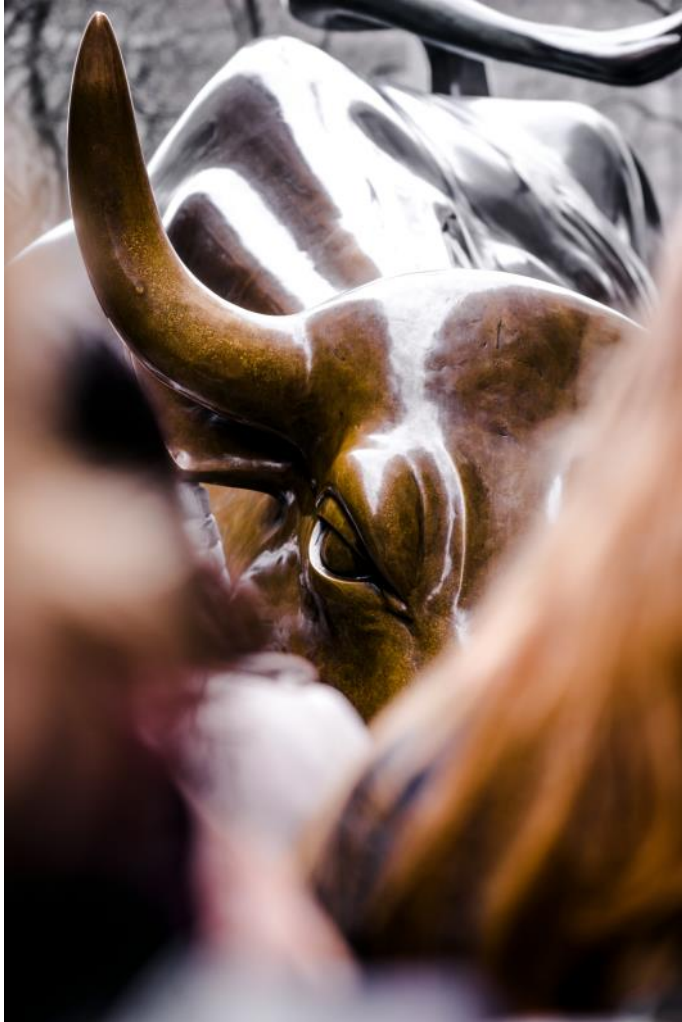


Beautiful Idols

October 7, 2024



first  **congregational**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
timeless worship + modern faith

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 6, 2024

10:00 am

People worship idols—money, whatever. Their humanness gets reshaped around the idol—you become like what you worship. That's one of the basic spiritual laws.

~ N.T. Wright

Images of the Holy easily become holy images—sacrosanct. My idea of God is not a divine idea. It has to be shattered time after time. [God] shatters it [Godself]. [God] is the great iconoclast.

~ C. S. Lewis,

PRELUDE

"Cello Concerto - Movement 3"
by Camille Saint-Saëns

Mia Kelly, Cello
Judy Widrig, Piano

WELCOME

Rev. 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

WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

WELCOME SONG

"Gathered Here"

Musical score for the song "Gathered Here". The score is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of three lines of music. The first line starts with a first ending bracket (1) over the first two measures and a second ending bracket (2) over the last two measures. The lyrics are: "Gath - ered here in the mys-t'ry of this hour, gath - ered here in one strong bod - y, gath - ered here in the struggle and the pow'r, Spir - it, draw near." The second line has a third ending bracket (3) over the last two measures. The third line has a fourth ending bracket (4) over the last two measures.

Text: Phil Porter (USA)
Music: Phil Porter
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THE STORY

Sharon Benton

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Stacy Malone Miller & John Mark Slagle

*Children may go with Josh to church school in the social hall
or remain in the sanctuary as they choose.*

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Stacy Malone Miller

One Voice: Faithful One, it's so easy to set up beautiful idols:

**All Voices: we make gods out of good things
just wanting to make the world a better, safer place.**

One Voice: We lift up beauty and fame and money —
but these are too easy to condemn.

**All Voices: It's when we idolize our causes (they're not God),
or our heroes (who are certainly not God),
or our families (they're not God, either) —
that's when we willingly set you aside.**

One Voice: Help us remember that you alone are God,
and you guide us in all the beautiful things of this world.

All Voices: Help us to see you and serve you in all that we love. 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 the song, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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 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

Exodus 32:1-6

Stacy Malone Miller

Common English Bible

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

“Beautiful Idols”

Sharon Benton

A GIFT OF MUSIC

“May the Light of Love”
by David Roth

Craig Jennings

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Sung Invitation

Come, Let Us Bring

By Billema Kwillia & Marty Haugen

*Come let us bring our gifts to God in praise,
So that we might minister in countless ways.
Come, let us bring the warm and fragrant bread,
Broken here so all God's people might be fed.
Come, let us bring the sweet, abundant wine.
In this cup, we taste the joy of grace divine.*

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 center server.*

*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

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

*HYMN 277 (black hymnal)

“Holy, Holy, Holy”
vs. 1, 3, 4

NICAEA

*BENEDICTION & PASSING THE PEACE

Sharon Benton

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig

The postlude will play as we share the peace of Christ

COMMUNION ELEMENT INGREDIENTS:

Communion loaf— whole wheat flour, molasses, yeast, salt. Juice— grape juice, vitamin C.

Gluten free bread— sorghum, tapioca, millet & rice flours; sea salt, honey, canola oil, water, ginger ale, egg.

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

INTERIM MUSIC COORDINATOR:

Dallas Geil, he/him (music@fccb.net)

WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR:

Georgia Drost, she/they

MODERATOR: Scott Ward, he/him

VICE MODERATOR:

Diane Cooper-Schick, she/her

PAST MODERATOR: Mark Schofield

CLERK: Janet Malley, she/her

TREASURER: Craig Jennings

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