

Faces of Our Faith: Facing Ourselves — Ruth and Naomi August 27, 2023



THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 27, 2023

10:00 am

"You can't be human all by yourself." ~ Desmond Tutu

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sharon Benton

We love children in worship—their noises and wiggles are welcome, too. There are pillows in the front where they can see the instruments and participate fully, or the coloring, book, and play area is available in the corner near the windows. Their movements back and forth are a joy for us.

RINGING OF THE BELL

THE STORY

Page

**Rise in body or spirit*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Just as the body is one and has many members,

All: **We are many and one in Jesus.**

One: Our callings and talents are rich and diverse.

All: **We are many and one in the Spirit.**

One: In trial and joy, in loneliness and belonging,

All: **We are many and one in God.**

***HYMN 70 (black hymnal)** "God Is Here! As We Your People Meet" ABBOT'S LEIGH
Words by Fred Pratt Green. Cyril V. Taylor

WE ARE A NURTURING BELOVED COMMUNITY

PASSING THE PEACE

One: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

SUNG RESPONSE

"God Welcomes All"

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

God's love is strong and it ne - ver ends.

The image shows a musical score for a sung response. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "God welcomes all, strangers and friends; God's love is strong and it never ends." The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the last two lines. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and single notes.

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.*

ANTHEM

“Renewal”

Tim & Doug Shepherd

WE ARE GROWING AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN FAITH

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Ruth 1:6-22

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.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Greene & Margie Scribner Greene

SUNG RESPONSE

“Take, O Take Me As I Am”

TAKE O TAKE ME

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, with lyrics 'Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics 'be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.' The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for children's use.

Text: John L. Bell, b.1949
Tune: John L. Bell, b.1949
© 1995, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Used under OneLicense.net #A-718199.

SERMON

“Facing Ourselves: Ruth & Naomi”

Page

HYMN

"I Shall Not Leave from by Your Side"

PROSPECT



I shall not leave from by your side; where you will
 Your peo - ple, I shall call my own: flesh of my
 And when at last you close your eyes, when an - gels
 May God, who binds us heart to heart, a - bide with



live, I shall a - bide. Where you will go, I'll walk with
 flesh, and bone of bone; and to your God I'll sing my
 bid your soul to rise, my heart shall fly to heaven with
 us, and ne - ver part. Though joy or pain may round us



you. Where you will sleep, I'll slum - ber, too.
 praise, the One whose love shall fill our days.
 you, for death can - not such love un - do.
 roll, the love of God shall make us whole.

words by Chris Shelton ©2019 GIA Publications, Inc. Tune harmonized by David N. Johnson. © 1968 Augsburg
 Fortress Publishers. Used under OneLicense #A-718199.

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION

TESTIMONY

Bill Liddicoet

*HYMN 314 (black hymnal)

"Community of Christ"

LEONI

***BENEDICTION**

Sharon Benton

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig

*Offering plates are available near the doors as you leave;
thank you for your gift helping to build justice and compassion.*

There are several other 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.



Cover Image by Rod Long on Unsplash

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

Pastoral staff are available by appointment virtually, or in person with masks. Contact them by email or call the pastoral care line, 360-733-4255.

Sharon **sharon@fccb.net**

Davi: On Sabbatical

You can also 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

Summer Office Hours: M-Th, 10:00 am-4:00 pm

LEAD PASTOR: Sharon Benton, she/her

PASTOR: Davi Weasley, they/them

SABBATICAL PASTOR: L Page, she/they

CHURCH SCHOOL COORDINATOR:

Josh Marchand, they/them

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Lucy Bledig, she/her

ORGANIST: Judy Widrig, she/her

ACCOUNTANT: Marinda Seholm, she/her

OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran, she/her

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE:

Kurt Aagard, he/him

WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR:

Georgia Drost, she/they

MODERATOR: Mark Schofield

VICE MODERATOR: Scott Ward, he/him

PAST MODERATOR: Beth Tyne

CLERK: Janet Malley

TREASURER: Craig Jennings

HISTORIAN: Stacy Miller

OneLicense #A-718199

CCS #12615

