

Mother Earth Celebration May 11, 2025



Vision Statement:

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

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER
May 11, 2025 10:00 am

Sooner or later, we will have to recognize that the Earth has rights too, to live without pollution. What we must know is that human beings cannot live without Mother Earth, but the planet can live without humans. ~ Eva Morales

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

“Halle, Halle, Halle”

Caribbean Folk Song

Hal-le, Hal-le, Hal - le - lu - ja! Hal-le, Hal-le, Hal -
le - lu - ja! Hal - le, Hal - le, Hal - le -
lu - ja! Hal - le - lu - ja! Hal - le - lu - ja!

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HALLE, HALLE
Irregular

**Rise in body or spirit*

THE STORY

Liz Hjelmseth

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Bruce & Sharon Camblin

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

***HYMN 563** (black hymnal) "We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky"

ENDLESS SONG

COMMUNITY PRAYER

by Lucy Bunch

Nancy Fayram

One Voice: We pray to you, Mother Earth, with gratitude

**All Voices: For your holding and sustaining love
For the air, water, and soil that feed us
For the mountains and rivers and oceans that calm our spirits
For loving and supporting all beings and all creation.**

One Voice: We pray to you, Mother Earth, with humility

**All Voices: Help us to remember our place in the great web of life
Help us to remember that we are but a part of this great web,
and that we must do our part for all life.**

One Voice: We pray to you, Mother Earth, for forgiveness

**All Voices: For our ignorance and willful disregard of the damage we have done
to you, to the air and the waters, and the soil and the life of this
beautiful planet.**

One Voice: We pray to you, Mother Earth, for fortitude

**All Voices: to uphold our part in reversing the damage we have caused,
for fortitude to make and sustain a commitment to do our part to
heal the planet.**

One Voice: Mother Earth, in gratitude and humility, we ask that you hold us
and sustain us,

All Voices: as we strive to live in connection with you and all life. Amen

SUNG INVITATION TO PRAYER

"Alleluia"

brightly

The image shows a musical score for a sung invitation to prayer. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/8. The lyrics are 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!' repeated twice. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Music by Norah Duncan IV © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.

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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

Selections from Genesis 1 & 2

Nancy Fayram

Adapted from The Book of Belonging by Mariko Clark

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

“Hallelujah”

Palestinian Traditional

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu.

5
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu. Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu. Hal - le - lu - jah,

10
hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu.

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MUSICAL MINISTRY

“Awaken”

Christopher Giffen

by Christopher Giffen

TESTIMONY

Ted Huffman

MUSICAL MINISTRY

“What a Wonderful World”

One Accord

by George Douglas and George David Weiss. Arr. Andrew Beck.

TESTIMONY

Jen Sandoval

MUSICAL MINISTRY

“O Earth, Loving Mother”

One Accord

Text by Archibald Lampman Adapted by Mark Sirett, Music by Mark Sirett.

*O earth, loving mother,
Nurture us, breathe in us
Something of your beauty,
your wisdom and your light.*

*O earth, loving mother,
Nurture us, breathe in us
Something of your beauty,
your wisdom and your light.*

*Your ancient mountains, gleaming seas
Fill our hearts with care;
Through blazing sun and darkest night,
Breathe in us, breathe in us.*

*O earth, who was before our time,
And after many years remains,
Careless and blind we wander from you.
Breathe in us, breathe in us.*

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

Nancy Fayram

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

“O Sing to the Lord”
Brazilian Folk Tune, arr. Jason W. Krug

Handbell Choir

HYMN 566 (black hymnal)

“God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”

HOLY MANNA

***BENEDICTION & PASSING THE PEACE**

Sharon Benton

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig

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

Our Chaplain is also available at
chaplain@fccb.net.

Or you can 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

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Facebook: facebook.com/fccbucc

Office Hours:

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

PASTOR: Sharon Benton, she/her

CHAPLAIN: Charlene Epp, she/her

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

Moxy Rogers, she/her

MODERATOR: Diane Cooper-Schick, she/her

VICE MODERATOR: Jordan Sandoval

PAST MODERATOR: Scott Ward, he/him

CLERK: Janet Malley, she/her

TREASURER: Craig Jennings

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