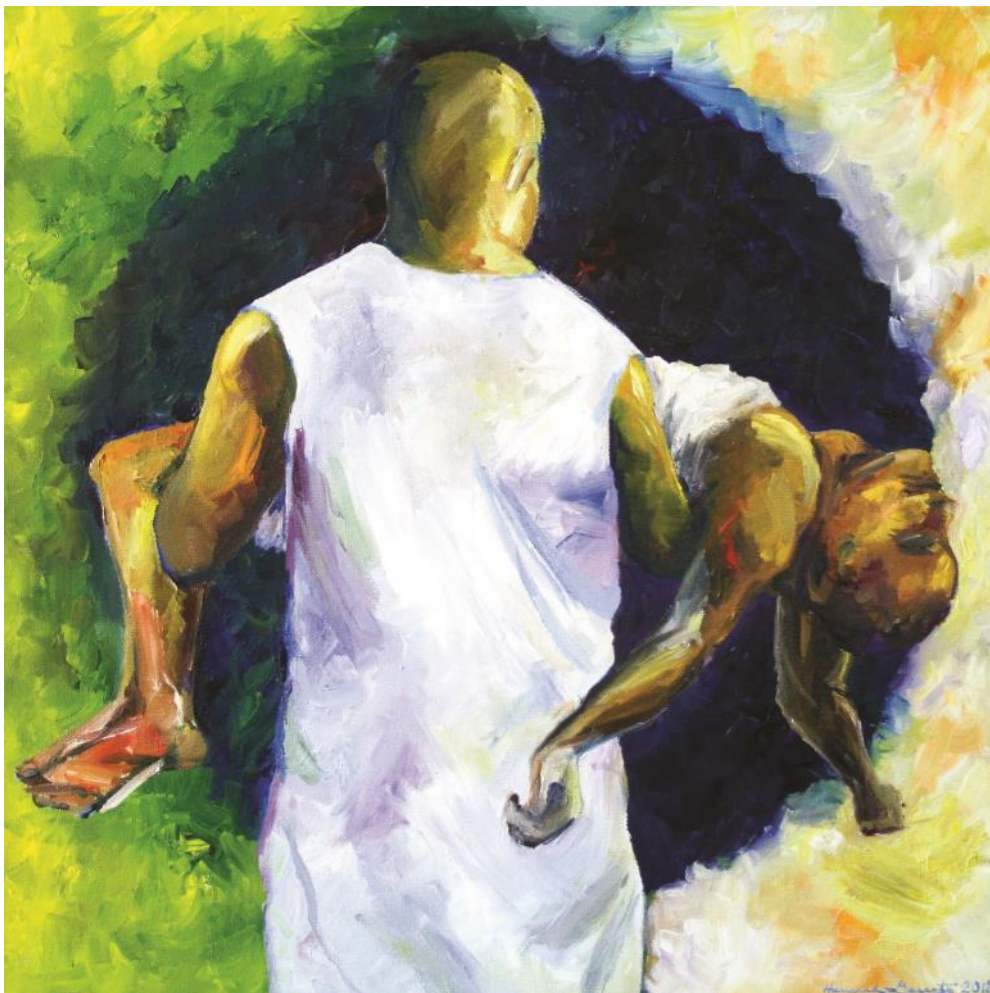


Faces of Our Faith: Facing Ourselves — Joseph of Arimathea August 13, 2023



ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 13, 2023

10:00 am

PRELUDE

Penelope Keep

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sharon Benton

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.

RINGING OF THE BELL

THE STORY

Page

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

from enfleshed

Nancy Fayram

One: When the way is difficult and dangerous,

All: let us still choose what is good and just.

One: When evil comes to break us down and break us apart,

All: let us still choose to carry on with each other.

One: When power from on high strikes fear in our hearts,

All: let us still choose the courage to persist.

One: For we know that the love of God which abides in us will not be overcome.

**Rise in body or spirit*

WE ARE A NURTURING BELOVED COMMUNITY

PASSING THE PEACE

Sharon Benton

One: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

SUNG RESPONSE

"God Welcomes All"

AMEN THEMBA

by John Bell

God wel - comes all, stran - ers and friends;
God's love is strong and it ne - ver ends.

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is primarily composed of chords and rests, with lyrics placed below the notes. The first system covers the first line of lyrics, and the second system covers the second line. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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A READING FROM *RIGHT NOW! REAL KIDS SPEAKING UP FOR CHANGE*

Nancy Fayram

"Bobby Novak"

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

MUSICAL MEDITATION

“O Lux Beatissima”

One Accord

by Howard Helvey

*O lux beatissima,
reple cordis intima
tuorum fidelium.*

*Sine tuo numine,
nihil est in homine,
nihil est innoxium.*

*O Light most blessed,
Fill the inmost heart
Of all thy faithful*

*Without your grace,
There is nothing in us,
Nothing that is not harmful*

WE ARE GROWING AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN FAITH

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Mark 15:42-46

David Fayram

New Revised Standard Version

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

David Fayram

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.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Sharon Benton

SUNG RESPONSE

“Take, O Take Me As I Am”

TAKE O TAKE ME

Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall
be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b.1949
Tune: John L. Bell, b.1949
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SERMON

“Facing Ourselves: Joseph of Arimathea”

Page

MUSICAL MEDITATION

“God is Our Strength”
by Ruth Elaine Schram

One Accord

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION

TESTIMONY

Nancy Fayram

*HYMN 573 (black hymnal) “Lead On, Eternal Sovereign”

LANCASHIRE

*BENEDICTION

Page

POSTLUDE

Penelope Keep

*Offering plates are available near the doors as you leave;
thank you for your gift helping to build justice and compassion.*

There are several other ways to give: 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.

5) Scan the QR code below or on the back cover of the bulletin.



*Cover Image by Hannah Garrity, oil on canvas, inspired by Luke 23:44-56. Artist statement;
“How heavy is the body of a dead man? Only with superhuman strength would this pose be
possible. Yet, Joseph of Arimathea alone carries Jesus’ lifeless body. How did he do it? Why did he
do it? How weighty a task. What superhuman strength must we each have to forward God’s plan.
Yet, God prepares us. We are ready.” © A Sanctified Art*

All Questions Considered

What's your burning theological question? Do you have a question about spirituality or culture? Write it in below, tear off this page, and put it in Cydne's box or in the offering plate.

Either Pastor Sharon or Pastor Page will answer your questions during worship next **Sunday, August 20!**

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: On Sabbatical

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

Summer Office Hours: M-Th, 10:00 am-4:00 pm

LEAD PASTOR: Sharon Benton, she/her

PASTOR: Davi Weasley, they/them

SABBATICAL PASTOR: L Page, she/they

CHURCH SCHOOL COORDINATOR:

Josh Marchand, they/them

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Lucy Bledig, she/her

ORGANIST: Judy Widrig, she/her

ACCOUNTANT: Marinda Seholm, 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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