

Puritan Hedonism

November 16, 2025



Vision Statement:

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

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 16, 2025

10:00 am

Question 1: What is the chief end of man?

Answer: Man's chief end is to glorify God, and enjoy him forever.

~ The Westminster Shorter Catechism, 1648 (please excuse the exclusive language)

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

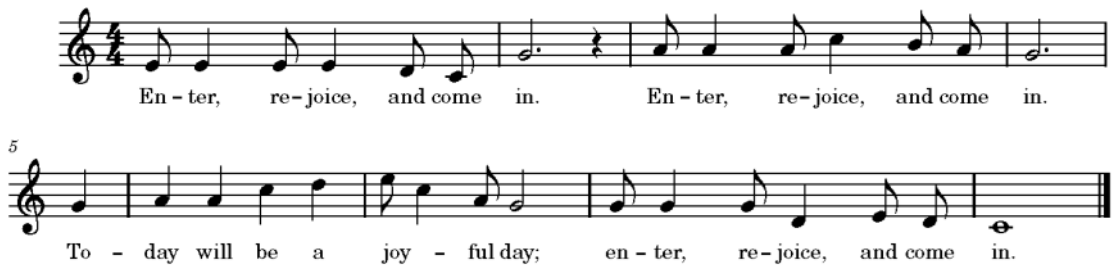
RINGING THE BELL

WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

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

ENTER, REJOICE

sing twice



by Louise Ruspini © 1992 Louise Ruspini; Harmonization © 1993 The Pilgrim Press.
Used under OneLicense #A-718199.

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

**Rise in body or spirit*

*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

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

BEACH SPRING



1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your



end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost-ly
Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es
grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to



cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn
joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly
spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in



to you, of - fer - ing up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall
la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,
shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,



rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

*v. 4: Lend your joy to all our giving,
Let it light our pilgrim way;
From the night of anxious keeping,
Loose us into generous day.*

*Then when years on earth are over,
And we've lived our human span,
God, fulfil beyond our dreaming,
All our stewardship began.*

COMMUNITY PRAYER

by Kaji R. Spellman

Scout Mitchell

One Voice: There is a richness here—

**All Voices: a richness that greets and grows and
holds and challenges and keeps.**

One Voice: There is a richness here—

**All Voices: a richness that surrounds and brings
and delivers and gives.**

One Voice: There is a richness here—

**All Voices: a richness that holds us in our weakness,
fills us in our hunger, finds us when we're lost.**

One Voice: So here, richly blessed, we have come,
and we have been found.

**All Voices: Holy One, may our time together inspire us
in richness and grace. Amen**

SUNG 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.)
Used under OneLicense #A-718199.

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 Job 38:4a, 7; Proverbs 8:22, 30-31;
Philippians 4:4; Luke 2:10
New Revised Standard Version

Scout Mitchell

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Scout Mitchell

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.

GIFT OF MUSIC

"Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken
"Austrian Hymn" by Joseph Haydn, arr. by Jason Krugg

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 below or on the back cover of the bulletin.



MUSICAL OFFERING

Judy Widrig

***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

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: Leigh Hjelmseth

TREASURER: Craig Jennings

OneLicense #A-718199, CCS #12615

