

Everything In Between Shouting & Shouting April 13, 2025



first congregational
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
timeless worship + modern faith

Vision Statement:

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

PALM SUNDAY

April 13, 2025

10:00 am

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

“Praise to the God of the In-Between Space”

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 4/4 time. It consists of three lines of music. The first line starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. It features a melody with eighth notes and quarter notes, with three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above a bracket) over the first three measures. The lyrics are: 'Praise to the God of the in-between space, Praise for the people who witness to more,'. The second line continues the melody with similar rhythmic patterns and triplet markings. The lyrics are: 'teach-ing us all of your lim-it-less grace, and for cre-a-tion that more than the cer-tain-ties of ei-ther or, liv-ing as signs of a'. The third line begins with a '6' above the staff, indicating a six-measure phrase. It continues the melody with triplet markings. The lyrics are: 'helps us to grow past all the bi-na-ry bound-ries we know. wild mys-ter-y: God in one na-ture, and God One in Three.' The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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*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 216** (black hymnal) “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

ST. THEODULPH

CALL TO CONFESSION⁺

Kris Johnson

Friends, we are truth-tellers in the prayer of confession.
We are honest about the fact that we are works in progress.
We lay it all out before God.
But this moment of prayer isn't just about us.
In the prayer of confession we also reveal who God is, and our God is merciful.
Our God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
So let us pray, knowing that God's truth will always mean grace for us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION⁺

Kris Johnson

One Voice: Great Creator, forgive me
**All Voices: when I speak before listening,
when I speak over my neighbor,
when I speak with barbed words.**

One Voice: Creator God, forgive me
**All Voices: when I listen to society,
when I listen to my friends,
when I listen to the news,
but I do not listen to you.**

One Voice: Creator God, forgive me
**All Voices: when I shout out, but do not shout your name,
when I listen, but do not listen for your voice.
Forgive me.**

One Voice: Create in me a heart like yours.
All Voices: Amen

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS*

Kris Johnson

One Voice: Friends, whether or not you stuck to your Lenten goals this year, whether or not this is your first time in church or your thousandth time, whether or not you know to speak to God or listen for God's voice, God listens to you. God is merciful. God is abounding in steadfast love. There is nothing you could do or leave undone that could keep God from loving you. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

All Voices: **We are seen. We are heard. We are loved. We are forgiven. Not a day goes by that we ever walk alone. Hosanna in the highest! Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON



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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 19:29-40

Kris Johnson

New Revised Standard Version

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Kris Johnson

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

“Everything In Between Shouting & Shouting”

Sharon Benton

GIFT OF MUSIC

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”
arranged by: Jason W. Krug

Handbell Choir

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

You may make an offering either in the plates 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

Musical notation for the first system, featuring a treble and bass clef in 4/4 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. Chords G and D7 are indicated above the staff.

Jes - us is com - ing; pave the way with branch - es.

Musical notation for the second system, including a first and second ending. The melody and bass line continue. Chords G and D7 are indicated above the staff.

Jes - us is com - ing. Ho - san - na! san - na! Ho -

Musical notation for the third system, labeled "Refrain". The melody and bass line continue. Chords C, G, and D7 are indicated above the staff.

san - na, Je - sus is com - ing. Ho - san -

Musical notation for the fourth system, including a first and second ending. The melody and bass line continue. Chords G, D7, and C are indicated above the staff.

na to the Prince of Peace. Ho - Prince of Peace.

Additional verses:

Freedom for captives; pave the way with branches. Freedom for captives. Hosanna. *Refrain*
 Hope for the suff'ring . . .
 Debts are forgiven . . .

Additional verses may be improvised as desired.

Text: Bret Hesla (USA)

Music: Bret Hesla

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Holy Week & Easter at First Congregational Church

*Often it seems like we're in the midst of extremes,
but there is so much in between where God meets us.
Come together to meet God and each other in between.*

Worship with us **every Sunday at 10:00 am**

Special Services ...

Tuesday Taize services, **5:30-6:15 pm** in the chapel

Good Friday, **April 18, 7:00 pm**

Easter Sunrise, **April 20, 6:30 am** at Bloedel Donovan Park

Easter Sunday, **April 20, 10:00 am**



*All prayers are by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

ARTIST'S STATEMENT: *I Believe* by Steve Prince. Inspired by Luke 19:29-40. Pen & ink on paper. *Amid a sometimes turbulent and chaotic world, if we enter with faith and Christ in our hearts we shall be delivered. The figure's hands are lifted in praise as he navigates the flood of life which can be overbearing. He recognizes that the flood of life is symbolic of sin and separation from God. He closes his eyes, humbles himself before God, and he is delivered into a new chapter of his life, triumphant.*

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

Our pastor is available by appointment virtually or in person. Contact her by email or call the pastoral care line, 360-733-4255.

Sharon sharon@fccb.net

You can also email our Office Manager Cydne at office@fccb.net and she'll pass your message on.

*During Lent, all prayers are by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH United Church of Christ

An Open & Affirming Congregation

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Facebook: facebook.com/fccbucc

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9 am-5 pm, M, T, F & 1:00-5:00 pm W, Th

PASTOR: Sharon Benton, she/her

CHAPLAIN: Charlene Epp

CHURCH SCHOOL COORDINATOR:

Josh Marchand, they/them

ORGANIST: Judy Widrig, she/her

OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran, she/her

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE:

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Moxy Rogers

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VICE MODERATOR: Jordan Sandoval

PAST MODERATOR: Scott Ward, he/him

CLERK: Janet Malley, she/her

TREASURER: Craig Jennings

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