

# Becoming Church: Your Gifts Matter

## April 28, 2024



**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER**

April 28, 2024

10:00 am

*Each of us has a unique part to play in the healing of the world.  
~ Marianne Williamson*

**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"

*Find a rhythm with an egg shaker!*

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass, in 4/4 time. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The melody is simple and repetitive, using eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are: "Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!". The score is repeated twice. In the first system, the Treble staff has a dashed circle around the final chord (F major) and the Bass staff has a dashed circle around the final chord (Bb major). In the second system, the Treble staff has a dashed circle around the final chord (F major) and the Bass staff has a dashed circle around the final chord (Bb major).

Text: Taizé Community  
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994  
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## THE STORY

Rev. Kelsey Beebe

*Have you ever felt as if your gifts were less important than someone else's?  
Where do we create hierarchies that God never intended?*

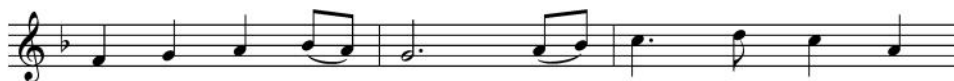
## TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Kelsey Beebe

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



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell And  
 2. Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, And  
 4. Let us build a house where hands will reach Be -  
 5. Let us build a house where all are named, Their



all can safe - ly live, A place where saints and  
 words are strong and true, Where all God's chil - dren  
 yond the wood and stone To heal and strength - en,  
 songs and vi - sions heard And loved and treas - ured,



chil - dren tell How hearts learn to for -  
 dare to seek To dream God's reign a -  
 serve and teach, And live the Word they've  
 taught and claimed As words with - in the



give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions,  
 new. Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness  
 known. Here the out - cast and the stran - ger  
 Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter,



Rock of faith and vault of grace; Here the  
 And as sym - bol of God's grace; Here as  
 Bear the im - age of God's face; Let us  
 Prayers of faith and songs of grace, Let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:  
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger: All are wel-come,  
 house pro-claim from floor to raft - er:



all are wel-come, all are wel-come in this place.

## WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

### COMMUNITY PRAYER

Joy Brown

One Voice: God of love, welcome us here to this place.

**All Voices: Open our hearts to feel your presence.**

One Voice: God of mercy, hope, and challenge,

**All Voices: Open our minds to be transformed by your Word.**

One Voice: God of every gift, creation, and blessing,

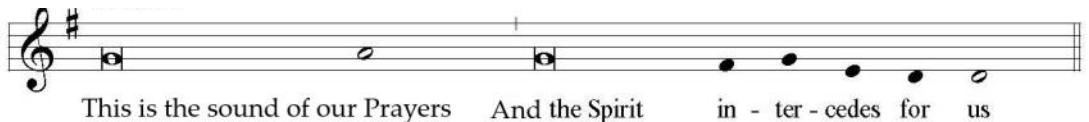
**All Voices: Open our hands so that we can worship you here then go and serve your world. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### SUNG PRAYER

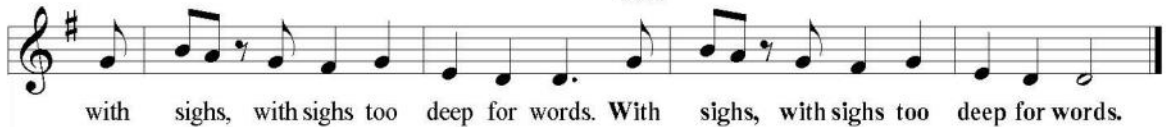
"With Sighs Too Deep for Words"

Sharon Benton

by Anne Krentz Organ. Used with permission.



**All:**



### 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/](http://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 6:1-7  
*Common English Bible*

Joy Brown

**SCRIPTURE RESPONSE**

Joy Brown

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: Your Gifts Matter”

Rev. Kelsey Beebe

**MUSICAL MEDITATION** “How Great Thou Art/How Can I Keep From Singing” One Accord  
arr. by Scott Ward

**WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.**

**TESTIMONY**

Joy Brown

**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.*

**MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION**

Judy Widrig

**\*HYMN 562** (black hymnal)

“Take My Gifts”

TALAVERA TERRACE

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Kelsey Beebe

**POSTLUDE**

Judy Widrig

*After the postlude we encourage you to share with someone your response to today's question:  
Have you ever felt as if your gifts were less important than someone else's?  
Where do we create hierarchies that God never intended?*



**About our preacher this morning:** Rev. Kelsey Peterson Beebe (she/her) is an ordained UCC minister, yoga practitioner, trained dancer, and mama. She is the Executive Minister of Faith in Motion: an embodied ministry and host of the *Lady Preacher* Podcast. You can learn more about her ministry at [www.DancingPastor.org](http://www.DancingPastor.org)

**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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