

# Great Grace (and Fish)

## April 26, 2026



### Vision Statement:

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

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

April 26, 2026

10:00 am

*We are suspicious of grace. We are afraid of the very lavishness of the gift.*  
~ Madeleine L'Engle

*For grace is given not because we have done good works,  
but in order that we may be able to do them.*  
~Augustine of Hippo

**PRELUDE**

“Peace in the Valley”  
by Thomas A. Dorsey

Unbroken Circle

**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

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

11 with us in this hour! God is with us in this hour! \_\_\_\_\_

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and contains the first line of lyrics. The second staff starts at measure 6 and includes two first endings, marked '1.' and '2.', with corresponding lyrics. The third staff starts at measure 11 and concludes the piece with a double bar line.

2008 June Christine Goudey and John Glenn Paton

\*Rise in body or spirit

**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 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**

Tim Shepherd

*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 23** (black hymnal) “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

IN BABILONE

**COMMUNITY PRAYER**

by Rosemarie Freney Harding

Connie Buckley

One Voice: There is no scarcity. There is no shortage.  
No lack of love, of compassion, of joy in the world.  
There’s enough. There is more than enough.  
Only fear and greed make us think otherwise.  
No one need starve.

**All Voices: There is enough land and enough food.**

One Voice: No one need die of thirst.

**All Voices: There is enough water.**

One Voice: No one need live without mercy.

**All Voices: There is no end to grace.**

One Voice: And we are all instruments of grace.

**All Voices: The more we give it, the more we share it,  
the more we use it, the more God makes.**

One Voice: There is no scarcity of love.

**All Voices: 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

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/](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**

John 21:1-14  
*Common English Bible*

Connie Buckley

**SCRIPTURE RESPONSE**

“Alleluia”

LASST UNS ERFREUEN



Tune by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1901) Public domain.

**SERMON**

“Great Grace (and Fish)”

Sharon Benton

**GIFT OF MUSIC**

“Noisy Waters”

Text by Tim Shepherd. Music by Bill Henkel.  
Inspired by Bill Henkel, Grady Adams, Tim Shepherd

Look up to the hill  
    Feel the strength, see the beauty.  
Raise your eyes higher still,  
    Touch the light of the Mighty.  
Hear the trickle of hope flowing down  
    Through the trees.  
Streams turn to creeks, then to  
    Rivers in the seas.  
Hmm, rolling along.  
Hooo, has its own song.

Mountain holds the tree,  
    Tall tree holds the river.  
Creating a promise,  
    New life to deliver.  
A rest in the shade,  
    And if waters never cease.  
Those streams turn to creeks, then to  
    Rivers in the seas.  
Hmm, rolling along.  
Hooo, has its own song.

Hmm, rolling along.  
Who, will help save this song?  
Who, will help save this song?

**WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.**

**TESTIMONY**

Joyce Parry-Moore

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & INVITATION TO OFFERING**

Scott Ward

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

*There are several ways to give: 1) Go to: [fcb.net/giving](http://fcb.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 below or on the back cover of this bulletin.*

*6) Place cash or check in the offering plate.*

*Thank you!*



**MUSICAL OFFERING**

*“Glory Bound”*  
by Ruth Carmel Moody

Unbroken Circle

**\*HYMN 547** (black hymnal)

*“Amazing Grace”*

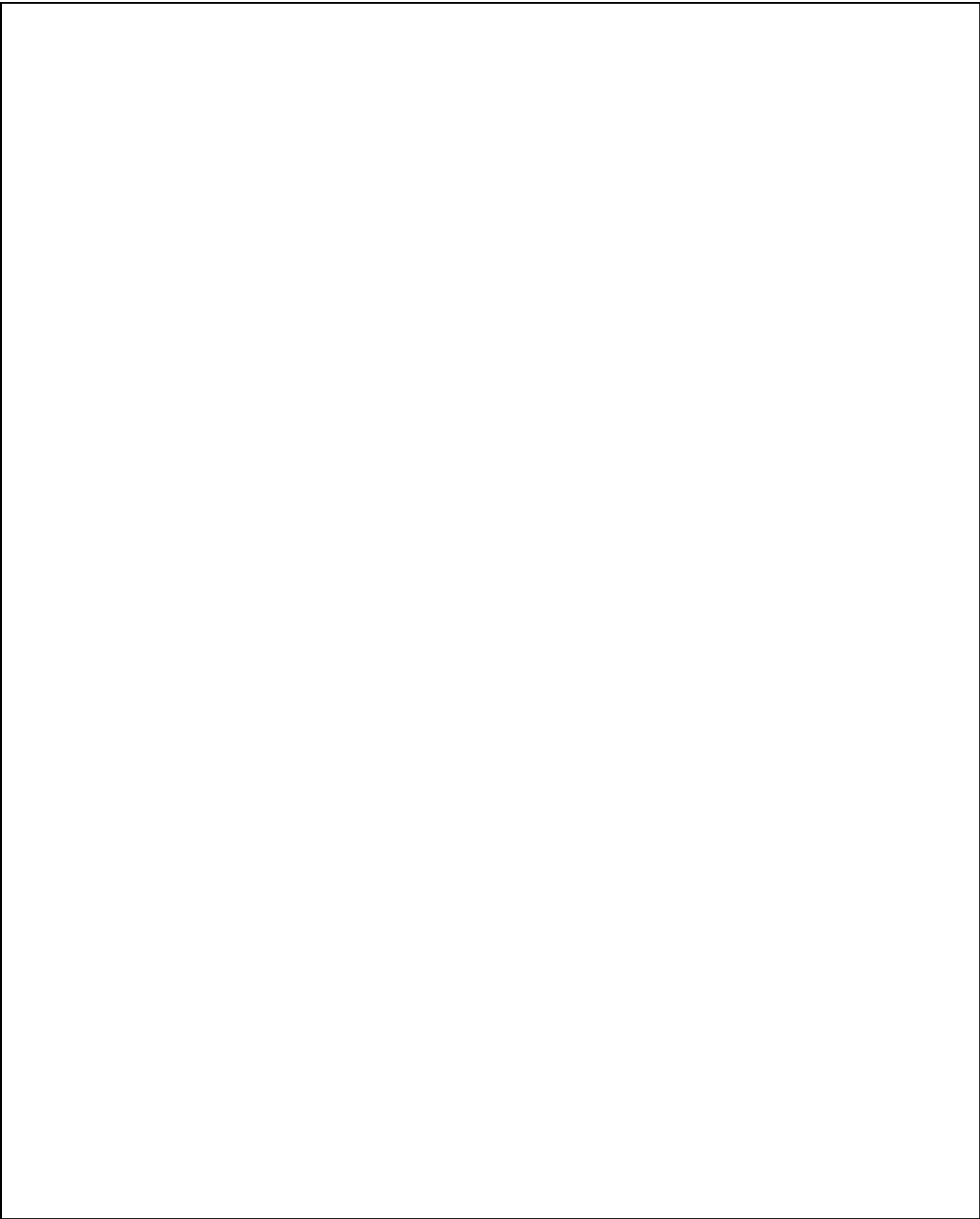
AMAZING GRACE

**\*BENEDICTION & PASSING THE PEACE**

Sharon Benton

**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](mailto:sharon@fccb.net)

Our Chaplain is also available at [chaplain@fccb.net](mailto:chaplain@fccb.net).

Or you can email our Office Manager Cydne at [office@fccb.net](mailto:office@fccb.net) and she'll pass your message on.

### **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**

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Facebook: [facebook.com/fccbucc](https://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](mailto:scott@fccb.net))  
**CHAPLAIN: Charlene Epp, she/her**  
**ORGANIST: Judy Widrig, she/her**  
**MUSIC COORDINATOR:**

**Dallas Geil, he/him** ([music@fccb.net](mailto: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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