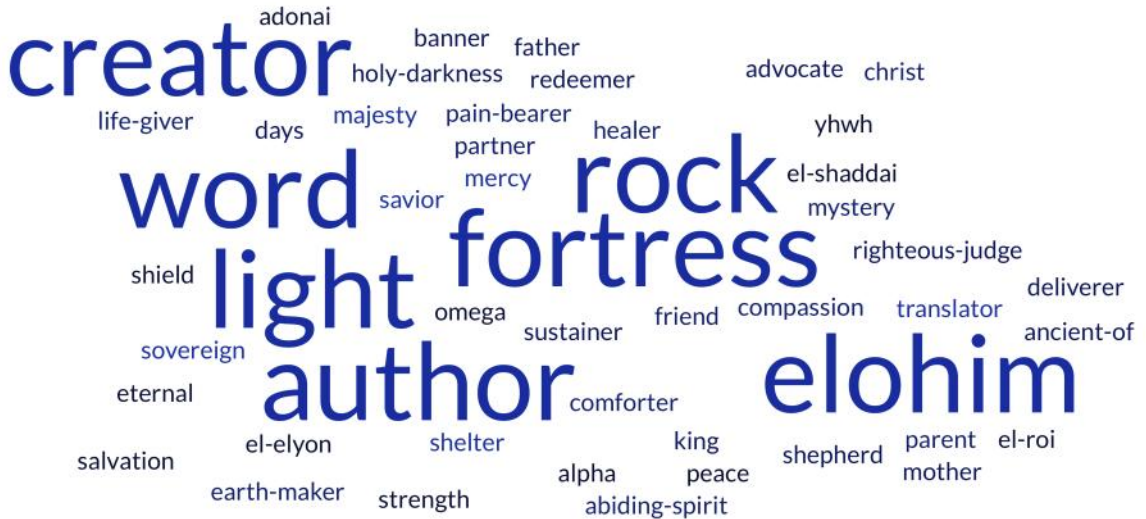


Unraveling God's Name

August 30, 2026



Vision Statement:

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

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 30, 2026

10:00 am

*O burning Mountain, O chosen Sun,
O perfect Moon, O fathomless Well,
O unattainable Height, O Clearness beyond measure,
O Wisdom without end, O Mercy without limit,
O Strength beyond resistance, O Crown beyond all majesty:
The humblest thing you created sings your praise.
~ Mechthild of Magdeburg, 13th cent.*

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;
gather-ing 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; gather-ing 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. Used under OneLicense #A-718199.

**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 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

Cathy Belben

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 11 (black hymnal)

“Bring Many Names”
Verses 1, 4, 5, 6

WESTCHASE

COMMUNITY PRAYER

SAB

Stacy Malone-Miller

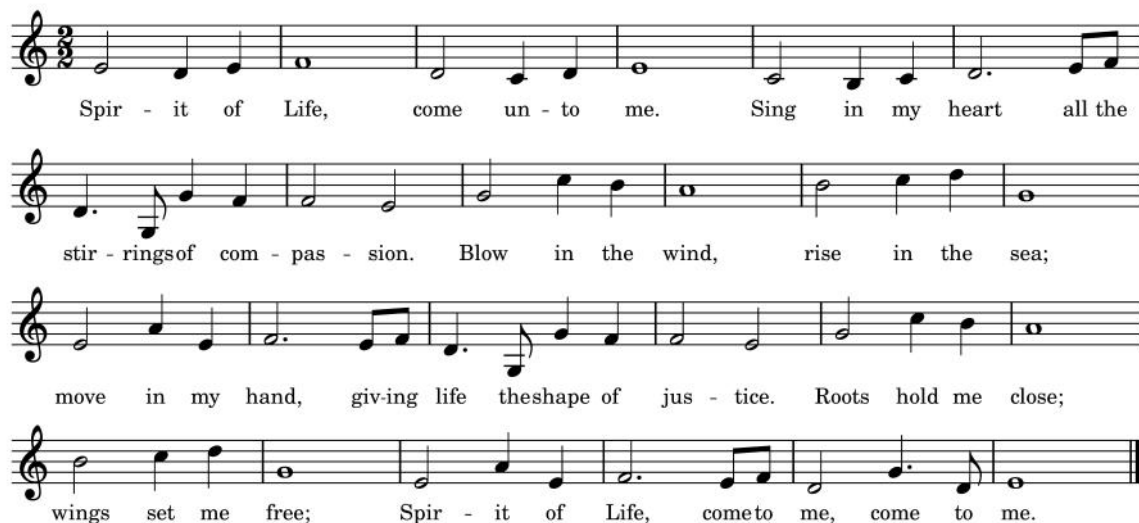
One Voice: Spirit, Fortress, Source, Divine:
we confess that we sometimes confine you,
lock you into word-boxes too small to adequately name your presence.

All Voices: **We’d like to know you, Everlasting One,
and to know you is to name you—
but then we become stuck with those names.**

One Voice: Yet, as you reminded Moses at the burning bush:
your name encompasses more than we can comprehend.

All Voices: **Help us to unravel the names we have put on you, All-in-All,
so we might know you in new ways.
Help us, also, to know ourselves anew
in relation to you. Amen.**

SUNG INVITATION TO PRAYER



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

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

Exodus 3:1-15
Common English Bible

Stacy Malone-Miller

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Stacy Malone-Miller

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

"Unraveling God's Name"

Sharon Benton

GIFT OF MUSIC

"Children, Go Where I Send Thee"
Trad. African American Spiritual

Unbroken Circle

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

TESTIMONY

"Youth Voices: Bold Faith"

Jonna Gillham

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

"I Will Be Released"
by Bob Dylan

Unbroken Circle



1. "I am who I am, I will be who I will,
2. "I am who I am!" now in this time and place.
3. "I am who I am!"—God both faith - ful and free;
4. God's names are so var - ied: Rock, Ea - gle, and Dove,



un - fet - tered Cre - a - tor and cre - a - ting still!"
 God with us! Christ with us! the full - ness of grace!
 un - bound by tra - di - tion, "I'll be who I'll be."
 Mes - si - ah, Em - man - u - el, Wis - dom, and Love.



In such words of free - dom, our God's clar - ion voice
 Each day is ex - cit - ing, with jus - tice our goal,
 "I will be who I will be"—God be - yond thought,
 Yet all are re - flec - tions of on - ly a part.



speaks loud - ly or soft - ly, and our hearts re - joice.
 the Spir - it ig - nit - ing new flames in the soul.
 un - shack - led by an - y - thing peo - ple have wrought.
 "I will be who I will be"—that is the heart!

WORDS: Jane Parker Huber (Exod. 3:13-14)

MUSIC: Welsh folk melody

Words © 1996 Jane Parker Huber

ST. DENIO

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BLESSING OF RELEASE (with a nod to Dolly Parton)

Cydne Cochran, Office Manager

One Voice: She's tumbled out of bed and stumbled to the kitchen;
poured herself cups of ambition,
yawned and stretched and tried to come to life...

All Voices: Workin' 9 to 5, what a way to make a livin'
Barely gettin' by, it's all takin' and no givin'...

One Voice: But you've got dreams they'll never take away...
And the tide's gonna turn an' it's all gonna roll your way...

***BENEDICTION & PASSING THE PEACE**

Sharon Benton

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig

Please join us in the social hall to celebrate Cydne's ministry among us and wish her well.

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
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

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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