

No Kings? We've Been Here Before

October 19, 2025



Vision Statement:

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

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 19, 2025

10:00 am

*What keeps me grounded is accepting that I cannot do everything,
but if I let my rage, grief, and inspiration move me,
and we each show up where we are most enraged, grieved, and inspired,
we might end up having enough solidarity to transform the patterns
that flow through all injustice.
~ adrienne maree brown*

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

RINGING THE BELL

WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

WELCOME SONG #73 (black hymnal) "Enter, Rejoice, Come In"

ENTER, REJOICE

sing twice

En - ter, re - joice, and come in. En - ter, re - joice, and come in.

5
To - day will be a joy - ful day; en - ter, re - joice, and come in.

by Louise Ruspini © 1992 Louise Ruspini; Harmonization © 1993 The Pilgrim Press.
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**Rise in body or spirit*

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.

THE STORY

Sharon Benton

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Maya McEachern

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

***HYMN 305** (black hymnal) “You Servants of God, Your Sovereign Proclaim” HANOVER
verses 1, 2, 4

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Kate Destler

One Voice: Holy One, we live in a time of power plays and ridicule of enemies.

**All Voices: When such behavior is modeled by our leaders,
it becomes too easy to fall into these patterns ourselves.**

One Voice: Might makes right, and right is lost amidst all that’s wrong.

**All Voices: But you have shown us a better path,
and you have given us a guide.**

One Voice: Help us to stand up for our faith values.

**All Voices: Help us to build your Beloved Community
with every compassionate argument
and every loving rejection of hatred.**

One Voice: For yours is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory forever.

All Voices: Amen.

SUNG INVITATION TO PRAYER 283 "Spirit of the Living God"

IVERSON

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me; Spir - it of the

6
liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me_

13
Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

by Danier Iverson © 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music (A Div. of the Sparrow Corp.)
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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharon Benton

Anyone may share a brief joy or concern

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

1 Samuel 8:1-22a
Common English Bible

Kate Destler

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Kate Destler

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

"No Kings? We've Been Here Before"

Sharon Benton

HYMN

"O Where Are Kings and Empires Now"

ST. ANNE



1 O where are kings and em-pires now Of old that went and came?
2 We mark her good-ly bat-tle-ments, And her foun-da-tions strong;
3 For not like king-doms of the world Thy ho-ly Church, O God,
4 Un-sha-ken as e-ter-nal hills, Im-mov-a-ble she stands,



But, Lord, thy Church is pray-ing yet, A thou-sand years the same.
We hear with-in the sol-lemn voice Of her un-end-ing song.
Though earth-quake shocks are threatening her, And tem-pests are a-broad,
A moun-tain that shall fill the earth, A house not made by hands. A-men.

by Arthur C. Coxe, 1818-1896. Tune ST. ANNE attributed to William Croft, 1678-1727. Public domain.

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

Judy Widrig

*HYMN

"Hear the Turmoil of the Nations"
see opposite page

EBENEZER

*BENEDICTION & PASSING THE PEACE

Sharon Benton

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig

201 Hear the Turmoil of the Nations

FRFNFZFR 8.7.8.7 D



1 Hear the tur - moil of the na - tions! How earth's
2 God once set a mo - del mon - arch firm - ly
3 Lis - ten, all who gov - ern na - tions! Rul - ers



peo - ples sigh and groan! Voic - es call for
on a roy - al throne, there to reign with
of the earth, take heed! Trust no hu - man



rev - o - lu - tion; fac - tions thrive, and threats are thrown.
might and wis - dom bear - ing wit - ness to God's own.
scheme or sys - tem to de - ter - mine how you lead.



Few take time to seek God's bless - ing, which some oth - ers
When the heirs of all that great - ness took for grant - ed
Turn to God for strength and cour - age when your fears and



false - ly claim. God, whose will a - lone is
what God gave, God ful - filled the dor - mant
doubts in - crease; in that longed - for place of



sov' - reign, soon will turn their pride to shame.
prom - ise in the One who came to save.
ref - uge, find in God your source of peace.

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:

9:30 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: Leigh Hjelmseth

TREASURER: Craig Jennings

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