

Becoming Church: Braving Community

April 14, 2024



first congregational
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
timeless worship + modern faith

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

April 14, 2024

10:00 am

"Progressive social movements do not simply produce statistics and narratives of oppression; rather, the best ones do what great poetry always does: transport is to another place, compel us to re-live horrors and, more importantly, enable us to imagine a new society."

~ Robin D. G. Kelley

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

WELCOME

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 or in the Narthex.

Their movements back and forth are a joy for us.

RINGING THE BELL

**Rise in body or spirit*

WELCOME SONG

"Be Not Afraid"

Lucy Bledig

Find a rhythm with an egg shaker!

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, with a dashed circle around the final note of the phrase 'al-le - lu - ia!' in both staves. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Text: Taizé Community
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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THE STORY

Davi Weasley

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.*



1. Here in this place, new light is stream-ing, now is the
 2. We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the
 3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will
 4. Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin - ing, not in some



1. dark - ness, van - ished a - way, See, in this space, our
 2. old who yearn for your face, We have been sung through-
 3. take the bread of new birth, Here you shall call your
 4. heav - en, light years a - way, but here in this place, the



1. fears and our dream-ings, brought here to you in the light of this
 2. out all of his - t'ry, called to be light to the whole hu - man
 3. sons and your daugh-ters, call us a - new to be salt for the
 4. new light is shin - ing, now is the Kin - dom now is the



1. day. Gath-er us in the lost and for - sa - ken, Gath-er us
 2. race. Gath-er us in the rich and the haugh-ty, Gath-er us
 3. earth. Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, Give us to
 4. day. Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, Gath-er us



1. in the blind and the lame; Call to us now, and we shall a -
 2. in the proud and the strong; Give us a heart so meek and so
 3. eat the bread that is you; Nour-ish us well, and teach us to
 4. in and make us your own; Gath-er us in all peo - ples to -



1. wa - ken, we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 2. low - ly, give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
 3. fash - ion, lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 4. geth - er, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Stacy Malone Miller

One Voice: When community troubles us,

All Voices: God, give us courage and curiosity.

One Voice: When community wounds us,

All Voices: God, give us strength for healing and truth-telling.

One Voice: When community challenges us,

All Voices: God, give us imagination and grace.

One Voice: When community sets us free,

All Voices: God, give us gratitude and the inspiration to keep growing community.

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

Sharon Benton

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

Acts 4, selected verses
New Revised Standard Version

Stacy Malone Miller

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Stacy Malone Miller

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

“Becoming Church: Braving Community”

Davi Weasley

MUSICAL MEDITATION

“Woyaya”
by Osibisa

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

TESTIMONY

Margie Scribner-Greene

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 on the back cover of the bulletin.

***HYMN 393** (black hymnal) “Blessed Be the Tie That Binds”

DENNIS

***BENEDICTION**

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

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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