

What's Our Calling?

A Dialogue Between Pastors

June 16, 2024

What's Going
On?

I don't know
how to talk
about Israel &
Palestine
right now.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 16, 2024

10:00 am

*Courage is like--it's a habitus, a habit, a virtue: You get it by courageous acts.
It's like you learn to swim by swimming. You learn courage by couraging.
~ Mary Daly*

*When we stop clinging to what we know and what we are, we can go out into the world
without fear, insecurity, resentment, and judgment, as true Children of God.
The image of a playing child helps us see alternatives to our childish attitudes.
~ Fritz Wendt*

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

WELCOME

Page

*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!

The musical score is written on four staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and a 2/2 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff continues the melody and lyrics. The fourth staff concludes the melody and lyrics with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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THE STORY

Sharon Benton

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Sharon Benton

The regular Church School class has concluded for the year. During the summer, the children are welcome to move about, sharing in the activities in the children's corner or moving to the pillows in the front.

WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Stacy Malone Miller

One Voice: We come to you, O God, with tentative minds.

All Voices: There is much we're unsure how to voice.

One Voice: When we speak, divisions seem to spark so quickly.

All Voices: Which sometimes leads to contempt and hatred.

One Voice: But we know that's not how you call us to live.

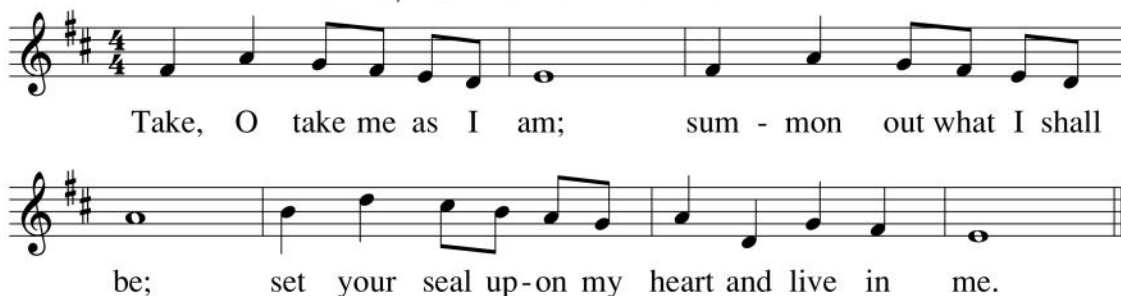
All Voices: It's not what we want, either!

One Voice: Help us to become like children, who know how to live in the moment.

All Voices: Help us to build your kin-dom, which you tell us can be here and now, even as it's still unfolding. 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

Matthew 18:1-5

Stacy Malone Miller

Common English Bible

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

“What’s Our Calling? A Dialogue Between Pastors”

Sharon & Page

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“How Long?”
by Pepper Choplin

One Accord

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

FAREWELL TO LUCY

Sharon Benton

LITANY OF RELEASE

Scott Ward, Moderator

One Voice: Five years ago, this congregation hired Lucy Bledig to serve as our Minister of Music. She has served faithfully and well. Today we wish her well as she ends her time among us. We thank her for the gifts and knowledge has brought to us; and we thank her for helping lead us to this moment of letting go.

Will you, members and friends of First Congregational Church of Bellingham, release Lucy from the duties of Minister of Music?

All Voices: We will, with the help of God.

One Voice: Will you, Lucy, release this local church from turning to you and your leadership?

Lucy: I will, with the help of God.

One Voice: Let’s pray together:

All Voices: Holy One, in our hymns and anthems, with instruments and bodies, we have grown together as people of faith. We thank you for Lucy’s dedication to our congregation and the people within it. We thank you for her musical gifts and how she joyfully shared them with us. We now send her to next things knowing you surround her with love wherever she goes. Amen

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 on the back cover of the bulletin.



MUSICAL OFFERING

“Wanting Memories”
by Ysaye Barnwell

One Accord

***HYMN 579** (black hymnal) “For the Healing of the Nations”
verses 1-3

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

*BENEDICTION

Page

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: **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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