

Easter Sunrise Service

April 20, 2025



Vision Statement:

We Are a Nurturing, Beloved Community.
We Are Growing Authentic Christian Faith.
We Are Living Christ-Inspired Action.

EASTER SUNDAY

April 20, 2025

6:30 am

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, welcome!
Please participate in as much or as little as you feel comfortable.
We love children — their noises and movements are welcome, too!*

INTROIT

"On That Great, Great Mornin'"
by Mary McDonald

One Accord

WELCOME

Rev. Sharon Benton

One Voice: Hallelujah—Christ is risen!

All Voices: Christ is risen indeed—hallelujah!

One Voice: Whatever this world tries to throw at us,
we will shout the truth:

All Voices: Christ is risen! Pain won't win!

One Voice: However people try to oppress one another,
we will proclaim again:

All Voices: Christ is risen! Evil cannot stand!

One Voice: Whenever our own voices start to undermine,
we will remind them to listen:

**All Voices: Christ is risen!
No matter who we are,
no matter where we are on life's journey,
we are beloved children of God,
and we are one with creation.**

One Voice: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All Voices: Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Mark 16:1-8

Common English Bible

Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb, bringing the fragrant spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. They didn't know what to make of this.

Suddenly, two men were standing beside them in gleaming bright clothing. The women were frightened and bowed their faces toward the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He isn't here, but has been raised. Remember what he told you while he was still in Galilee, that the Human One must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words. When they returned from the tomb, they reported all these things to the eleven and all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the

mother of James, and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles. Their words struck the apostles as nonsense, and they didn't believe the women. But Peter ran to the tomb. When he bent over to look inside, he saw only the linen cloth. Then he returned home, wondering what had happened.

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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.**

OPENING SONG

"Morning Has Broken"

BUNESSAN



1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;
2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en,
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing,



black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird.
like the first dew - fall on the first grass.
born of the one light E - den saw play!



Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
Praise with e - la - tion; praise ev - ery morn - ing,



Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

A READING FROM THE POETS by Rev. M. Jade Kaiser, enfleshed

*Don't be fooled by the way we tell the story.
Resurrection is rarely a swift occurrence.
Just look to forest floors or the pages of history
and find the pace of sacred things.*

*Trust the hidden work of god
quietly moving beneath the fractured and fissured surface:
tending and holding.
pruning and clarifying.
undoing and recreating.*

*If all is still quiet,
take heart and remain.
There is so much courage in
hope that resists timelines
compressed by technology and profit.
There is so much power in
refusing to rush or be rushed
in righteous labors of reorienting and repair.*

*May divine unfoldings be granted all the space they need.
May the testimony of freshly budding things
strengthen and inspire us.
May the wisdom of generations
be our teachers, our anchors, our comfort.*

SILENT REFLECTION

Take some time to reflect on what Easter means to you as you wander in this space: feel the earth beneath you, watch the breeze create ripples on the water, notice birds and other creatures. What Good News might be “quietly moving beneath the fractured and fissured surface”?

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Jubilate Deo”
by Peter Anglea

One Accord

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

You are welcome to share signs of peace as you feel most comfortable. Or, if you prefer to remain in solo contemplation of God's peace filling you, please feel free to wander around the gathering.

SUNG RESPONSE

"Halle, Halle, Halle"

HALLE, HALLE



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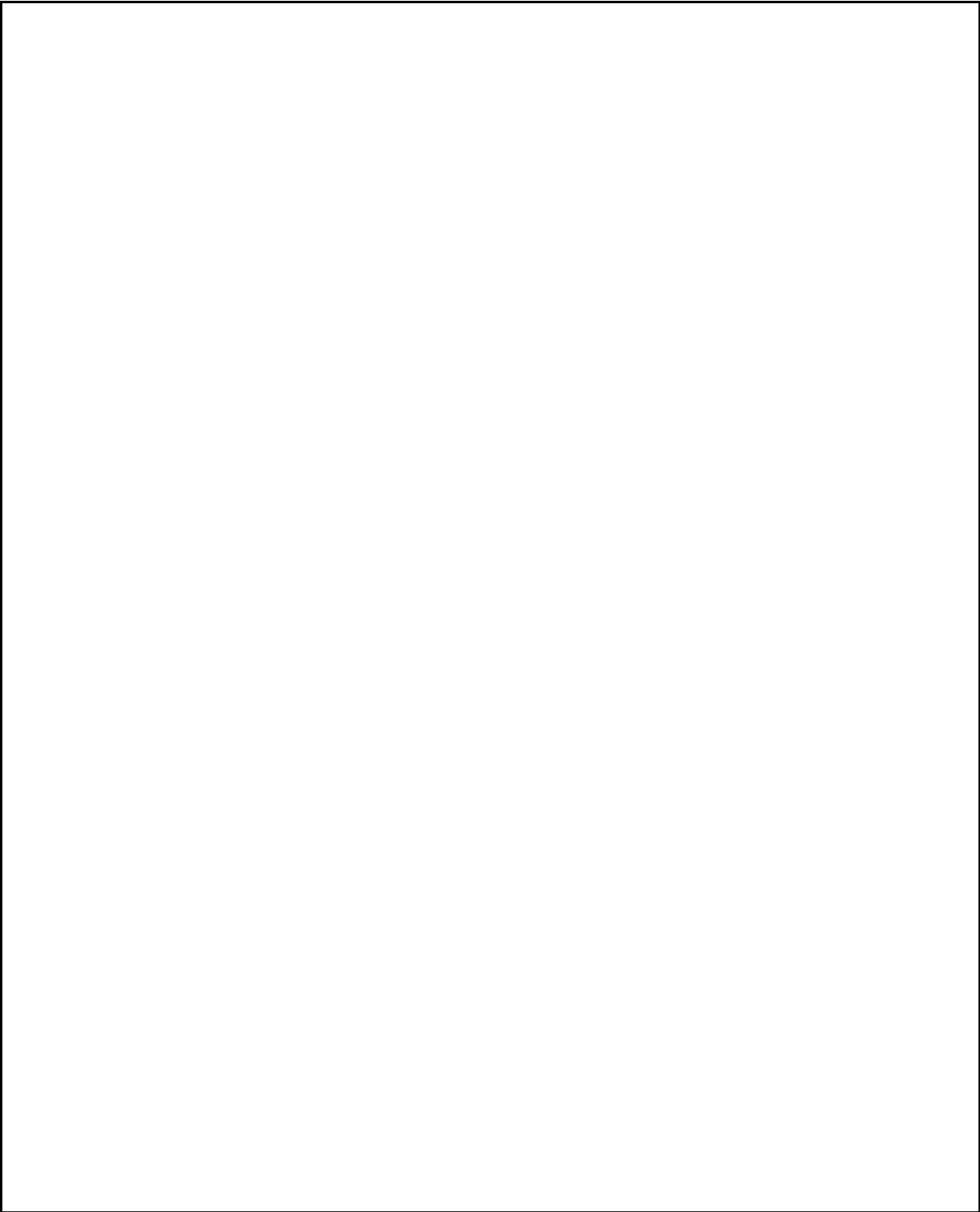
HALLE, HALLE
Irregular

BENEDICTION

Sharon Benton

Please continue your time of connection. This year there are no doughnuts and coffee. If you'd like to help prepare refreshments following next year's service, please let someone know. Easter blessings!

*Join us for our celebration service,
10:00 am at First Congregational UCC
2401 Cornwall Avenue*



happy
EASTER



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

Our pastor is available by appointment virtually or in person. Contact her by email or call the pastoral care line, 360-733-4255.

Sharon **sharon@fccb.net**

You can also email our Office Manager
Cydne at **office@fccb.net**
and she'll pass your message on.

*During Lent, all prayers are by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH United Church of Christ

An Open & Affirming Congregation

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Facebook: facebook.com/fccbucc

Office Hours:

9 am-5 pm, M, T, F & 1:00-5:00 pm W, Th

PASTOR: Sharon Benton, she/her

CHAPLAIN: Charlene Epp

CHURCH SCHOOL COORDINATOR:

Josh Marchand, they/them

ORGANIST: Judy Widrig, she/her

OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran, she/her

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE:

Kurt Aagard, he/him

BOOKKEEPER: Eric Bowen, he/him

INTERIM MUSIC COORDINATOR:

Dallas Geil, he/him (music@fccb.net)

WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR

Moxxy Rogers

MODERATOR: Diane Cooper-Schick, she/her

VICE MODERATOR: Jordan Sandoval

PAST MODERATOR: Scott Ward, he/him

CLERK: Janet Malley, she/her

TREASURER: Craig Jennings

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