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.

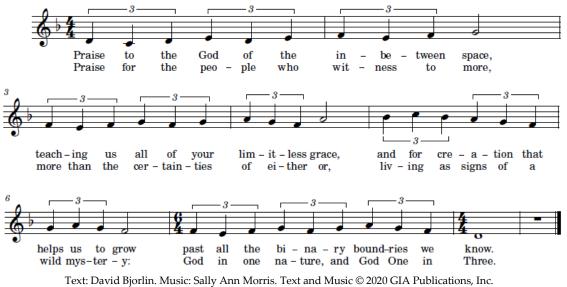
Younger kids may enjoy the Narthex play area. Their movements back and forth are a joy for us as they participate fully.

RINGING THE BELL

WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

Welcome Song

"Praise to the God of the In-Between Space"

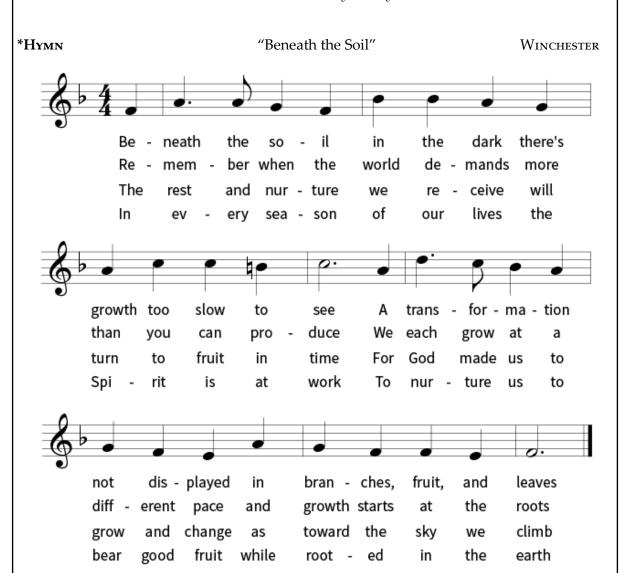


ext: David Bjorlin. Music: Sally Ann Morris. Text and Music © 2020 GIA Publications, Inc Used under OneLicense.net #A-718199 The Story Page

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.



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Call to Confession⁺ 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+

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+

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.

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 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.

SERMON

"Everything In Between Rest & Trust"

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"Stay With Us"

by Jon Hermanson. Edited by Dan Forrest

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 "How Can I Keep from Singing?" One Accord by Rev. Robert Lowry, arr. by Russell Robinson.

*Нуми 586 (black hymnal) "Come to Tend God's Garden" King's Weston

*Benediction & Passing the Peace

Page

Postlude Judy Widrig

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.

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

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24/7 Emergency Pastoral Care: 360-733-4255office@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 Aggard, he/him

Kurt Aagard, he/him
BOOKKEEPER: Eric Bowen, he/him
INTERIM MUSIC COORDINATOR:
Dallas Geil, he/him (music@fccb.net)
WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR:
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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

