what thrives in the discards  
And survives in the ugliest parts of our world,  
Able to find a way to go on  
When nothing else can even find a way in.*  
~ Caitlin Seida, "Hope Is Not a Bird, Emily, It's a Sewer Rat"

*"I want to fly! I want to touch the sun!"  
"Finish your eggs first."  
~ Lorraine Hansberry, A Raisin in the Sun*

**PRELUDE**

Judy Widrig

**WELCOME**

*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.*

\*Rise in body or spirit

## **RINGING THE BELL**

### **WELCOME SONG**

*“Woyaya/We Are Going”*

by Osibisa

*We are going / Heaven knows where we are going / But we know within  
And we'll get there / Heaven knows how we will get there / But we know we will  
It will be hard we know / And the road will be muddy and rough  
But we'll get there / Heaven knows how we will get there / But we know we will*

### **THE STORY**

Sharon Benton

### **TIME WITH CHILDREN**

Page

*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.*



1 Give thanks for those whose faith is firm when  
 2 Give thanks for those whose hope is clear, be -  
 3 Give thanks for those whose love is pure, a  
 4 Give thanks for saints of a - ges past and



all a - round seems bleak: on God's good prom - ise  
 yond mere mor - tal sight: who seek the cit - y  
 spar - kling pre - cious stone: they show by what they  
 saints a - live to - day: though of - ten by this



they re - ly, so while they live and  
 God has planned, the true, e - ter - nal  
 say and do an in - ward beau - ty,  
 world de - spised, their hearts by God are



when they die how force - ful - ly they  
 prom - ised land, and steer on toward that  
 warm and true, for God's con - cerns they  
 rich - ly prized. Give thanks that we may



speak: the strong, who once were weak!  
 light, a bea - con ev - er bright.  
 own: God's love through them is known.  
 say we share their pil - grim way.

The first three stanzas of this text are organized around the three great virtues—faith, hope, and love—mentioned in 1 Corinthians 13:13. These have indeed been the marks of the faithful people of God always and everywhere, and the final stanza sums up our gratitude for them.

## WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

### COMMUNITY PRAYER

Jarod K. Anderson, alt.

Lyz Staman

One Voice: Holy One, we seldom admit the seductive comfort of hopelessness.

**All Voices: It saves us from ambiguity.**

One Voice: It has an answer for every question:

**All Voices: "There's just no point."**

One Voice: Hope, on the other hand, is messy.

**All Voices: If it might all work out, then we have things to do.**

One Voice: We must weather the possibility of happiness.

**All Voices: Divine Guide, lead us on your paths. Amen.**

### SUNG PRAYER

"Take, O Take Me As I Am"

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: "Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me." The lyrics are written below the notes.

Text: John L. Bell, b.1949  
Tune: John L. Bell, b.1949  
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**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.**

**COMMUNAL READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 7:7-8

Lyz Staman

*Common English Bible*

**Ask, and you will receive.**

**Search, and you will find.**

**Knock, and the door will be opened to you.**

**For everyone who asks, receives.**

**Whoever seeks, finds.**

**And to everyone who knocks, the door is opened.**

**SCRIPTURE RESPONSE**

Lyz Staman

**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**

“Hope Part 2: Waypower”

Sharon Benton

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God  
 2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you;  
 3 You shall not live by bread a - lone,

and its righ - teous - ness,  
 seek, and you shall find;  
 but by ev - ery word

and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you.  
 knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you.  
 that pro - ceeds from the mouth of God.

Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

The author and composer wrote the first stanza and folk-style tune after attending a Bible study on Matthew 6:33. The later stanzas, based respectively on Matthew 7:7 and Matthew 4:4, emerged anonymously. Such meditative singing of scripture is an important form of sung prayer.

TEXT: Stanza 1, Karen Lafferty, 1971, alt.; stanzas 2-3, anon.; Spanish trans. anon.;

Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee

MUSIC: Karen Lafferty, 1971

Text and Music © 1972 Universal Music - Brentwood Publishing/Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa dba CCCM Music  
 (admin. Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing)

LAFFERTY  
 Irregular

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

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**Invitation**

**Sharing the Elements**

*You may come forward to receive communion or if you wish to remain seated, someone will come around to you in your seat. Raise a hand or indicate that you would like communion as they come around. If you come forward you will be on the video stream.*

*You may either dip your bread in the communal cup  
or take a single-serving of juice from the communion table.*

*If you're worshipping at home, gather something to eat and drink:  
the risen Christ will meet you right where you are.*

**Communion Music**

Judy Widrig

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING**

Page & 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**



Judy Widrig




verses 1, 2




1 Hope of the world, O Christ of great com - pas - sion,  
 2 Hope of the world, God's gift of our re - demp - tion,  
 3 Hope of the world, who by the cross did save us  
 4 Hope of the world. O Christ, o'er death vic - to - rious,


Speak to our fear - ful hearts by con - flict torn.  
 bring - ing to hun - gry souls the bread of life,  
 from death and sad de - spair, from sin and guilt,  
 who by this sign did con - quer grief and pain.

Save us your peo - ple from con - sum - ing pas - sion,  
 Still let your Spir - it un - to us be giv - en  
 We ren - der back the love your mer - cy gave us;  
 We would be faith - ful to your gos - pel glo - rious;

from false pur - suits through which our lives are worn.  
 to heal earth's wounds and end its bit - ter strife.  
 take back our lives and use them as you will,  
 our Sov - ereign who for - ev - er more shall reign!



*Author of many books in her field and an internationally recognized teacher, Georgia Harkness was one of the leading women theologians of her generation. This text was written for the Second General Assembly of the World Council of Churches.*

Tune: ANCIENT OF DAYS 11.10.11.10

J. Albert Jeffrey, 1886

Adapt. The New Century Hymnal, 1992

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POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig

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

Join Pastor Page in Rooms 12/14 after worship to continue the conversation about gender diversity and being a welcoming congregation.

### **Upcoming Worship**

Next Sunday will be the last in this three-part series on “Hope.” On **August 18**, we’ll have a hymn sing! **August 18** is also the deadline to submit questions for the **August 25 All Questions Considered** service. Send them to [office@fccb.net](mailto:office@fccb.net). Pastors will not read them ahead of time, and Cydne will remove your name from your question if you wish.

**Save the Date September 8** for Gathering In Sunday!

#### **COMMUNION ELEMENT INGREDIENTS:**

*Communion loaf— whole wheat flour, molasses, yeast, salt.  
Gluten free wafers—Rice flour, safflower oil, salt. Juice— grape juice, vitamin C*

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

*Do you receive our Friday Announcements email? Contact [office@fccb.net](mailto:office@fccb.net) to sign up!  
For more information, see our Connection Calendar in the Friday email  
or contact [office@fccb.net](mailto:office@fccb.net).*

### Sunday

Hybrid worship in person, and on Facebook or on Zoom, our #BiggerBalcony, **10:00 am**

### Monday

Walking Group: weekly, **10:00 am**, Barkley Pond  
Church Council: **4th Mondays, 7:00 pm**, Zoom  
Poetry Group: **1st & 3rd Mondays 7:00 pm**, Zoom

### Tuesday

Pilgrim Circle: **2nd Tuesdays, 12:00 noon**, Narthex  
Green Team: **2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7:00 pm**, Zoom

### Wednesday

Glee Club: weekly, **5:00 pm**, Narthex

### Thursday

Men's Breakfast Group, **1st Thursday, 9:00 am**, Country Club.  
Thursday Book Group: **2nd & 4th Thursdays, 5:00 pm**, Fireplace Room  
20-Somethings Peer Philosophy Group: weekly, **7:00 pm**, Fireplace Room

### Friday

Game Night: **3rd Fridays, 6:00-9:00 pm**, Room 32

### Saturday

Centering Prayer Group: **Saturdays, 11:00 am**, Chapel

*To stay up to date, follow us on social media, subscribe to our Friday Email,  
or check in with our Full Circle Blog, <https://www.fccb.net/blog/>.*

**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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