

**May the Force Be With You
In Other Words, Christ is Risen
May 2, 2021
#BiggerBalcony**



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 2, 2021

10:00 am

#BiggerBalcony

Please sign in to Worship Connect to let us know you're here!

<http://tiny.cc/worshipconnect>

*"My ally is the force, and a powerful ally it is. Life creates it, makes it grow.
Its energy surrounds us, binds us. Luminous beings are we, not this crude matter.
You must feel the Force flow around you. Here, between you, me, the tree, the rock, yes,
even between the land and the ship." ~ Yoda*

PRELUDE

"Fantasy Op. 9"
by Alexander von Zemlinsky

Judy Widrig

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Davi Weasley

CALL TO WORSHIP

*(The Jedi Code with Responses
from Christian Community)*

Davi Weasley
& Sharon Benton

One: There is no emotion, there is peace.

Many: **God calls us to hear the invitation to peace in the midst
of the wide range of human emotion.**

One: There is no ignorance, there is knowledge.

Many: **All are made foolish in the wisdom of God,
and we can teach other wisdom together.**

One: There is no passion, there is serenity.

Many: **Serenity comes in the midst of passion, in the midst of heartbreak,
in the midst of authentic love.**

One: There is no chaos, there is harmony.

Many: **In the deep complexity of creation, God teaches us
how to be in community.**

One: There is no death, there is the Force.

Many: **God loves us with a Love stronger than death,
holding us even in the life to come.**

One: From all kinds of beliefs and all kinds of places;

Many: **We join in worship together.**

SUNG RESPONSE

“Halle, Halle, Halle”



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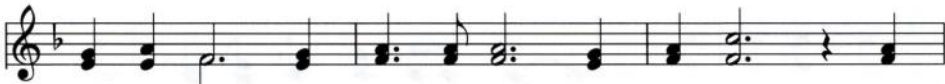
1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en -
 2 What though my joys and com - forts die? My Sav - ior still is
 3 When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells
 4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a -



ta - tion, I hear the sweet, though far - off hymn that
 liv - ing. What though the shad - ows gath - er 'round? A
 ring - ing; When friends re - joice both far and near, how
 bove it; And day by day this path - way smooths, since



hails a new cre - a - tion. Through all the tu - mult
 new song Christ is giv - ing. No storm can shake my
 can I keep from sing - ing? In pris - on cell and
 first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes



and the strife, I hear the mu - sic ring - ing; It
 in - most calm, while to that Rock I'm cling - ing; Since
 dun - geon vile our thoughts to them are wing - ing; When
 fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing; All



finds an ech - o in my soul— how can I keep from sing - ing?
 Love com - mands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing - ing?
 friends by shame are un - de - filed, how can I keep from sing - ing?
 things are mine since I am Christ's— how can I keep from sing - ing?

In various nineteenth-century hymnals this hymn was attributed to different poets, including Anna Warner. The earliest published source credits Robert Lowry as the composer, although Silas Vail later claimed the music. The third stanza was written by Doris Plenn in the 1950s when her friends were imprisoned during the McCarthy era.

Tune: ENDLESS SONG 8.7.8.7.D.
*Attrib. to Robert Lowry in Bright Jewels
 for the Sunday School, New York, 1869*

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INVITATION TO OFFERING

Roni Woodard

There are several options for giving: 1) Mail checks to First Congregational Church, 2401 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225. 2) Give at our website, <https://fccb.net/giving/>. 3) Use the GivePlus app. Download from your app store, set up an account, and give! 4) Give by text. Text a dollar amount to 208-516-2657, and set up your account. You're ready for easy giving by text! 5) Give by PayPal. Our easy link is [PayPal.Me/fccbu](https://www.paypal.com/mefccbu).

MUSICAL MEDITATION

"This Little Light of Mine"
traditional; arr. Neil A Johnson
Soloists: Michael, Josh, William
Alleluia Sound is the youth choir from
First Congregational Church of Crystal Lake

Alleluia Sound

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 8: 26-40
New Revised Standard Version

Roni Woodard

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.**

Roni Woodard

SERMON

"May the Force Be With You: "
In Other Words, Christ is Risen"

Davi Weasley

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

*Please gather something to eat and something to drink.
Christ meets us wherever we are, whatever we bring.*

HYMN

“Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song”

BRIDEGROOM



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
Vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
prayer, with the power to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might:
midst as gift and sign: Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
peace be - yond com - pare:

*Carl P. Daw, Jr., wrote this text for The Hymnal 1982
(Episcopal), and expressly for the tune Bridegroom. Born and
educated in England, composer Peter Cutts has served as music
director for churches in Massachusetts and on the faculty of
Andover Newton Theological School.*

Tune: BRIDEGROOM 8.7.8.7.6.

Peter Cutts, 1969

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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.

BENEDICTION

Sharon Benton

POSTLUDE

"Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia"

Good Vibrations

Tanzanian Melody; arr. Sandra Eithun MFURAHINI HALELUYA

Good Vibrations is the handbell choir from
First Congregational Church of Crystal Lake

Cover image by Ryan Tasto on Unsplash

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.

VIRTUAL APPOINTMENTS WITH PASTORAL STAFF

In the before time, our pastoral staff were available by appointment. In COVID-19 time, they are available for virtual meetings by appointment. Contact them by email or call the pastoral care line, 360-733-4255

Sharon: sharon@fccb.net

Davi: davi@fccb.net

Sharry: sharry@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

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Facebook: facebook.com/fccbucc

Twitter: @BhamUCC

Office Hours: 9:00 am-5:00 pm

LEAD PASTOR: Sharon Benton

PASTOR FOR YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS,

& MISSION: Davi Weasley

MINISTER OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION:

Sharry Nyberg

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Lucy Bledig

LIMITED TERM CHAPLAIN Stevi Hamill

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Lisa Harbine

ORGANIST: Judy Widrig

OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran

ACCOUNTANT: Renée Relin

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE: Kurt Aagard

CARE ADMIN. SUPPORT: Laura Norton

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE:

Alanna Steele

HEALTH MINISTER: Carol Nicolay

MODERATOR: Bill Henkel

VICE MODERATOR: Beth Tyne

PAST MODERATOR: Caryl Dunavan

CLERK: TBA

TREASURER: Laurie Hoyt

HISTORIAN: Stacy Miller

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