

Hope, Part 3
Willpower
August 11, 2024



TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 1, 2024

10:00 am

There is a quiet courage that comes from an inward spring of confidence in the meaning and significance of life. Such courage is an underground river, flowing far beneath the shifting events of one's experience, keeping alive a thousand little springs of action. ~ Howard Thurman

People say, what is the sense of our small effort? They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time. A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples to spread in all directions. Each one of our thoughts, words and deeds is like that. No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There is too much work to do. ~ Dorothy Day

Love is what carries you, for it is always there, even in the dark, or most in the dark, but shining out at times like gold stitches in a piece of embroidery. ~ Wendell Berry

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

*Rise in body or spirit

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

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TIME WITH CHILDREN

Joyce Sweeney

*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.*

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Judy Widrig

WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY PRAYER

by Kate Bowler, Adapted

Gail Warren

One Voice: Blessed are we who cannot go on... not like this.
But stand and look and ask...

All Voices: Which is the good way to walk in? Is there an easier route?

One Voice: Blessed are we who listen for the voice that is both thunder and
the softest rain.

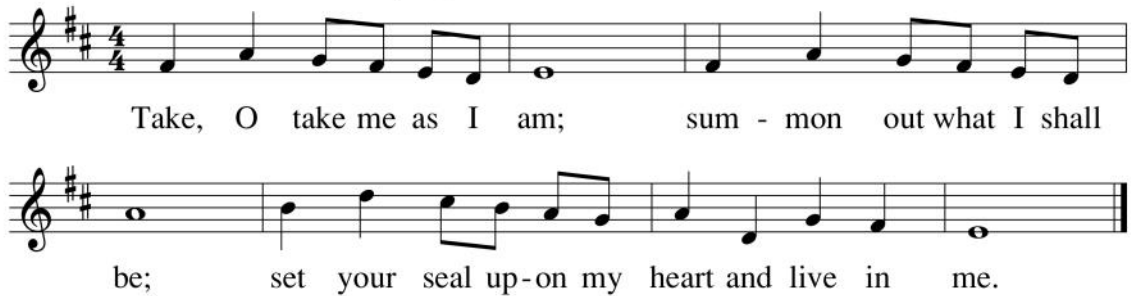
**All Voices: Blessed are we, at the point of utter stillness that becomes an
empty space for the voice to echo and build and resound.**

One Voice: Until it becomes a place to rest and receive and be made whole.

**All Voices: And oh, how blessed are we who are astonished to find that
God's strength begins at the very point when ours runs out.
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.

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

Hebrews 12: 1-3
English Standard Version

Gail Warren

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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.**

Gail Warren

SERMON

“Endurance to Run the Race”

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MUSICAL REFLECTION

“O, Love That Will Not Let Me Go”
by George Matheson & Albert Peace

Joy Brown

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

BUILDING HOPE

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

“Be Now My Vision”
by Mary Byrne, Eleanor Hull, David Evans

Joy Brown

***HYMN #497** (black hymnal)

“Guide My Feet”

GUIDE MY FEET

BLESSING OF GRATITUDE FOR PASTOR PAGE

***BENEDICTION & PASSING THE PEACE**

Sharon Benton

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig

Judy will play quietly underneath our connecting with one another.

May you go out in peace and justice!

*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

Choose one part of our church's three-part **vision**:

We Are a Nurturing, Beloved Community

We Are Growing Authentic, Christian Faith

We are Living Christ-Inspired Action

Create a **goal**, for yourself or for First Congregational Church, that lives into the part of the vision you chose—what might you/we accomplish that shows you/we are moving closer to this vision?

Imagine **pathways**—name three different routes you can imagine that would take you/us to that goal?

What is one obstacle you foresee for each of the three routes?

Consider **agency**: what do you/we have, or what might you/we need, to fulfill the plan for this goal?

Share with someone, if you're comfortable doing so—look for common themes or overlaps in what came up for you. Continue the conversation in the social hall or with someone later this week!

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**

Davi's office hours will be on Sunday, Monday, & Tuesday

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

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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