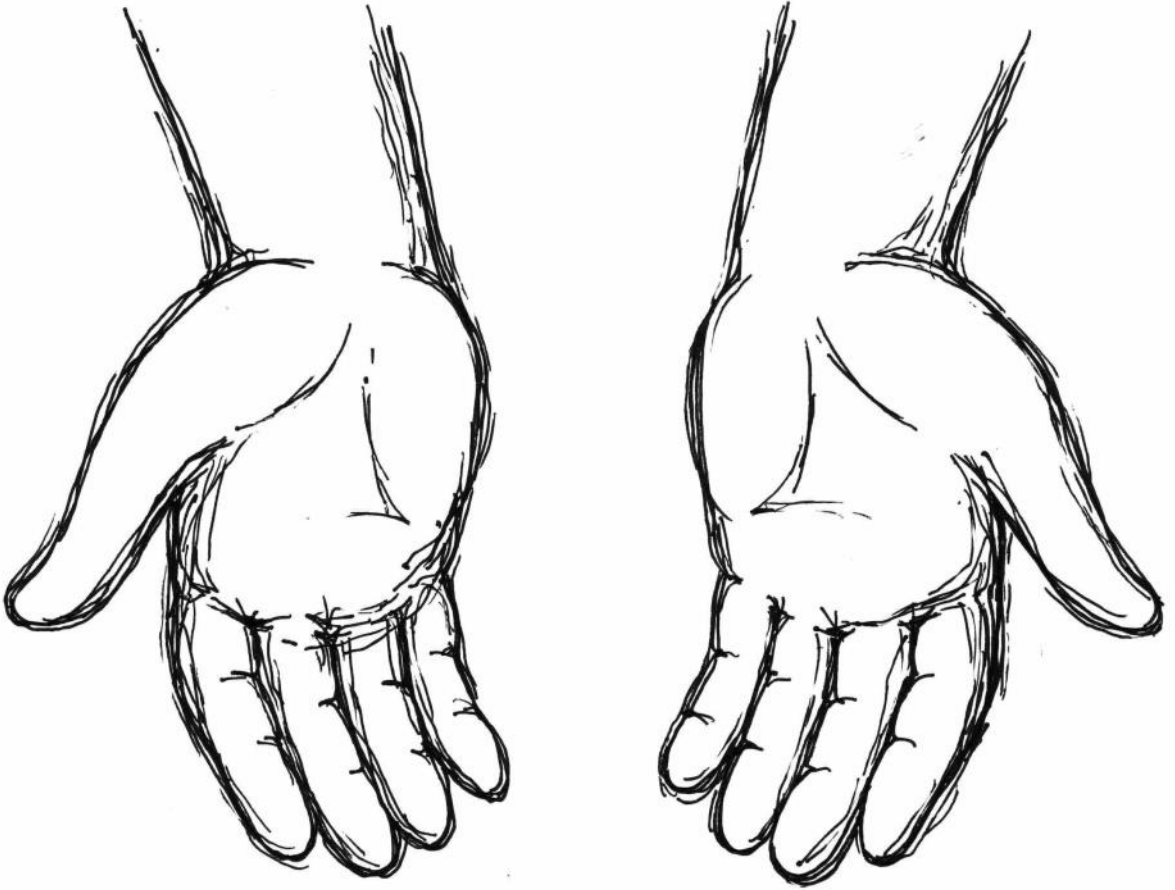


**A Humble Faith:
Anointed
March 17, 2024**



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 17, 2024

10:00 am

The most common form of despair is not being who you are.

~ Søren Kierkegaard

On so many levels, interdependence requires being seen, as much as possible, as your true self.

~ adrienne maree brown

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

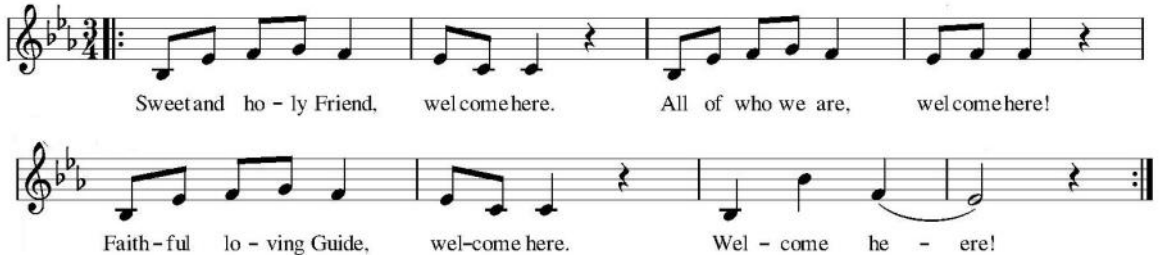
WELCOME

Davi Weasley

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME SONG

“Welcome Here”
by Rachael Weasley



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THE STORY

Sharon Benton

What may need to be “anointed” (or shown extravagant love and compassion) in your life?

Are there parts of you that need to be lifted up and seen by the world?

Perhaps draw it in the open hands on the bulletin cover.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Amelia Bacon

*Children may go with Josh to church school in the social hall
or remain in the sanctuary as they choose.*

*Rise in body or spirit

WE ARE A NURTURING BELOVED COMMUNITY.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liz Hjelmseth

One Voice: Divine Love, we open fully to you—
not to publicly chastise ourselves,
but so we may be honest and humble in community:

All Voices: **Sometimes we judge, Holy One. We judge what others give and
how they receive. We judge how much someone is worth and
how they show that. We fear judgment on our own gifts and behaviors,
and so we hide what is within us, even if it is exactly what the world
needs. Forgive us, Divine Love, for the unjust judgments we hold
about ourselves and one another. Amen.**

SUNG PRAYER

"Lay Me Low"

Lay me low, where your love can find me. Lay me

low, where your love can hold me. Lay me

low, where your love can bless me. Lay me

low, Love, lay me low. Lay me

Text: Shaker traditional
Music: Daniel E. Schwandt

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SUNG PRAYER

“With Sighs Too Deep for Words”
by Anne Krentz Organ. Used with permission.

Leader:



This is the sound of our Prayers And the Spirit in - ter - cedes for us

All:



with sighs, with sighs too deep for words. With sighs, with sighs too deep for words.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Davi Weasley

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

Mark 14:1-9
Common English Bible

Liz Hjelmseth

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Liz Hjelmseth

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

“A Humble Faith: Anointed”

Sharon Benton

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Shalom”
by Dan Forrest

One Accord

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

COVENANT WITH NEW MEMBERS

Connie Buckley, Frenchie Hollander, Geoff Klise, Kate Klise,
Renea Molyneaux, Jennifer Nelson, & Kelcie Sheriff

New Member Covenant

We promise to worship God, preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, celebrate the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, and encourage the realization of God's will in the lives of people from birth to death, individually and collectively, as seen in the life, teaching, death and living presence of Jesus Christ. In keeping with Christ's teaching, we are “Welcoming all, Growing in Faith, Living God's Love, Justice, Compassion ...”

Congregational Covenant

We, the members of First Congregational Church of Bellingham, United Church of Christ, warmly welcome you: not to a congregation of the sinless, but to a living community of faith that seeks to find new ways of being in relationship with God and enacting God's intention for the wholeness of humankind. We give thanks for your life stories, your faith journeys, your diversity of gifts. We pray that God will help us provide a nurturing environment for you and enable us to take time for one another as we establish a shared faith and common history.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

Sharon Benton

You may make an offering either in the plates at the door 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.



MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

“Keep Your Lamps”
arr. by Jay Althouse

One Accord

*HYMN

“A Prophet Woman Broke a Jar”
see opposite page

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

*BENEDICTION

Davi Weasley

POSTLUDE & SHARING

Judy Widrig

After the postlude we encourage you share with someone your response to today's question:

What's one way you love God with your heart? your soul? your mind? your strength?

Perhaps draw it in the open hands on the bulletin cover.

201 A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar



1 A proph-et-wom-an broke a jar, by Love's di-vine ap-
 2 A faith-ful wom-an left a tomb by Love's di-vine com-
 3 Though wom-an-wis-dom, wom-an-truth, for cen-tu-ries were
 4 The Spir-it knows; the Spir-it calls, by Love's di-vine or-



point-ing. With rare per-fume she filled the room, pre-
 mis-sion. She saw; she heard; she preached the Word, a-
 hid-den, un-sung, un-writ-ten, and un-heard, de-
 dain-ing, the friends we need, to serve and lead, their



sid-ing and a-noint-ing. A proph-et-wom-an broke a jar,
 ris-ing from sub-mis-sion. A faith-ful wom-an left a tomb,
 rid-ed and for-bid-den, the Spir-it's breath, the Spir-it's fire,
 powers and gifts un-chain-ing. The Spir-it knows; the Spir-it calls,



the sneers of scorn de-fy-ing. With rare per-fume she
 with res-ur-rec-tion gos-pel. She saw; she heard; she
 on free and slave de-scend-ing, can tum-ble our di-
 from wom-en, men, and chil-dren, the friends we need, to



filled the room, pre-par-ing Christ for dy-ing.
 preached the Word, a-pos-tle to a-pos-tles.
 vid-ing walls, our shame and sad-ness mend-ing.
 serve and lead. Re-joice, and make them wel-come!

This text seeks to reverse the neglected witness of biblical women by celebrating the woman who washed Jesus' feet (unnamed in Matthew 26:6-13/Mark 14:3-9/Luke 7:36-50; Mary of Bethany in John 12:1-8) and Mary Magdalene (John 20:1-18; Matthew 28:1-10/Mark 16:1-7/Luke 24:10).

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.

Contact them by email or
call the pastoral care line,
360-733-4255.

Sharon **sharon@fccb.net**

Davi: **davi@fccb.net**

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

Office Hours: 10:00 am-4:30 pm

LEAD PASTOR: Sharon Benton, she/her

PASTOR: Davi Weasley, they/them

CHURCH SCHOOL COORDINATOR:

Josh Marchand, they/them

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Lucy Bledig, she/her

ORGANIST: Judy Widrig, she/her

OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran, she/her

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE:

Kurt Aagard, he/him

BOOKKEEPER: Eric Bowen, he/him

WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR:

Georgia Drost, she/they

MODERATOR: Scott Ward, he/him

PAST MODERATOR: Mark Schofield

CLERK: Janet Malley, she/her

TREASURER: Craig Jennings

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