

Courage, Compassion, Connection

June 2, 2024

What's Going
On?

I have so
much grief.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 2, 2024

10:00 am

Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.

~ Romans 12:15

When we practice generating compassion, we can expect to experience the fear of our pain.

*Compassion practice is daring. It involves learning to relax and allow ourselves to
move gently toward what scares us.*

~ Pema Chödrön

*I define connection as the energy that exists between people
when they feel seen, heard, and valued; when they can give and receive without judgment;
and when they derive sustenance and strength from the relationship.*

~ Brené Brown

PRELUDE

"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

String Trio

by Doris Akers

Darlene Mathias, cello; Scott Wylie, violin; Alia Kerr, viola

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

"Windy God" by Rachael Weasley

Windy God, take the fi-re of my tongue and let it sing for you! Windy

God, take the fi-re of my tongue and let it sing for you! Win-dy

God, take the fi-re of my tongue, Windy God, take the fi-re of my tongue and Windy

God, take the fi-re of my tongue and let it sing for you!

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THE STORY

Riley Archer-Balzer, Eliza Davenport, & others

*Is there a grief lingering in your life that Jesus may weep alongside you?
What support helped you through your times of grief?*

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Kj Hayes

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

WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY PRAYER *from Psalm 25 by Nan Merrill*

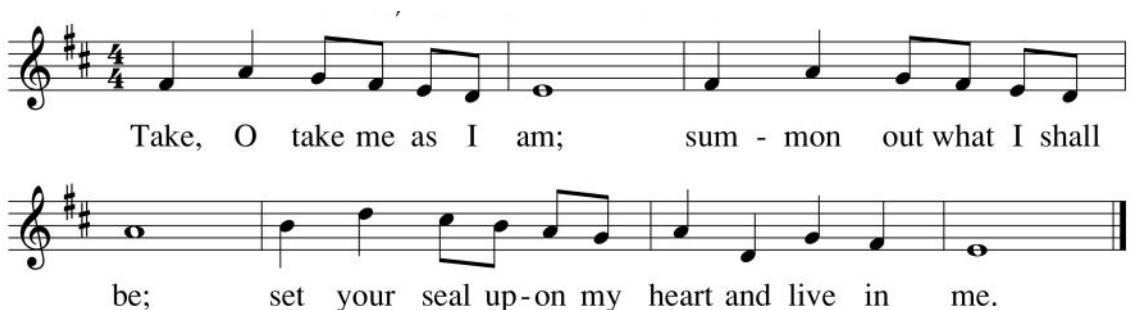
One Voice: To You, O Love, I lift up my soul!

**All Voices: O Heart within my heart,
in You I place my trust.**

One Voice: Let me not feel unworthy;
let not fear rule over me.

**All Voices: Yes! May all who open their hearts
savor You and bless the earth!
Amen.**

SUNG PRAYER "Take, O Take Me As I Am"



Text: John L. Bell, b.1949
Tune: John L. Bell, b.1949

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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

John 11:32-35

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.

SERMON

*“I’ve Have So Much Grief”
or, “Courage, Connection, Compassion”*

Pastor Sharon and
Rev. Cheryl Smith

MUSICAL REFLECTION

"Lift Thine Eyes"

by Felix Mendelssohn

Cherie Little, Leslee Probasco, Lucy Bledig

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Sung Invitation

Come, Let Us Bring

By Billema Kwillia & Marty Haugen

*Come let us bring our gifts to God in praise,
So that we might minister in countless ways.
Come, let us bring the warm and fragrant bread,
Broken here so all God's people might be fed.
Come, let us bring the sweet, abundant wine.
In this cup, we taste the joy of grace divine.*

Sharing the Elements

You may come forward to receive communion or if you wish to remain seated, someone will come around to you in your seat. Raise a hand or indicate that you would like communion as they come around. If you come forward you will be on the video stream.

*You may either dip your bread in the communal cup
or take a single-serving of juice from the center server.*

*If you're worshipping at home, gather something to eat and drink:
the risen Christ will meet you right where you are.*

Communion Music

Judy Widrig

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.

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Come Unto Me”
by Karen Marroli

Scott Ward & Lucy Bledig

***HYMN 488** (black hymnal)

“Be Still, My Soul”

FINLANDIA

***BENEDICTION**

Sharon Benton

POSTLUDE & SHARING

“Rondeau”

String Trio

by Jean-Joseph Mouret, arr. by Larry Clark

Darlene Mathias, cello; Scott Wylie, violin; Alia Kerr, viola

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

Is there a grief lingering in your life that Jesus may weep alongside you?

What support helped you through your times of grief?

COMMUNION ELEMENT INGREDIENTS:

Communion loaf— whole wheat flour, molasses, yeast, salt. Juice— grape juice, vitamin C.

Gluten free bread—sorghum, tapioca, millet & rice flours; sea salt, honey, canola oil, water, ginger ale, egg.

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: **on parental leave**

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
(on parental leave)

INTERIM PASTOR: Page

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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