

# Pride Sunday July 13, 2025



## Vision Statement:

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

**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
July 13, 2025 10:00 am

*"You holy blinking star. You highway streak of light falling over and over for your hard life,  
your perfect life, your sweet and beautiful life."  
~ Andrea Gibson*

**PRE-SERVICE BRUNCH**

**PRELUDE** "Be The Change" One Accord  
*Based on texts by Mahatma Ghandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Matthew 5:15.  
Music by Laura Farnell.*

**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.*

**COMMISSIONING MARCHERS** Diane Cooper-Schick, Moderator  
One Voice: We all have gifts and passions given to us by the Spirit. Today we  
commission those marching in Bellingham's Pride Parade. I present to  
you these persons, marchers on behalf of our congregation, absent from  
us in worship, but carrying the love of God to all with whom they may  
interact on the parade route.  
All Voices: **We stand among this incredible cloud of witnesses and today  
proclaim:**  
**Where hatred roars, sing of love.**  
**Where fear stalks, stand with courage.**  
**Where bigotry rages, call for justice.**  
**Where pain overwhelms, extend kind comfort.**  
**Where systems oppress, work for change.**  
**Forever and ever. Amen.**  
One Voice: Go with courage and grace, sowing God's message of love with all,  
especially, today, the LGBTQ+ community of Whatcom County. Amen.

## WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

WELCOME SONG

"God Welcomes All"

AMEN THEMBA

*Energetically*

The musical score is written for a piano and voice. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, using chords and single notes. The lyrics are: "God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends; God's love is strong and it ne - ver ends." The score is arranged in two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system covers the first line of lyrics, and the second system covers the second line. The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for a community song.

Words, transcription and arrangement © 2008 WGRG c/o Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent.  
Used under OneLicense #A-718199.

THE STORY

Pastor Page

\*HYMN 394 (black hymnal)

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

McKee

COMMUNITY PRAYER

by M Jade Kaiser, enfleshed

One Voice: Let's join our voices as one in the community prayer.

All Voices: God of infinite manifestations, free us of shame that confines and judgment that destroys. Bring healing to the wounds of being told we are too much or too big or too proud or too young or too old or too queer. Ground us in the truth that sets us free: we are the work of a Divine hand – the holy lives in our flesh. Wherever we struggle to believe, meet us there. In Christ we pray. Amen.

## SUNG INVITATION TO PRAYER

*"As Colors in the Sky"*  
(after the prayers, hum 1x through)

*Unison*



3 Cre - at - ing God, you dance, you move as one in three. Come  
show us, by your rain - bow light, our shared hu - man - i - ty. The  
heav - ens and the earth are made new ev - ery day, help  
us dis - cov - er by your grace, new truth, new life, new ways.

by Daniel Charles Damon © 2016 Hope Publishing Company. Used under OneLicense.net #A-718199

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Page

### 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

Mark 3:20-35

*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

"In Good Company"

Pastor Page

## HYMN

"There Is More Love Somewhere"

Biko

There is more love\* some - where.

There is more love some - where.

I'm gon-na keep on till I find it.

There is more love some - where.

\*Additional verses: hope, peace, joy

Text: African American traditional (USA)

Music: African American traditional

## WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

Carol Garguile

*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 below or on the back cover of the bulletin.*



### MUSICAL OFFERING

Judy Widrig

### \*HYMN

*"All the Colors of the Rainbow"  
see opposite page*

ABBOTT'S LEIGH

### \*BENEDICTION & PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor Page

### POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig

# All the Colors of the Rainbow

Carl P. Daw

ABBOT'S LEIGH  
Cyril V. Taylor



1. All the co - lours of the rain-bow live un - seen in dai - ly light,  
3. Ev - ery lang - uage gains more mu - sic when the words for peace ap - pear:  
4. Teach us, God, our need of oth - ers; through them help us ful - ly live.



but their splen - dors find ex - pres-sion when re - leased to hu - man sight;  
Pax, Sa - laam, Ei - ri - ni, Hei - wa, Pa - ce, San - ti, Frie - den, Mir.  
Wean us from our sel - fish hab - its; let us list - en, learn, for - give.



so the church re - veals most beau - ty where di - ver - si - ty is real:  
Though our tongues make sounds that va - ry all be - speak a com - mon home:  
May we see your longed - for im - age in each hu - man heart and face,



breadth of race and class and gen - der, room for doubt and space to heal.  
long - ing for the end of con - flict and a new life in God's Sha - lom.  
and be - hold how those a - round us can be chan - nels of your grace.

Words ©2016, Music ©1942, ren. 1970  
Hope Publishing Company

Used under OneLicense.net #A-718199

**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**

office@fccb.net • www.fccb.net

Facebook: facebook.com/fccbucc

*Office Hours:*

*9:30 am-4:30 pm, M-Th. 10:00 am-2:00 pm, F.*

**PASTOR: Sharon Benton, she/her**

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY LIFE:**

**Scott Ward, he/him** (scott@fccb.net)

**CHAPLAIN: Charlene Epp, she/her**

**ORGANIST: Judy Widrig, she/her**

**INTERIM MUSIC COORDINATOR:**

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

**CHURCH SCHOOL/YOUTH COORDINATOR**

**Maya McEachern**

**WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR**

**Moxxy Rogers, she/her**

**OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran, she/her**

**CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE:**

**Kurt Aagard, he/him**

**BOOKKEEPER: Eric Bowen, he/him**

**MODERATOR: Diane Cooper-Schick, she/her**

**VICE MODERATOR: Jordan Sandoval**

**CLERK: Janet Malley, she/her**

**TREASURER: Craig Jennings**

OneLicense #A-718199, CCS #12615

