

# Everything In Between Rest & Trust March 23, 2025



## **Vision Statement:**

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

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**  
March 23, 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”

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains the first line of the song, the second staff contains the second line, and the third staff contains the third line. The lyrics are written below the notes. The music features several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a bracket) and a change in time signature from 4/4 to 6/4 in the third staff. The lyrics are: 'Praise to the God of the in-between space, Praise for the people who witness 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.'

Praise to the God of the in-between space,  
Praise for the people who witness 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.  
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*\*Rise in body or spirit*

## TIME WITH CHILDREN

Sharon Benton

*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

## "Beneath the Soil"

WINCHESTER



Be - neath the so - il in the dark there's  
Re - mem - ber when the world de - mands more  
The rest and nur - ture we re - ceive will  
In ev - ery sea - son of our lives the



growth too slow to see A trans - for - ma - tion  
than you can pro - duce We each grow at a  
turn to fruit in time For God made us to  
Spi - rit is at work To nur - ture us to



not dis - played in bran - ches, fruit, and leaves  
diff - erent pace and growth starts at the roots  
grow and change as toward the sky we climb  
bear good fruit while root - ed in the earth

## CALL TO CONFESSION<sup>+</sup>

Janet Ott

One Voice: Friends, we carve out time for confession in worship because it is not enough to hear about God's grace once. We need that reminder again, and again, and again. So join me in speaking the truth of our lives, and join me in receiving God's grace again.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>+</sup>

One Voice: Holy God, there are days when we fail to rest.

All Voices: **We stretch ourselves too thin. We say "yes" to every invitation. We run a million miles a minute. We ignore your command to rest.**

One Voice: There are also days when we fail to act.

All Voices: **We wait for someone else. We take the easy road. We find excuses and justify our inaction.**

One Voice: God, forgive our imbalance.

All Voices: **Remind us that birds rest, and they also fly. Show us how to do the same. Amen.**

## KYRIE



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## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS<sup>+</sup>

Janet Ott

One Voice: Family of faith, I have good news! Our God does not keep score. Our God does not hold grudges. Our God does not assume the worst about us. No, our God offers grace, and endless second chances, and boundless love. So join me in proclaiming the good news of the gospel:

All Voices: **God's grace is deeper than the ocean. God's love is wider than the sky. We are seen. We are claimed. We are forgiven. May this realization change and inspire us. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**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**

Luke 13:6-9

Janet Ott

*New Revised Standard Version*

**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.**

<b>GIFT OF MUSIC</b>	<p>“Stay With Us” by Jon Hermanson. Edited by Dan Forrest</p>	
<p><b>WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.</b></p>		
<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS &amp; OFFERING</b>		
<p><i>You may make an offering either in the plates or online.</i> <i>Your generosity allows the work of this place nurture beloved community,</i> <i>grow authentic Christian faith, and live Christ-inspired action. Thank you!</i> <i>There are several ways to give: 1) Give at our website, <a href="https://fccb.net/giving/">https://fccb.net/giving/</a>.</i> <i>2) Mail checks to First Congregational Church, 2401 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225.</i> <i>3) Use the Breeze app. Download from your app store, set up an account, and give!</i> <i>4) Give by text. Text a dollar amount to (360) 205-1297, and set up your account.</i> <i>5) Scan the QR code on the back cover of the bulletin.</i></p>		
<b>MUSICAL OFFERING</b>	<p>“How Can I Keep from Singing?” by Rev. Robert Lowry, arr. by Russell Robinson.</p>	<p>One Accord</p>
<b>*HYMN 586</b> (black hymnal)	<p>“Come to Tend God's Garden”</p>	<p>KING’S WESTON</p>
<b>*BENEDICTION &amp; PASSING THE PEACE</b>	<p>Page</p>	
<b>POSTLUDE</b>	<p>Judy Widrig</p>	

## **Lent & Easter at First Congregational Church**

*Often it seems like we're in the midst of extremes,  
but there is so much in between where God meets us.  
Come together this Lent to meet God and each other in between.*

Worship with us **every Sunday at 10:00 am**

Special Services ...

**Tuesday** Taize services, **5:30-6:15 pm** in the chapel

Good Friday, **April 18, 7:00 pm**

Palm Sunday, **April 13, 10:00 am**

Easter Sunrise, **April 20, 6:30 am** at Bloedel Donovan Park

Easter Sunday, **April 20, 10:00 am**



\*All prayers are by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).

ARTIST'S STATEMENT: *Fig Leafing* by Hannah Garrity. Inspired by Luke 13:6-9. Paper lace and watercolor. In this paper lace piece, the fig tree is full of life, representing its potential when given the time and space to grow. As I wonder about God's presence here in the parable, I see that the God figure could be the fig tree... Or perhaps the God figure here is in the space between them all, between the three. The fig tree, this one, begins its leafing in the in-between.

**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**

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