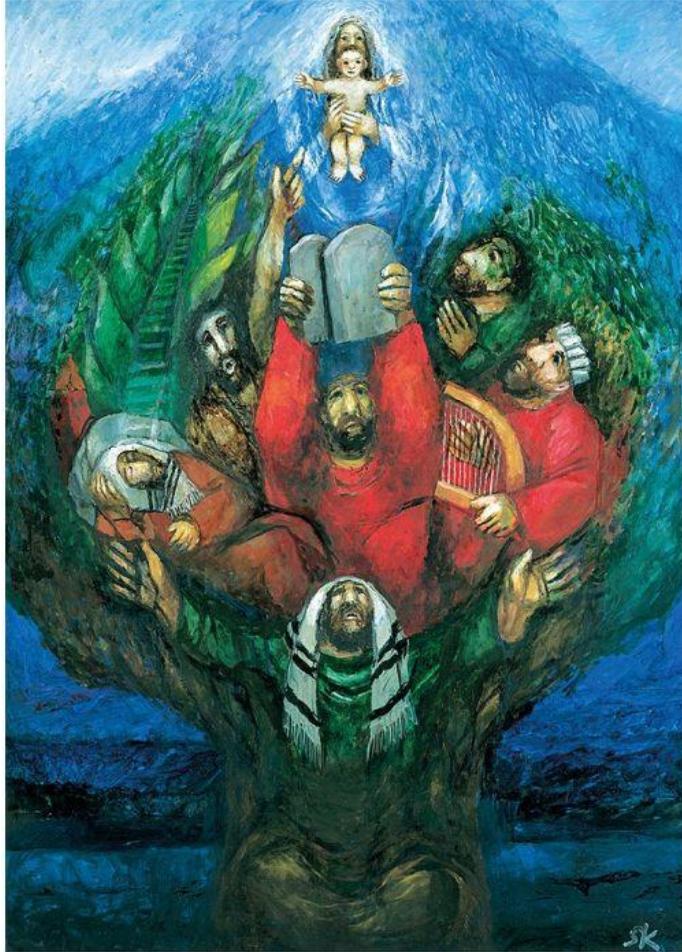


Sabbatical Sending
Who I'm From, Who I Am,
Who I'm Called to Be
April 24, 2022



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 24, 2022

10:00 am

Welcome! Please participate in as much or as little of the service as you feel comfortable.

*We love children in worship—their noises and wiggles are welcome, too.
There are pillows in the front where they can see the instruments and participate fully,
or the coloring, book, and play area is available in the corner near the windows.
Their movements back and forth are a joy for all of us.*

*“We go to the doctor, we go to the mountains
We look to the children, we drink from the fountain
Yeah, we go to the Bible, we go through the workout
We read up on revival, we stand up for the lookout*

*There’s more than one answer to these questions
Pointing me in a crooked line
And the less I seek my source for some definitive
Closer I am to fine.”
-Indigo Girls*

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

INTROIT

“The More We Get Together”

Aidric Tracy

* Rise in body or spirit

RINGING THE BELL

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Nancy Fayram

One Voice: We are from ancient peoples praising a mysterious God
and in-this-moment questioners of the very purpose of church.

**All Voices: We are from furious prophets crying out for justice
and gentle comforters with their healing balm.**

One Voice: We are part of a tradition that emerged from Jewish religion
and followers of a faith that reviled and abused that same religion.

**All Voices: We are seekers of what is true, what is faithful,
what is hopeful and worthy.**

One Voice: We are worriers who wonder if we're on the right path
or making more trouble for future generations.

**All Voices: We are folk who know who we are
and folk who don't even know which direction we're going.**

One Voice: We are long-time members and first-time visitors;
we are just-drop-by-ers and root-me-deep-ers.

**All Voices: We are First Congregational Church of Bellingham,
and we will honor our history and look toward our future
as a community welcoming all, growing in faith,
living God's love, justice, compassion...**

*HYMN 20

“God of Abraham and Sarah”

CONSTANTINE

Listen for how the lyrics and music playfully follow one another in this hymn (notice the notes rise as we sing “up from the dust” and descend at “down through the years”). In addition, pay attention to the sense of the Divine moving with all of creation throughout history and into this very moment—whether we can understand that presence or not.



1 God of A - bra - ham and Sar - ah, God of Mo - ses, Mir - iam's Guide;
2 God who danc - es in cre - a - tion, spin - ning stars a - bove our heads;
3 God who loves the poor in spir - it, God who com - forts those who mourn;
4 In our lives from birth to dy - ing, depth of sor - row, height of joy;



God of Da - vid and the proph - ets, God in Je - sus glo - ri - fied:
God whose face is scribed in mu - sic, by whose hand the earth is fed:
Balm for wounds, the friend of sin - ners, tak - ing the side of earth's for - lorn:
Prais - ing God in ev - ery sea - son, let ev - ery key our hearts em - ploy.



Up from the dust you raise a peo - ple, breathe in the breath of life, of soul;
Up from the ground you raise the moun - tains, raise our spir - its, lift our eyes;
Up from the depths you raise your peo - ple, giv - ing them cour - age for the day;
Praise is the heal - ing, praise, the glo - ry, praise is the fin - al mys - ter - y;



Down through the years the peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias make them whole!
Down through the years your peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias flood the skies!
Down through the years the peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias light their way!
Down through the years let peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias set them free!

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The healing power of praise and the history of God's dealings with humankind are the themes of this hymn, written by a United Church of Christ minister who is the grandson of Armenian

Tune: CONSTANTINE 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody by James Gertmenian, 1986.
Harm Ronald Huntington. 1986: alt.

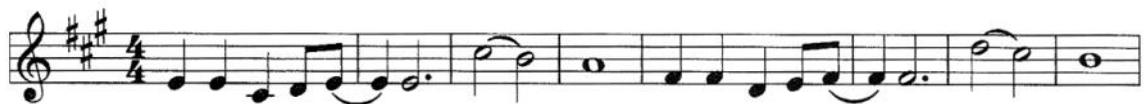
***PASSING THE PEACE**

If you're willing, please come to the microphone to offer "peace" to those worshipping online; or you might stay in your seat and type a message into your smartphone to someone at home; or you might wave, bump elbows, or show other signs of peace with others.

***SUNG RESPONSE 236**

"Halle, Halle, Halle"

Arr. by John L. Bell



Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.



Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu-ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

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MOMENT FOR MINISTRY

Sabbatical

Amelia Bacon & Jen Green

Sharon's Pastoral Relation Committee

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Judy Widrig

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.*

SUNG RESPONSE 765

“Alleluia”
by Jerry Sinclair

ALLELUIA



1 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,

SUNG RESPONSE

“May the Love of God Fill You”

by Tom Hunter

May the love of God fill you from your
head down to your toes. May it wa - ale through your fin - ers and
dance up - on your nose. May the peo - ple all a - round you help you
live so lov - ing grows. May the love of God fill you up un -
til it o - ver flows.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff with a common time signature (C). It consists of five lines of music. The first line begins with a treble clef, a common time signature, and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "May the love of God fill you from your head down to your toes. May it wa - ale through your fin - ers and dance up - on your nose. May the peo - ple all a - round you help you live so lov - ing grows. May the love of God fill you up un - til it o - ver flows." The music ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

SCRIPTURE & SABBATHAL REFLECTION

Sharon Benton

“Who I’m From, Who I Am, Who I’m Called to Be”

HYMN 320*“Deep in the Shadows of the Past”****SHEPHERDS’ PIPES**

This hymn attempts to tell about biblical beginnings and how our scriptures were inspired in many ways. Some of us find deep connection between our own faith stories and those in our faith texts. For others of us that connection is tenuous and challenging, as experienced in the accompanying tune. Yet we keep coming back to the stories again and again, finding new meaning for the future.



1 Deep in the shad-ows of the past, far out from set - tled lands, some
 2 While oth-ers bowed to change-less gods they met a mys - ter - y, in -
 3 From Ex - o - dus to Pen - te - cost the prom-ise changed and grew, while
 4 For all the writ-ings that sur-vided, for lead - ers long a - go who



no-mads trav-eled with their God a - cross the des - ert sands. The
 vis - i - ble, with - out a name: “I AM WHAT I WILL BE”; and
 some, re - mem - ber - ing the past, re - cord - ed what they knew, or
 sift - ed, cop - ied, and pre-served the Bi - ble that we know, give



dawn-ing hope of hu - man - kind by them was sensed and shown: a
 by their tents, a - round their fires, in sto - ry, song, and law, they
 with their let - ters and la - ments, their proph - e - cy and praise, re -
 thanks, and find its sto - ry yet our prom - ise, strength, and call, the



prom - ise call - ing them a - head, a fu - ture yet un - known.
 praised, re - mem - bered, hand - ed on a past that prom-ised more.
 cov - ered, kin - dled, and ex - pressed new hope for chang-ing days.
 mod - el of e - merg - ing faith, a - live with hope for all.

Words: Brian Wren, 1936–

Music: Annabeth McClelland Gay, 1925–

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 Music © 1958 The Pilgrim Press

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England/U.S.A.
 8.6.8.6.D. (C.M.D.)
 SHEPHERDS’ PIPES

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Nancy Fayram

*There are several options for giving: 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 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).*

Offering Music

Judy Widrig

BLESSING FOR PASTOR SHARON

from Rabbi Joshua Samuels

Davi Weasely

LITANY OF SABBATICAL SENDING

Today is Lead Pastor Sharon Benton's final Sunday before beginning sabbatical May 1—August 14.

We will welcome her back on Sunday, August 21.

Beth: Sharon, we the gathered community of First Congregational Church of Bellingham, United Church of Christ bring our spirits together to send you on your sabbatical journey. We pray that you will have wisdom, courage, and peace as you rest, travel, learn, and grow. We will pray a blessing on you, but first some questions to affirm our covenant— Will you hold our congregation in your heart and prayers as you take this time away from ministry among us?

Sharon: *With God's help, I will.*

Beth: Will you refrain from offering pastoral services to members of the congregation during this sabbatical time, so that you can focus on rest and on your inner work?

Sharon: *With God's help, I will.*

Beth: Will you bring your whole heart and body to your call for this sacred time, learning more about who God is for you by learning more about your own heritage?

Sharon: *With God's help, I will.*

Beth: Will you honor your own needs, and those of your family, in the midst of study, travel, and discernment?

Sharon: With God's help, I will.

Beth: And will you return to share the fruits of your experience with First Congregational Church when your sabbatical has ended?

Sharon: With God's help, I will!

Beth: And to the congregation:
Will you hold Pastor Sharon in your prayers while she is resting, traveling, learning, and growing?

Congregation: **With God's help, we will.**

Beth: Will you refrain from contacting Pastor Sharon during her sabbatical, and seek care, comfort, and advice from other sources?

Congregation: **With God's help, we will.**

Beth: Will you seek your own growth, learning, and rest while Pastor Sharon is on sabbatical, and will you welcome her warmly when she returns?

Congregation: **With God's help, we will.**

Beth: I invite you to pray with me: God, we now bless and send Pastor Sharon on this sabbatical journey. We pray that it will be—for her and for us—a time of meaning, a time of challenge, a time of renewal, and a time of wonder. Bless her curiosity, bless her justice-seeking, bless her passion, and bless her wisdom. May she return to us blessed by the time away, and blessed by the opportunity to come back to pastoral leadership here.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

SYMBOLIC RESPONSE

*Sharon removes her stole to signify that she is laying down her responsibilities to this congregation throughout the sabbatical period; she will take that yoke back up upon her return.**

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 with masks. Contact them by email or call the pastoral care line,
360-733-4255

Sharon: sharon@fccb.net

Davi: davi@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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Church Office: 360-734-3720

24/7 Emergency Pastoral Care: 360-733-4255

office@fccb.net • www.fccb.net

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

INTERIM MINISTERS OF FAITH FORMATION:

Ted & Susan Huffman

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Lucy Bledig

ORGANIST: Judy Widrig

WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR:

Skyler Spain

ACCOUNTANT: Erin Kennedy

OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE: Kurt Aagard

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE:

Alanna Steele

MODERATOR: Beth Tyne

VICE MODERATOR: Mark Schofield

PAST MODERATOR: Bill Henkel

CLERK: Janet Malley

TREASURER: Laurie Hoyt

HISTORIAN: Stacy Miller

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