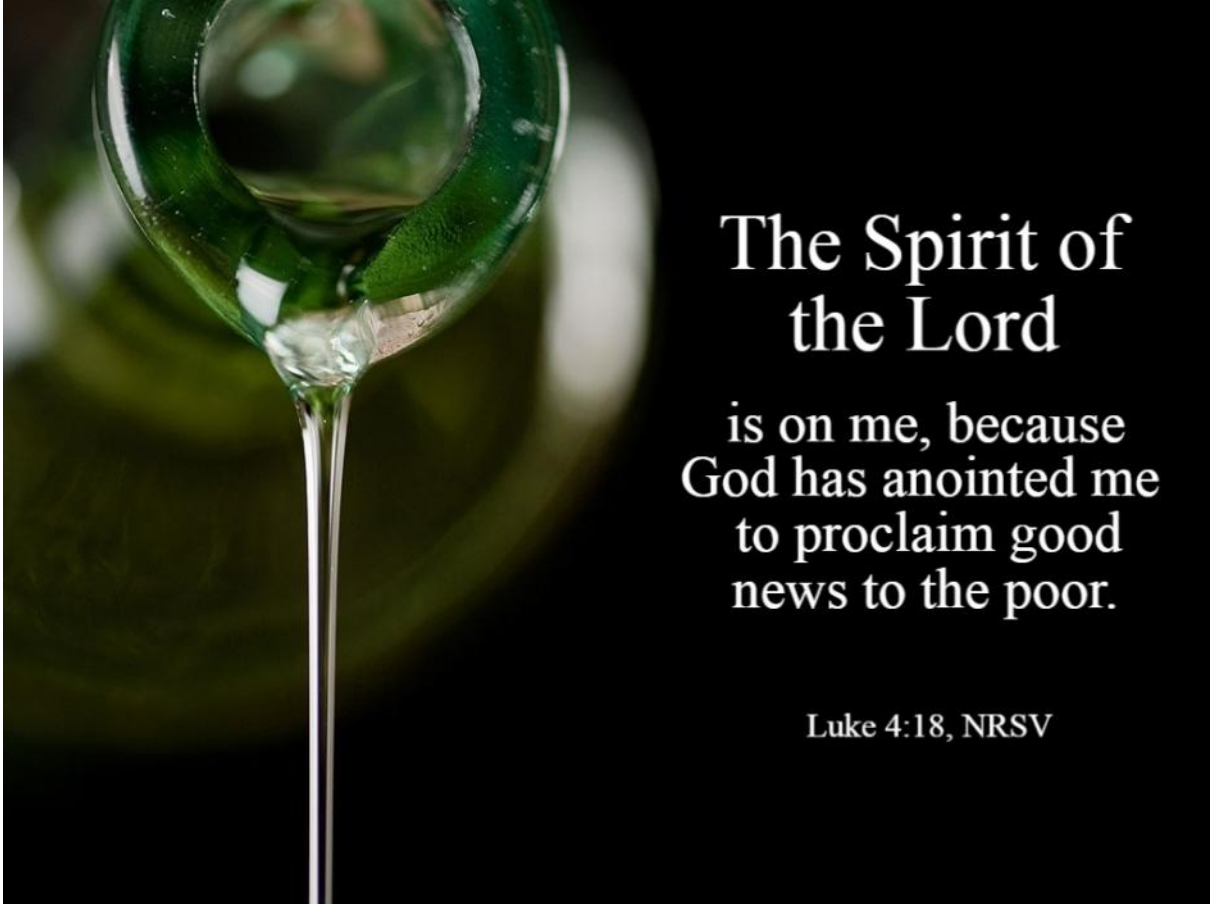


An Inauguration January 19, 2025



The Spirit of the Lord

is on me, because
God has anointed me
to proclaim good
news to the poor.

Luke 4:18, NRSV



Vision Statement:

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

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
January 19, 2025 10:00 am

"Ecuadorian farmer Omar Tello says that to regenerate one hundred hectares of rainforest, you only need to plant three or four hectares because the seeds will spread and the fecundity of the land will suffice." ~ Travis Norvell, Church on the Move

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

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

Used with permission.

THE STORY

Davi Weasley

**Rise in body or spirit*

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

"Gather Us In"

GATHER US IN

Marty Haugen



1. Here in this place, new light is stream-ing, now is the
2. We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the
4. Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin - ing, not in some



1. dark - ness, van - ished a - way, See, in this space, our
2. old who yearn for your face, We have been sung through-
4. heav - en, light years a - way, but here in this place, the



1. fears and our dream-ings, brought here to you in the light of this
2. out all of his - t'ry, called to be light to the whole hu - man
4. new light is shin - ing, now is the Kin - dom now is the



1. day, Gath-er us in the lost and for - sa - ken, Gath-er us
2. race, Gath-er us in the rich and the haugh-ty, Gath-er us
4. day, Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, Gath-er us



1. in the blind and the lame; Call to us now, and we shall a -
2. in the proud and the strong; Give us a heart so meek and so
4. in and make us your own; Gath - er us in all peo - ples to -



1. wa - ken, we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
2. low - ly, give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
4. geth - er, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

COMMUNITY PRAYER:

One: Leaders claim authority

Many: **Jesus picks up the scroll to read**

One: Leaders claim certainty

Many: **Jesus calls on relationship- with the divine, and with the poor**

One: Leaders demand power

Many: **Jesus proclaims release to the captives**

One: Leaders summon strength

Many: **Jesus calls freedom for the oppressed.**

One: In the midst of Leaders, in the midst of Jesus's call:

Many: **Spirit, lead us together!**

SUNG PRAYER

“Gather Us, O God”

by Monica Brown

Gath-er us, O God, Bod-y, spir - it, soul and mind. Gath-er us, O God one in un - ion now with

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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

Luke 4:14-30

New Revised Standard Version

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

“An Inauguration”

Davi Weasley

A GIFT OF MUSIC

“Dona Nobis Pacem” (There is a Better Way)
by Brian Tate

One Accord

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

COVENANT WITH NEW MEMBERS

Eric Bowen, Sally Bowen, Jan Chaplin, Oscar Fegley Hayes,
Claire Miller, Jeanette Stauffer-Schorr

New Member Covenant

We promise to worship God, preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, celebrate the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, and encourage the realization of God's will in the lives of people from birth to death, individually and collectively, as seen in the life, teaching, death and living presence of Jesus Christ. In keeping with Christ's teaching, we are “Welcoming all, Growing in Faith, Living God's Love, Justice, Compassion ...”

Congregational Covenant

We, the members of First Congregational Church of Bellingham, United Church of Christ, warmly welcome you: not to a congregation of the sinless, but to a living community of faith that seeks to find new ways of being in relationship with God and enacting God's intention for the wholeness of humankind. We give thanks for your life stories, your faith journeys, your diversity of gifts. We pray that God will help us provide a nurturing environment for you and enable us to take time for one another as we establish a shared faith and common history.

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

“We Praise You”

One Accord

Words and Music by Matt Rodman, Brandon Lake, Brian Johnson and Phil Wickham.

Arranged by Ross Rodgers

***HYMN 446** (black hymnal)

“Jesus, Still Lead On”

SEELENBRÄUTIGAM

***BENEDICTION & PASSING THE PEACE**

Davi Weasley

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig

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

ROOM FOR YOUR REFLECTIONS

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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