

Manna in the In-Between

World Communion Sunday

October 5, 2025



Vision Statement:

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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 5, 2025

10:00 am

Some indigenous churches have begun to use elements more traditional to their culture such as tortillas for the bread and atole or pozol (a corn drink) or coffee for the wine. In the Nahuatl culture it is important to look each other in the eyes when sharing the elements because they reflect one's inner song... ~ Olivia Juarez and Sara Larson Wiegner, Mexico (from Gifts of Many Cultures)

Lime juice and cassava — these ingredients from our lives and lands are Eucharist. In them we can give thanks to God for God's gift — that is the breaking down of all social, economic, and political barriers. ~Indonesia Mexico (from Gifts of Many Cultures)

PRELUDE

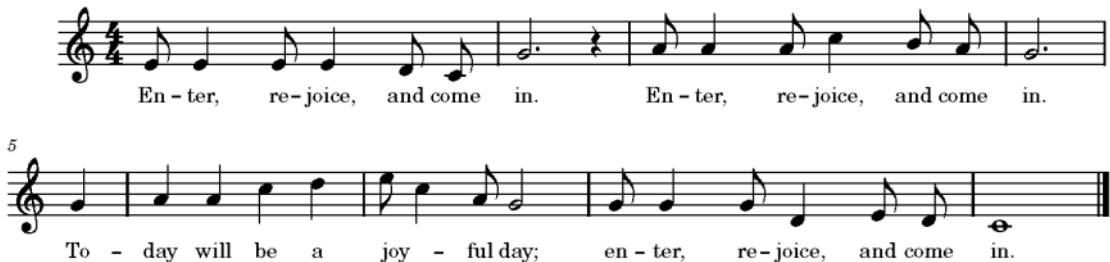
Judy Widrig

RINGING THE BELL

WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

WELCOME SONG #73 (black hymnal) "Enter, Rejoice, Come In"
sing twice

ENTER, REJOICE



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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.

THE STORY

Sharon Benton

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Sharon Benton

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

**Rise in body or spirit*



1 Breth-ren, we have met to wor-ship; sis-ters, let us
 2 Kin-dred, will you come and help us? Mo-ses' fam-'ly
 3 Is there here a trem-bling jail-er, seek-ing grace and
 4 Let us love our God su-preme-ly, let us love each



praise our God. Will you pray with all your pow-er?
 aid-ed him. Will you help the trem-bling mourn-ers
 filled with fears? Is there here a weep-ing Mar-v.
 oth-er, too. Let us love and pray for-ev-er



Will you hear and preach the word? All is vain un-
 who are strug-gling hard with-in? Tell them all a-
 pour-ing forth a flood of tears? Breth-ren, join your
 till our God makes all things new. Christ will call us



less the Spir-it of the ho-ly One comes down. Chris-tians,
 bout the Sav-ior. Tell them that he will be found. Chris-tians,
 cries to help them; sis-ters, let your prayers a-bound! Pray, oh
 home to heav-en, at his ta-ble we'll sit down. Christ will



pray, and ho-ly man-na will be show-ered all a-round.
 pray, and ho-ly man-na will be show-ered all a-round.
 pray, that ho-ly man-na will be scat-tered all a-round.
 gird him-self and serve us with sweet man-na all a-round.

COMMUNITY PRAYER

by Rev. Teri Peterson

One Voice: God of the miraculous and the mundane,
we praise you for your care —

All Voices: in daily bread and in liberation from all that harms.

One Voice: You are the God who delivers us,

All Voices: You are the God who provides,

One Voice: You are the God who knows us better than we know ourselves.

**All Voices: Turn us toward your presence today,
that we might in turn be fully present to you.**

Amen.

SUNG INVITATION TO PRAYER 283 "Spirit of the Living God"

IVERSON

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me; Spir - it of the

6
liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me_

13
Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

by Danier Iverson © 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music (A Div. of the Sparrow Corp.)
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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharon Benton

Anyone may share a brief joy or concern

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

Exodus 16:1-18

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

“Manna in the In-Between”

John Mark Slagle

*We have several members who've taken a beginning class on preaching
and we're pleased to have them periodically share their reflections with us.*



Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev-er be hun - gry.



Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

WORDS: Robert Batastini (1942-) and the Taizé Community

MUSIC: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

Words and Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (Admin. GIA Publications)

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

The Words of Institution & Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Elements

Those seated at tables, please pass the plate, saying, "the bread of heaven," and please pass the cup, saying, "the cup of blessing." Those in pews, please come to one of the aisle stations, or we will bring communion to you in your seat.

*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

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

Judy Widrig

***HYMN 347** (black hymnal) “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

LINSTEAD

***BENEDICTION & PASSING THE PEACE**

Rev. Teri Peterson

Sharon Benton

One Voice: In God’s kin-dom, there is enough — but it can only be seen when
we turn away from the systems of the-way-it’s-always-been. Having
glimpsed the possibility of God’s abundance today, go to put it into
practice every day.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

All Voices: And also with you.

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

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**

Our Chaplain is also available at
chaplain@fccb.net.

Or you can 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

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24/7 Emergency Pastoral Care: 360-733-4255

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Facebook: facebook.com/fccbucc

Office Hours:

9:30 am-4:30 pm, M-Th. 10:00 am-2:00 pm, F.

PASTOR: Sharon Benton, she/her

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Scott Ward, he/him (scott@fccb.net)

CHAPLAIN: Charlene Epp, she/her

ORGANIST: Judy Widrig, she/her

INTERIM MUSIC COORDINATOR:

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CHURCH SCHOOL/YOUTH COORDINATOR

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WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR

Moxxy Rogers, she/her

OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran, she/her

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE:

Kurt Aagard, he/him

BOOKKEEPER: Eric Bowen, he/him

MODERATOR: Diane Cooper-Schick, she/her

VICE MODERATOR: Jordan Sandoval

CLERK: Leigh Hjelmseth

TREASURER: Craig Jennings

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