Sacred Earth Sunday April 21, 2024





timeless worship + modern faith

SACRED EARTH SUNDAY

April 21, 2024

10:00 am

"Hope starts with honesty." -Greta Thunberg

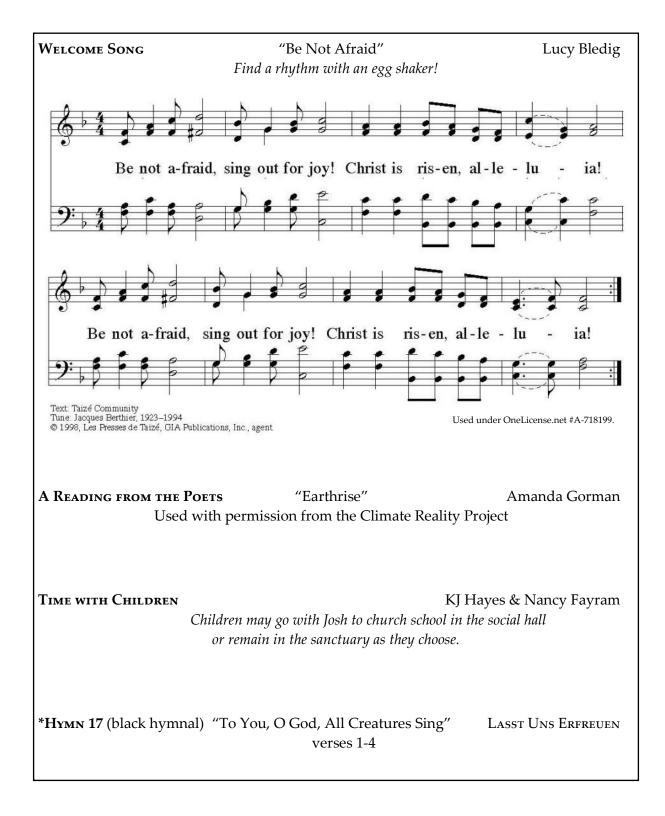
Prelude

Judy Widrig

WELCOME Davi Weasley 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



WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

A Reading from the Poets

"We Are a Part"

Ted Huffman

"We are a part of the earth and it is a part of us." Si'ahl (1780-1866) also called Seattle

Born under the tick, tick, tock Of the doomsday clock Hands climbing the stalk Two minutes to gawk

Hydrogen bombs tested Nuclear Armageddon forecasted Sirens blasted Children's desk dives mastered

Every place unsafe From fallout's chafe Food stocks for the waifs Will powdered milk be safe?

Seven decades later The danger yet greater The dictator debater Does not fear the Creator

Planet's temperature ignoring Flood waters pouring Wildfires roaring Crisis underscoring

No change in the law Bourgeois soaking in spas In place of the awe We hear blabla bla

Too late to recover Our mother they shove her Think they are above her More greed to discover

The money for one percent Content with their descent Ignoring the extent Injustice they could prevent Our sons and our daughters Slide under the waters At the hands of marauders Blind to their slaughters

90 seconds remain To cry again and again Campaign to obtain Justice's domain

For tomorrow's position Accept this commission And learn to listen To voices of tradition's vision

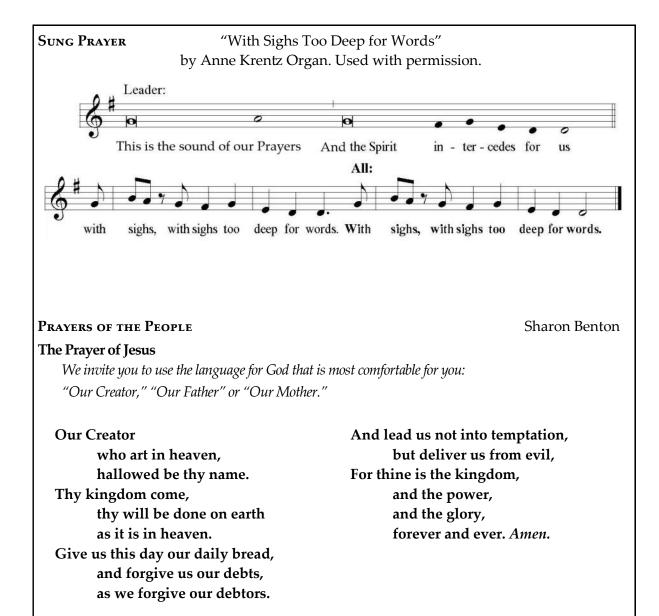
For hundreds of years Our indigenous peers Taught pioneers on frontiers To live in new spheres

Si'ahl, Si'ahl, Si'ahl Reminded us all To hear earth's call Tragedy to forestall

We are part of it all What the earth will befall Casts a pall on y'all Si'ahl, Si'ahl, Si'ahl

With eyes wide open With words unspoken See all that is broken Our actions our token

Planet's drive to survive Contrives to jive this nosedive My hive of pollinators thrive And keep hope alive



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 Readin	NG FROM SCRIPTURE from the N	Joshua 3:12-17 IRSVUE & The Inclusive Bible	Janet Ott
SCRIPTURE RESPONSE Janet Ott 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		"Dry Ground" UCC Minister	The Rev. Brooks Berndt for Environmental Justice
Anthem		"This We Know" by Ron Jeffers	Chancel Choir
We Are Living Christ-Inspired Action.			
A Readin	ng from the Poets	"Audacity"	Amelia Bacon
God flicked the rock into space.		God gently caressed the new stone,	
It was all that remained of the once lovely, lush little ball of energy and life, created so, so long ago.a promising find amidst a myriad of stars.a promising find amidst a myriad of stars. God whispered prayers of audacity, for hope gone wild, visions of new beginning.		prayers of audacity, visions of new beginnings,	

Testimony

Creation Care Prayer

Miles Burkhart Schofield & Renne Archer

CREATOR GOD,

who multiplies blessings, bless these symbols and the actions they represent as we join with you to heal and protect our planet from pollution and destruction.

HELP US

to set aside the desire for material riches, opening our hearts to the myriad life forms around us and the rich beauty of this planet that we hold dear.

GUIDE US

as we learn to make sustainable changes in our everyday lives.

AND BLESS

the scientists, researchers, activists, and advocates for climate justice as they multiply the blessings we offer.

WE PRAY

in awe of the life and the beauty on this planet that we call home.

AMEN

Announcements & Offering

Davi Weasley

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

Judy Widrig

*Нумл 556 (black hymnal)"God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens" Holy Manna

Postlude

Judy Widrig



Bridge Conversations

Each **Wednesday** at **9:00 am** (Greene's Corner) and **7:00 pm** (Rm. 32 at church and on Zoom). Bridge 141 is the group holding space for our congregation to look to our past and future as a faith community, but it's the whole congregation—YOU!—who will listen to the Spirit and lead us in our restructuring endeavor. That means we need your perspectives, your experiences, and your prayers in order to make this truly congregation-led. Please join us as often as possible on Wednesday mornings or evenings.

For Wednesday we have two brief articles to read:

<u>"No Longer Living in Christendom"</u> and <u>"(How) Can We Attract Younger Adults and Families?"</u>

Future all church read articles/podcasts for Bridge Conversations will be found in the Friday Announcements emails and the Full Circle blog. If you'd like to be on a specific email list to receive links, please email office@fccb.net and let Cydne know.

Cover image by Elena Mozhvilo on Unsplash

ROOM FOR YOUR REFLECTIONS

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Do you receive our Friday Announcements email? Contact office@fccb.net to sign up! For more information, see our Connection Calendar in the Friday email or contact office@fccb.net.

Sunday

Hybrid worship in person, and on Facebook or on Zoom, our #BiggerBalcony, **10:00 am** Spirit "Exploring Prayer" Group, **April 28, after worship**, Fireplace Room

Monday

Walking Group: weekly, 10:00 am, Barkley Pond

Church Council: 4th Mondays, 7:00 pm, Zoom

Poetry Group: 1st & 3rd Mondays 7:00 pm, Zoom

Tuesday

Book Club: 1stTuesdays, 9:30 am, Fireplace Room

Pilgrim Circle: 2nd Tuesdays, 12:00 noon, Narthex

Green Team: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7:00 pm, Mt. Baker Room

Wednesday

Bridge 141 Conversation, 9:00 am, Greene's Corner

Glee Club: weekly, 5:00 pm, Narthex

Bridge 141 Conversation, 7:00 pm, Room 32 and Zoom

Thursday

Men's Breakfast Group, **1st Thursday, 9:00 am**, Country Club Grandparent Group: **2nd Thursdays, 10:30 am**, Fireplace Room Thursday Book Group: **2nd & 4th Thursdays, 5:00 pm**, Zoom 20s/30s/40s/ Group, **5:30 pm, last Thursday** of the month, various locations 20-Somethings Peer Philosophy Group: weekly, **7:00 pm**, Fireplace Room

Friday

Game Night: 3rd Fridays, 6:00-9:00 pm, Room 32

Saturday

Centering Prayer Group: Saturdays, 11:00 am, Chapel

Sunday

Chancel Choir: weekly, 8:30 am, Sanctuary

Children's Church School: weekly, during worship, Social Hall

Handbells: weekly, 11:15 am, Room 16

To stay up to date, follow us on social media, subscribe to our Friday Email, or check in with our Full Circle Blog, https://www.fccb.net/blog/. **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 OneLicense #A-718199 CCS #12615

