

“How Shall I Send Thee?”

April 16, 2023

Go

THEREFORE AND MAKE
DISCIPLES OF ALL
nations...

MATTHEW 28:19, NRSV



first  **congregational**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
timeless worship + modern faith

FIRST SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

April 16, 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.

"I try to remember it's not me... trying to protect the rainforest. Rather, I am part of the rainforest protecting itself. I am that part of the rainforest recently emerged into human thinking." ~ John Sneed

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

WELCOME

Davi Weasley & Sharon Benton

RINGING THE BELL

THE STORY

Sharon Benton

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Kris Johnson

One Voice: Jesus calls us to go and make disciples

All Voices: **But are we yet disciples ourselves?**

One Voice: Jesus sends us to all the nations

All Voices: **But how can we speak love before we understand?**

One Voice: Jesus gathers us on the mountaintop

All Voices: **But what happens when it's time to leave**

One Voice: Resurrected One, be with us in worship

All Voices: **Gather us in as we prepare to be sent Out**

**Rise in body or spirit*



1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but
 2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but
 3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but
 4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but
 5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but



call your name? Will you go where you don't know and
 call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and
 call your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners free and
 call your name? Will you quell the fear in - side and
 call my name. Let me turn and fol - low you and



nev - er be the same? Will you let my love be shown,
 nev - er be the same? Will you risk the hos - tile stare
 nev - er be the same? Will you kiss the lep - er clean,
 nev - er be the same? Will you use the faith you've found
 nev - er be the same. In your com - pa - ny I'll go



will you let my name be known, will you
 should your life at - tract or scare? Will you
 and do such as this un - seen, and ad -
 to re - shape the world a - round, through my
 where your love and foot - steps show. Thus I'll



let my life be grown in you and you in me?
 let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?
 mit to what I mean in you and you in me?
 sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
 move and live and grow in you and you in me.

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 wig - gle through your fin - gers 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 ov - er flows.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in common time (C). It consists of four lines of music. The first line starts with a treble clef and a common time signature. The melody is simple, using quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staff. The second line begins with a measure rest of 3 measures. The third line begins with a measure rest of 5 measures. The fourth line begins with a measure rest of 7 measures. The piece ends with a double bar line.

A READING FROM THE POETS

“Manifesto:
The Mad Farmer Liberation Front”
by Wendell Berry

Kris Johnson

SHARING OUR STORIES

When did the Spirit (or someone else!) send you to do something? How did it go?

Davi Weasley

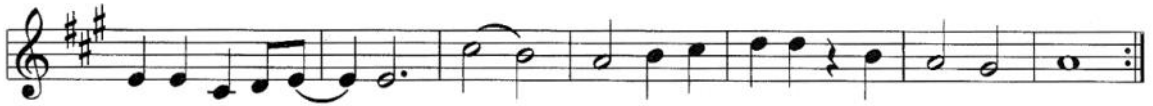
SUNG RESPONSE

“Halle, Halle, 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.

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.fcb.net/contact-us/ to send a message or call the church to talk with a pastor.*

MUSICAL MEDITATION

“In Remembrance of Earth Day”

Tim Shepherd

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Matthew 28:16-20
New Revised Standard Version

Kris Johnson

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Kris Johnson

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

“How Shall I Send Thee?”

Davi Weasley

***HYMN**

“Come Thou Fount of Revolution”

NETTLETON

*Come thou fount of every blessing, give me courage to resist.
Oh dear God they came and killed you, to stay dead you were too pissed.
Make me clever like the steward, make me angry like the poor,
teach me to unbind the captive, teach me to unbar the door.*

*O dear God, I have such power, that I never toiled to earn
Help me wield it for liberation, may the fires of your justice burn
Guide me God to read you truly, give me your truth like a sword
When I read the holy scripture, help me God to hear your Word.*

*Moving Wind, your seed of justice, grows into a mustard tree-
it is so big, and obnoxious, is there room there, God, for me?
O my Jesus, come like leaven, infiltrate our hearts and minds
as we struggle to be human, help us to decolonize.*

*When the powers stand against us, when we join hands with the meek,
help us God against their fury; reveal the weapons of the weak.
As we stand up to oppression, as we speak the truth to power-
Holy One, you walk beside us: we need you every hour.*

*While I struggle with my hatred, with my fear and bigotry:
help me Lord to join your struggle, help me dance this way with thee.
Give me prophets to confront me, give me comrades in the call!
Give me visions of that day when we will see the powers fall!*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Kris Johnson

- 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 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

Judy Widrig

***HYMN 495**

“Called As Partners In Christ’s Service”

BEECHER

***BENEDICTION**

Sharon Benton

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig

**After worship today: Conversation with Personnel
Committee about proposed changes to staffing.**

**Next week after worship: Congregational Meeting
to vote on proposed changes to staffing.**

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, he/him

PAST MODERATOR: Beth Tyne

CLERK: Janet Malley

TREASURER: Craig Jennings

HISTORIAN: Stacy Miller

OneLicense #A-718199

CCS #12615