

Everything In Between Nurture & Attend March 16, 2025



Vision Statement:

We Are a Nurturing, Beloved Community.
We Are Growing Authentic Christian Faith.
We Are Living Christ-Inspired Action.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 16, 2025

10:00 am

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

WELCOME

Sharon Benton

We love children in worship—their noises and wiggles are welcome, too. There are pillows and a coloring, book, and play area in the front and in the corner near the windows.

Younger kids may enjoy the Narthex play area. Their movements back and forth are a joy for us as they participate fully.

RINGING THE BELL

WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

WELCOME SONG

“Praise to the God of the In-Between Space”

Praise to the God of the in - be - tween space,
Praise for the peo - ple who wit - ness to more,

teach - ing us all of your lim - it - less grace, and for cre - a - tion that
more than the cer - tain - ties of ei - ther or, liv - ing as signs of a

helps us to grow past all the bi - na - ry bound - ries we know.
wild mys - ter - y: God in one na - ture, and God One in Three.

Text: David Bjorlin. Music: Sally Ann Morris. Text and Music © 2020 GIA Publications, Inc.
Used under OneLicense.net #A-718199

*Rise in body or spirit

TIME WITH CHILDREN

After Time with Children, children may go with Josh to church school in the social hall or remain in the sanctuary as they choose.

*HYMN

"Bless the Arms that Comfort"

CRANHAM



1 Bless the arms that com - fort, strong to shoul-der care,
 2 Bless the ears that lis - ten, shar - ing joys and fears—
 3 Bless the feet that fol - low, like Na - o - mi's Ruth—



gen - tle in their heal - ing, reach - ing through des - pair.
 laugh - ing in our tri - umphs, weep - ing with our tears.
 con - stant friend through sor - row, speak - ing ho - ly truth:



Bless the hands that la - bor Mar - tha's dai - ly deeds;
 Bless the eyes whose wis - dom sees through pride's fa - çade,
 Though our jour - neys lead us far in time and space,



Ma - ry's pre - cious oint - ment, balm for dif - f'rent needs.
 cher - ish - ing our weak - ness with the heart of God.
 God a - noints com - pan - ions, min - i - sters of grace.

CALL TO CONFESSION⁺

Connie Buckley

One Voice: The story of Mary and Martha is often painted as a story where one does right and one does wrong. We know that life is often more complicated than that. We know that faith is embodied through being present and taking action—and everything in between. Knowing this, like Mary and Martha, let us draw near to God. Let us be honest about our lives, our hopes, and our mistakes. For even in our messy middle, God meets us with grace. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION⁺

All Voices: God of Grace,
We long to do the “right” thing.
We long to make the “right” choice.
We long to stand on the “right” side of the dividing line.
In our earnestness, we sometimes miss the sacred right in front of us.
In our earnestness, we sometimes miss opportunities to show love.
Show us how to hold our heart’s desire for perfection loosely.
Show us how to lead with grace and love, over anything else.
For even more than our desire to be right, we desire to be close to you.
Show us the way.
Amen.

KYRIE



Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son. (hum) _____ D.C.

Published by GIA Publications, Inc. © 1991 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, F-71250 Taizé Community
Used under OneLicense #A-718199.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS⁺

Connie Buckley

One Voice: Faithful friends, God knows your heart.
When you mean well and lose your way, God knows.
When you try to do the right thing and miss the point, God knows.
When you long to be close to God and doubt your worth, God knows.
You are seen. You are loved. You are forgiven.
You have been sent to serve.
This is the good news of the gospel!

All Voices: **Nothing can separate you from God's love.**
Thanks be to God! Amen.

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

Luke 10:38-42

Connie Buckley

New Revised Standard Version

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Connie Buckley

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

"Everything In Between Nurture & Attend"

Sharon Benton

GIFT OF MUSIC

"Mary's Heart & Martha's Hands"
by Carlene A. Thissen & Martha Christian

Craig Jennings
Dallas Geil

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

You may make an offering either in the plates 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

"Chanson Triste Op.40 No.2"
by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Darlene Mathias
Judy Widrig



When Je - sus passed near Mar - tha's home she had no
 Her sis - ter Ma - ry took a seat to spend time
 He said, "You are both gifts to me with diff - erent



hes - i - ta - tion "Please treat my house like it's your own,"
 with the tea - cher In - tent - ly listen - ing at his feet,
 ways of be - ing. I won't take that from Ma - ry



she gave the in - vi - ta - tion She wan - ted all the best
 his words drew her in dee - per But Mar - tha took of - fense
 whose place is right here with me. You have no - thing to prove



To serve her hon - ored guest Her check - list grew and grew
 At Ma - ry so con - tent With all there was to do
 So let your heart be moved. Just one thing do I need:



Her time was all con - sumed With min - i - stry a - bound - ing
 She need - ed Ma - ry too And asked for Je - sus' back - ing
 To feel your love in deeds Of min - i - stry and pre - sence."

© Anna Strickland, 2024. Commissioned by A Sanctified Art, LLC.

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

Our pastor is available by appointment virtually or in person. Contact her by email or call the pastoral care line, 360-733-4255.

Sharon **sharon@fccb.net**

You can also email our Office Manager
Cydne at **office@fccb.net**
and she'll pass your message on.

*During Lent, all prayers are by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

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

PASTOR: Sharon Benton, she/her
CHURCH SCHOOL COORDINATOR:

Josh Marchand, they/them

ORGANIST: Judy Widrig, she/her

OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran, she/her

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE:

Kurt Aagard, he/him

BOOKKEEPER: Eric Bowen, he/him

INTERIM MUSIC COORDINATOR:

Dallas Geil, he/him (music@fccb.net)

WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR:

Georgia Drost, she/they

WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR

TRAINEE:

Moxxy Rogers

MODERATOR: Diane Cooper-Schick, she/her

VICE MODERATOR: Jordan Sandoval

PAST MODERATOR: Scott Ward, he/him

CLERK: Janet Malley, she/her

TREASURER: Craig Jennings

OneLicense #A-718199

CCS #12615

