

“Listening for the Still Speaking God”

April 23, 2023



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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

April 23, 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.

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

WELCOME

Davi Weasley

RINGING THE BELL

THE STORY

Sharon Benton

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Stacy Malone Miller

One Voice: God calls us in and sends us out:

All Voices: calls us to be community; sends us to be apostles.

One Voice: God shelters us under mighty wings,
wherever we may go.

All Voices: We go into the world renewed for ministry.

One Voice: God is with us beyond space and time;
God is speaking here and now.

**All Voices: Let us listen for God's loving voice;
let us respond to the Spirit's call to reformation.**

***HYMN 411**

“Praise the Source of Faith and Learning”

PROCESSION

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Exodus 3:1-5

Stacy Malone Miller

New Revised Standard Version

TIME WITH CHILDREN

COVENANT WITH NEW MEMBERS

**Renné Archer, Ann Brodie-Knope, Megan Crouse, Andrea Engler,
Greene, Spencer Mihelich, Briana Milligan, Chris Morton,
Taous Sawyer, Rose Wakeman**

New Member Covenant

We promise to worship God, preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, celebrate the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion and encourage the realization of God's will in the lives of people from birth to death, individually and collectively, as seen in the life, teaching, death and living presence of Jesus Christ. In keeping with Christ's teaching, we are “Welcoming all, Growing in Faith, Living God's Love, Justice, Compassion ...”

Congregational Covenant

We, the members of First Congregational Church of Bellingham, United Church of Christ, warmly welcome you: not to a congregation of the sinless, but to a living community of faith that seeks to find new ways of being in relationship with God and enacting God's intention for the wholeness of humankind. We give thanks for your life stories, your faith journeys, your diversity of gifts. We pray that God will help us provide a nurturing environment for you and enable us to take time for one another as we establish a shared faith and common history.

Children are invited to Church School.

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.

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 19:8-9, 11-13a

Stacy Malone Miller

New Revised Standard Version

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Davi Weasley

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.*

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:26-31, 37-38

Stacy Malone Miller

New Revised Standard Version

SERMON

“Listening for the Still Speaking God”

Sharon Benton

*HYMN

“God Is Still Speaking” (Based on Psalm 40)
by David Fayram

David Fayram

Refrain:

*God is still speaking; God is still speaking; God is still speaking to me
Wherever I go; how ever I know; the Spirit is speaking to me*

We have climbed the mountain together

We've sailed on stormy seas

Even in unwelcome weather

God's voice soothes like a breeze

Refrain

I've waited, waited, waited for something

And suffered the pain of my doubt

But God pulled me up from the mire

And put a fresh song in my mouth

Refrain

At times all of us wondered

Our thoughts as tangled as weeds

God's voice comes not as the thunder

It's a still, small voice sets us free

God is still speaking; God is still speaking; God is still speaking to me

I know this truth; God's speaking to you, and holding us all faithfully

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Stacy Malone Miller

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

“Lullaby”
by Rick Ruskin

Scout Mitchell

SHARING OUR STORIES

Davi Weasley

Is there a time when you felt you were led by the Divine toward or away from something? (or) How do you hear God speaking in your life? 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

"Faithful God, You Have Been Our Guide"

LINSTEAD



Faith - ful God, you have been our guide, year by year walk - ing
You have called us to be a light, sign of jus - tice and
God, what - ev - er the fu - ture holds, keep us faith - ful as



by our side, bless - ing chal - lenge and heal - ing strife,
truth and right. You have made us a rain - bow sign,
life un - folds. Write your cov - e - nant on our hearts;

Refrain



lead - ing us on the way of life. Faith - ful God of the
col - ors show - ing your peace de - sign.
send the gift that your love im - parts.



liv - ing cov - e - nant, lead us on - ward in this new day.

***BENEDICTION**

Davi Weasley

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig

**After worship today: 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**

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