

Earth Day Worship The Canopy of Creation April 19, 2026



Image by Emily Wagnitz-Tracy

Vision Statement:

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 19, 2026

10:00 am

PRELUDE

“At Lake Wallenstadt”
by Franz Liszt

Judy Widrig

RINGING THE BELL

WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

WELCOME SONG

“Love & Justice”



Love and jus - tice, peace and pow'r show us how to live each hour, raise us
neigh - bors; tell your friends, here's a place hope nev - er ends. Love and



up and set us free, show us how to live and be... Tell your God is
jus - tice, peace and pow'r! God is with us in this hour! God is



with us in this hour! God is with us in this hour!_____

2008 June Christine Goudey and John Glenn Paton

WELCOME

Gail Warren

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

*Rise in body or spirit

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Laurie Hoyt & Scout Mitchell

All Voices: We are gathered on the traditional homeland of the Central Coast Salish Straights People, including the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Nation.

One Voice: We recognize that the systematic, genocidal campaigns perpetuated by governments, churches, and colonizers led to the forceful removal of Indigenous People from their land across North America.

All Voices: We hold in esteem the strong and resilient sovereign peoples that have survived the dispossession of their homelands.

One Voice: We acknowledge, with humility, that these acts are directly tied to the intergenerational traumas and the health and economic disparities that exist today.

All Voices: We offer our deepest respect and gratitude for our Indigenous neighbors, the Lummi Nation, the Nooksack Nation, and other Central Coast Salish Straights people, for their enduring care and protection of our shared lands, waterways and the Beings that depend on them.

As a Christian community, we are called by God to ally ourselves with tribal nations, to offer educational opportunities, and to support efforts by tribes for repatriation, sovereignty, and stewardship of the land.

THE STORY

Ted Huffman

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Beth Hawthorne

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

*HYMN 4 (black hymnal)

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

HYMN TO JOY

from Creation Justice Ministries

One Voice: Together we pray:

All Voices: Creation calls to us.

One Voice: To open our eyes to the devastation we have and are causing our earthly home. The harm being done to trees, soils, oceans, air, and so much more.

All Voices: Creation reminds us.

One Voice: To recognize our oneness with all beings, human and non-human.

All Voices: Creation calls to us.

One Voice: To value the community of creation above human greed.

All Voices: Creation is waiting for us.

One Voice: To move from doing what is easy to doing what is necessary and right.

All Voices: Creation is waiting for us.

One Voice: To prioritize the needs of community over the convenience of self, for loving each other is a seed of hope.

All Voices: Creation hurts and aches, and is lashing out!

One Voice: It asks that we stop polluting, and remove the pollution from our seas, land, air, bodies and hearts.

All Voices: Creation longs for us.

One Voice: To lament over the devastation of war; the lives lost; Earth, the destruction of its land, and the assault on its climate. To be like the mustard tree seed that grows into a glorious tree in which a myriad of creatures, including human beings, find shelter, food, and protection.

All Voices: Creation is waiting for us but will not wait forever.

One Voice: In all these things and more, creation waits for us to remember our connection to it, before technology and self-sufficiency distanced us, before our creaturely instincts became dull behind concrete walls.

All Voices: Oh God we ask for radical courage.

One Voice: To remember that we are creation within creation, for truly nature sustains us. Moreover, nature is God's face too - mottled with chlorophyll, adorned in foliage, dusted with feathers, and dewy in morning light.

All Voices: May we be moved.

One Voice: To assume our roles as creation's servants and protect it.
To know that we are a human and nonhuman family, inhabiting the same home.

All Voices: Amen, Amen.

SUNG PRAYER

"Alleluia"

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. 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.

GIFT OF MUSIC

“This We Know” (Chief Seattle)
Musical setting by Ronald Jeffers

One Accord

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

John 15:1-11

Nancy Fayram

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

“Alleluia”

LASST UNS ERFREUEN



Tune by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1901) Public domain.

TESTIMONY

Jeff Bell

GIFT OF MUSIC

“O Earth, Loving Mother”
Text by Archibald Lampman Adapted by Mark Sirett, Music by Mark Sirett.

One Accord

TESTIMONY

Leslee Probasco & Judy Widrig

HYMN 31 (black hymnal)

“All Things Bright & Beautiful”
verses 1, 3, 4, 5

ROYAL OAK

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INVITATION TO OFFERING

Nancy Fayram

Your generosity allows us to serve God in this place and beyond.

There are several ways to give: 1) Go to: fccb.net/giving. 2) Make a check out to FCCB.

3) Use the Breeze app, if you're connected. 4) Text a dollar amount to (360) 205-1297.

5) Scan the QR code on the back cover of this bulletin.

6) Place cash or check in the offering plate.

Thank you!

MARBLE RITUAL & MUSICAL OFFERING

“Heather”

Judy Widrig

by Claude Debussy

COMMISSIONING

Ted Huffman

Based on the Prologue to the Gospel of John

SONG

“Celebrate Earth Day” (Earth Day is Every Day)

by John Denver

Performed by Jamie Elliot, Lucas Wagner, David Fayram, and Dallas Geil

***BENEDICTION & PASSING THE PEACE**

Rev. Sharon Benton

POSTLUDE

“Forest Murmurs”

Judy Widrig

by Alexander Zemlinsky

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:

M, Th, F 9:00 am-5:00 pm;

T, 2:00-5:00 pm; W 9:00 am-1:00 pm

PASTOR: Sharon Benton, she/her
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY LIFE:
Scott Ward, he/him (scott@fccb.net)
CHAPLAIN: Charlene Epp, she/her
ORGANIST: Judy Widrig, she/her
MUSIC COORDINATOR:

Dallas Geil, he/him (music@fccb.net)
**CHURCH SCHOOL/YOUTH
COORDINATOR:**

Maya McEachern, she/they
WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR:

Moxxy Rogers, she/her
OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran, she/her
CUSTODIAN: Aidan Crane

BOOKKEEPER: Eric Bowen, he/him
MODERATOR: Jordan Sandoval, she/they
VICE MODERATOR: Kate Destler
PAST MODERATOR:

Diane Cooper-Schick, she/her
CLERK: Leigh Hjelmseth
TREASURER: Darlene Mathias

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