

# Personal/Political

## January 12, 2025



### Vision Statement:

We Are a Nurturing, Beloved Community.  
We Are Growing Authentic Christian Faith.  
We Are Living Christ-Inspired Action.

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**  
January 12, 2025 10:00 am

*"If not you, then who? If not now, when?"  
~ Hillel first-century Jewish scholar*

**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**

**WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY**

**WELCOME SONG**

*"You Are Welcome Here"*  
by Gerard DeMan

G D G A D G/D D G A

You are wel - come here, no mat-ter who you are,

6 G D D G D C G A D

no mat-ter where you are, on life's jour - ney, you are wel-come here.

Used with permission.

*\*Rise in body or spirit*

## TIME WITH CHILDREN

Jen Sandoval

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

\*HYMN 168 (black hymnal) "O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word"

DICKINSON COLLEGE

## COMMUNITY PRAYER:

by Rev. Teri Peterson

One: God of ancient times and our God today,

Many: **You make us one family in your name,  
and look on us with love**

**even when we haven't got things quite right.**

**Turn us, and re-turn us, O God,**

**until we are oriented toward your providing grace.**

**Let your voice echo in our hearts this day,**

**calling out Beloved**

**and leading us to a new way of life.**

**Amen.**

## SUNG PRAYER

"Gather Us, O God"

by Monica Brown

D Em A D

Gath-er us, O God, Bod-y, spir - it, soul and mind. Gath-er

8 Em G D

us, O God one in un - ion now with

**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**

Luke 3:1-22

*Common English Bible*

**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.**

**SERMON**

“Personal/Political”

Sharon Benton

**A GIFT OF MUSIC**

Clara Lindstrom & Christopher Giffen

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

**TESTIMONY**

Jen Sandoval

**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**

Clara Lindstrom & Christopher Giffen

## \*HYMN

## "In Halls of Wealth &amp; Power"

LLANGLOFFAN

Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Traditional Welsh tune arr. by Henry T. Smart

In halls of wealth and pow - er where sha - dowed deals are made,  
 When Her - od chose to wan - der from liv - ing as he should,  
 O God of love and jus - tice, when we feel sure and strong,  
 In halls of wealth and pow - er, in home and neigh - bor - hood,

6

The heart - less ones de - vou - er; the help - less are be - trayed.  
 John preached with mi - ghty thun - der, "Re - pent and do the good!"  
 May pow - er ne - ver tempt us to ven - ture toward the wrong.  
 May we re - ject the e - vil and turn to what is good.

11

The ones who make de - cis - ions seem con - fi - dent and strong  
 Then pow - er danced with an - ger; re - venge went dan - cing, too.  
 In all of our en - dea - vors, give wis - dom, Lord, we pray,  
 May jus - tice dance with mer - cy and ser - vice dance with grace;

16

yet some - times blur di - vi - sions be - tween the right and wrong.  
 When they all join to ge - ther, what e - vil will they do!  
 That we may love our neigh - bors and seek your king - dom way.  
 May na - tions lift the low - ly till peace and love em - brace.

\***BENEDICTION & PASSING THE PEACE**

Sharon Benton

**POSTLUDE**

Judy Widrig

*Please share the Peace of Christ with one another as we depart*



### **Celebrate Pastor Sharon!**

Pastor Sharon has been with us for 10 years! Join us **today** at **5:00 pm** for Sanctuary Karaoke & a Snack Potluck in the Social Hall to celebrate Sharon and her ministry.

**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**

OneLicense #A-718199

CCS #12615

