

When Life Unravels

August 9, 2026



Vision Statement:

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

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
August 9, 2026 10:00 am

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

RINGING THE BELL

WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY.

WELCOME SONG

"Restless Weaver"

BEACH SPRING

Rest-less Weav - er ev - er spin - ing threadsof jus - tice and sha - lom;
dream-ing pat - terns of cre - a - tion whereall crea - tures find a home;
gathering up life's var - ied fi - bers ev - ery tex - ture, ev - ery hue:
whereEarth'sfrag - ile web is rav - eling, with us weave your world a - new.

The musical score is written on four staves in 3/8 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'Rest-less Weav - er ev - er spin - ing threadsof jus - tice and sha - lom; dream-ing pat - terns of cre - a - tion whereall crea - tures find a home; gathering up life's var - ied fi - bers ev - ery tex - ture, ev - ery hue: whereEarth'sfrag - ile web is rav - eling, with us weave your world a - new.'

Words: O. I. Cricket Harrison, Music: B. F. White. Usued under OneLicense #A-718199.

WELCOME

Scott Ward

*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*

*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

"O God, Why Are You Silent?"

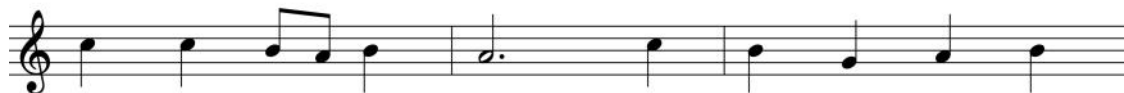
PASSION CHORALE



1. O God, why are you si - lent? I can - not
4. Through end - less nights of weep - ing, Through wea - ry
5. May pain draw forth com - pas - sion, Let wis - dom



hear your voice. The proud and strong and vio - lent All
days of grief, My heart is in your keep - ing, My
rise from loss. O take my heart and fash - ion The



claim you and re - joice. You prom - ised you would
com - fort, my re - lief. Come, share my tears and
im - age of your cross. Then may I know your



hold me With ten - der - ness and care. Draw near, O
sad - ness, Come, suf - fer in my pain; O bring me
heal - ing Through heal - ing that I share, Your grace and



Love, en - fold me, And ease the pain I bear.
home to glad - ness, Re - store my hope a - gain.
love re - veal - ing Your ten - der - ness and care.

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950, © 2003, GIA Publications, Inc.

Tune: PASSION CHORALE, 7 6 7 6 D; Hans Leo Hassler, 1564-1612; harm. by Marty Haugen, b.1950, © 2003, GIA Publications, Inc.

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COMMUNITY PRAYER

by Sarah Are

Scout Mitchell

One Voice: Even when it seems like life is unraveling around us, God is present.
Let's be together in prayer.

All Voices: **Holy God,**
We have been angry because we see suffering and we don't understand.
We have been skeptical because we know heartbreak that doesn't seem fair.
We have withheld love because sacrifice only feels real when it's our own.
Forgive us for forgetting that you created the heavens and the earth.
Forgive us for withholding our pain from you.
Forgive us for thinking that we know everything.
When the world falls apart around us—
When love unravels and life slowly fails—
Draw us in.
Show us grace; for you gave the wind its weight
and you gave our bodies life.
Forgive us for forgetting that. Amen.

SUNG PRAYER

"Spirit of Life"

The musical notation is written on four staves in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and accessible, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of Life, come un - to me. Sing in my heart all the stir - rings of com - pas - sion. Blow in the wind, rise in the sea; move in my hand, giv - ing life the shape of jus - tice. Roots hold me close; wings set me free; Spir - it of Life, come to me, come to me." The notation includes various note values such as quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests.

Spir - it of Life, come un - to me. Sing in my heart all the
stir - rings of com - pas - sion. Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in my hand, giv - ing life the shape of jus - tice. Roots hold me close;
wings set me free; Spir - it of Life, come to me, come to me.

by Carolyn McDade © 1981 Surtsey Publishing, renewed © 1993 Carolyn McDade.
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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Chaplain Charlene Epp

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

Job 2:11-13, 42:7, 8b
Common English Bible

Scout Mitchell

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Scout Mitchell

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.

READERS THEATER

"The Debate"

A screenplay by Rachel Held Evans

Cast of Characters

Beth Tyne: Narrator

Emily Wagnitz-Tracy: Bill

Stacy Malone Miller: Job

Jim Hollander: Father Z

John Mark Slagle: Elli

Liz Hjelmseth: Cafeteria Lady

GIFT OF MUSIC

"Touch the Sky"

by Dylan Thomas, Joel Houston, Michael Guy Chislett

Offered by Lucas Wagner & Jamie Elliott.

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

TESTIMONY

Lisanicole Sarkisian

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

You may make an offering either in the plates or online.

*Your generosity allows us together to 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

"One Thing Remains"

by Brian Johnson, Christa Black Gifford, Jeremy Riddle

Offered by Lucas Wagner & Jamie Elliott.

COMMISSIONING THE SERVICE LEARNING TRIP

Jordan Sandoval, Church Moderator

Covenant

Team: We go to be present with one another and with those who host us.

One: Love God. Love Neighbor.

Team: We go to make a change for good in our own lives
and in the lives of all creation.

One: Love God. Love Neighbor.

Team: We go to experience God in new and powerful ways.

One: Love God. Love Neighbor.

Team: We go so we can come back, empowered to work for a just world for all.

Congregation: As you go, we go with you:

awed by God's wonder

present with our prayers

changed by your commitment

and empowered to work together upon your return for a just world for all.

***HYMN 12** (black hymnal) "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

ELLACOMBE

***BENEDICTION & PASSING THE PEACE**

Chaplain Charlene Epp

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig



Cover Image "The Way to Wonder" (Job's lament & loss), by Lisle Gwynn Garrity. *Artist's*

Statement: *Inspired by Job 28:12-28 | acrylic on canvas*

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

Pastoral staff are available by appointment virtually or in person. Contact them by email or call the pastoral care line, 360-733-4255.

Sharon sharon@fccb.net
Charlene chaplain@fccb.net

You can also 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
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-2:00 pm, M-F

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:

Niko F C Pen, he/they (music@fccb.net)

CHURCH SCHOOL/

YOUTH COORDINATOR:

Maya McEachern, they/them

NURSERY ATTENDANT:

Keira Martin, she/her

WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR:

Moxxy Rogers, she/her

CHURCH FACILITY MANAGER:

Eric Whitaker, he/him

OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran, she/her

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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