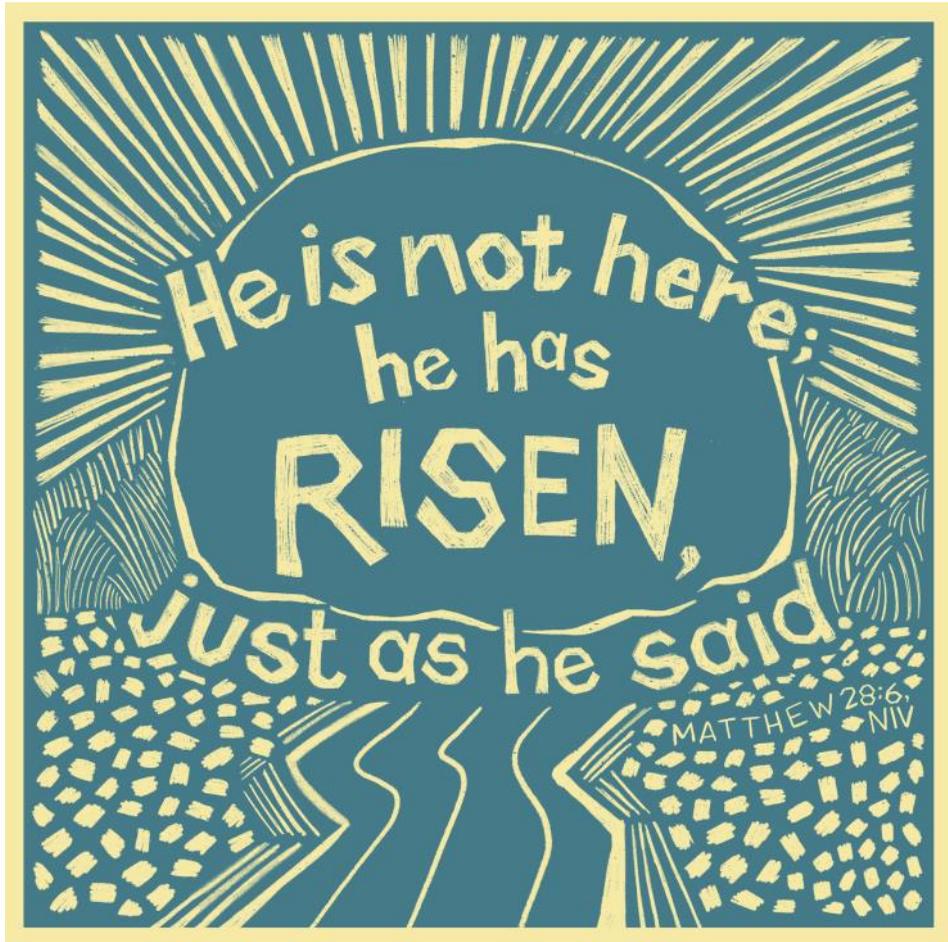


**Easter Sunday**  
**“Go and Tell the Story”**  
**April 9, 2023**



**EASTER SUNDAY**

April 9, 2023

10:00 am

*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 us.*

*Masking is encouraged but not mandatory during services. Council supports individuals making the best decisions for their health and for the health of our community and, as always, encourages best practices - hand washing, staying home when unwell, and staying up to date with vaccinations. Please always respect others' choice to mask.*

*Jesus puts his body on the line all day. In the wee hours he prays. He never separates inseparables. For him, the kingdom comes by wonder and strategy, protest and ecstasy, imagination and politics, beauty and programs, service and solitude, rallies and gratitude, resolutions and praise...It's about yielding our whole selves—every gift and skill, picketing or praying—to the Living One, in the sure and certain hope that, with us and without us, the kingdom comes, pure gift beyond our dreams.  
~ Rev. Mary Luti*

**PRELUDE** Judy Widrig

**INTROIT** "Alleluia" Small Ensemble  
by Stephanie Martin

**WELCOME** Sharon Benton

**RINGING THE BELL**

**THE STORY** Deanna Murray & Beth Tyne

\*Rise in body or spirit

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Janet Ott

One Voice: We've told this story before.

**All Voices: Alleluia! Christ is risen!**

One Voice: It's always the same ending.

**All Voices: Alleluia! Christ is risen!**

One Voice: Though pain and grief were big.

**All Voices: Alleluia! Christ is risen!**

One Voice: New life always emerges triumphant.

**All Voices: Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!**

**\*HYMN 233**

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

EASTER HYMN

**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

Ted & Susan Huffman

**SUNG RESPONSE**

"Halle, Halle, Halle"



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.

Tune: Arr. by John L. Bell; © 1990, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc. Used under OneLicense #A-718199.

**COMMUNITY PRAYER** From the *Psalms to the Cloud* ed. Mankin and Tirabassi Janet Ott

One Voice: From deep within our tombs we hear you call, O God:

**All Voices: Rise Up! Rise up from death into new life!**

One Voice: The peace of Christ be with you.

We have found new life in this spring season,  
in children joyfully squirming among us,  
each deep breath we breathe.

We have found new life in people's struggle for  
just government throughout the world,  
and in nations' continued support  
following natural disasters.

From deep within our tombs, we hear you call, O God:

**All Voices: Rise Up! Rise up from death into new life!**

One Voice: We follow your voice in our hope to overcome  
illness, grief, addiction, fear.

We follow your voice in our hope to heal your creation,  
make whole our connection to all that is.

From deep within our tombs we hear you call, O God:

**All Voices: Rise Up! Rise up from death into new life!**

One Voice: Resurrecting God, you call us to follow Christ,  
to rise up from our tombs that hold us in death—  
but you do not expect us to do so alone.

It is you who fill us with life beyond all our daily deaths.

It is you who strengthen us to bring life to others.

It is you, Holy One, whom we hear call within our tombs: rise up!

**All Voices: And so we do. We have. We are here**

One Voice: And we join as one voice praying 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.**

**A READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 28:1-10  
New Revised Standard Version

Janet Ott

**SCRIPTURE RESPONSE**

Janet Ott

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.**

**REFLECTION**

“Go and Tell the Story”

Sharon Benton

**ANTHEM**

“Sing & Rejoice”  
by Sally Albrecht

One Accord

**REFLECTION**

“Go and Tell the Story”

Davi Weasley

**\*HYMN 245**

“The Day of Resurrection”

LANCASHIRE

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

Janet Ott

*There are several options for giving: 1) Give at our website, <https://fpcb.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.*

**Offering Music**

“This Joyful Eastertide”  
by Malcolm Archer

Chancel Choir

When you hold this beginning-of-resurrection story, what beginning does it invite in you? (or) Is there part of this story you want to wonder more about?

*We invite you to turn to a neighbor (or get up to find someone new) and share your response to today's prompt. Please feel free to ponder silently on your own, if you prefer.*

## \*HYMN

## "Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"

## HYMN TO JOY



1 Christ is ris - en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!  
 2 Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of de - spair.  
 3 Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er - more shall be the same.



Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der: all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.  
 Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.  
 Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.



In the des - ert all - sur - round - ing, see, a spread - ing tree has grown.  
 Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion, not a ser - vant, but a friend.  
 Tell its grim, de - mon - ic cho - rus: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"



Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing bring a taste of love un - known.  
 Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.  
 God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho - san - na ev - ery - one!

In commenting on this late 20th-century text, the author has stressed his intention to affirm the social implications of an Easter faith: "Christian peace and justice action finds its wellspring, not in moral zeal or guilty conscience, but in the resurrection."

\*BENEDICTION

Davi Weasley

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig



Alleluia!

**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*

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

Twitter: @BhamUCC

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

**LEAD PASTOR: Sharon Benton, she/her**  
**PASTOR FOR YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS,**  
**& MISSION: Davi Weasley, they/them**

**INTERIM MINISTERS OF FAITH FORMATION:**

**Ted, he/him & Susan Huffman, she/her**

**MINISTER OF MUSIC: Lucy Bledig, she/her**

**ORGANIST: Judy Widrig, she/her**

**ACCOUNTANT: Erin Kennedy, she/her**

**OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran, she/her**

**CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE:**

**Kurt Aagard, he/him**

**WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR:**

**Georgia Drost, she/they**

**MODERATOR: Mark Schofield**

**VICE MODERATOR: Scott Ward**

**PAST MODERATOR: Beth Tyne**

**CLERK: Janet Malley**

**TREASURER: Craig Jennings**

**HISTORIAN: Stacy Miller**

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