# Resurrection Reactions: Thomas May 18, 2025





#### **Vision Statement:**

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

#### FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

May 18, 2025

10:00 am

I'm a follower of Christ who can't keep up.~ Bono

Belief is not feeling or understanding. Belief is choosing.~ Mandy Smith

Prelude Judy Widrig

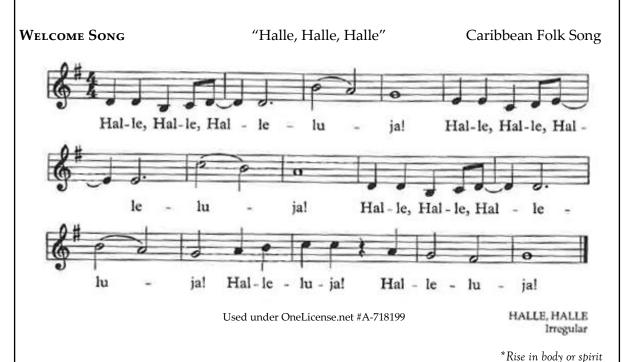
Welcome Sharon Benton

We love children in worship—their noises and wiggles are welcome, too. There are pillows and a coloring, book, and play area in the front and in the corner near the windows.

Younger kids may enjoy the Narthex play area. Their movements back and forth are a joy for us as they participate fully.

#### RINGING THE BELL

# WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY



THE STORY Sharon Benton

#### TIME WITH CHILDREN

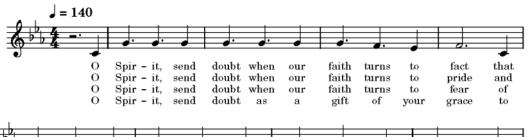
Mark Schofield

After Time with Children, children may go to church school in the social hall or remain in the sanctuary as they choose

\*Hymn

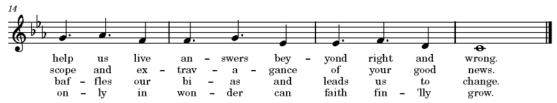
"O Spirit, Send Doubt"

Doubtless









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COMMUNITY PRAYER S. Benton Connie Buckley

One Voice: God of never-ending surprises,

you visit us in the locked rooms of our hearts

and breathe your breath of peace into our longing spaces.

All Voices: You find us in our fears and worries,

offering your presence in whatever ways each of us needs to recognize you're near.

One Voice: Too often we've been taught that doubt is a lack of faith,

yet you have given us the wisdom to seek out disparities and bias.

All Voices: Grant us the gift of questioning, Holy One,

when we need to understand more fully, when we want to connect more closely,

when we long for a knowing that is beyond our senses.

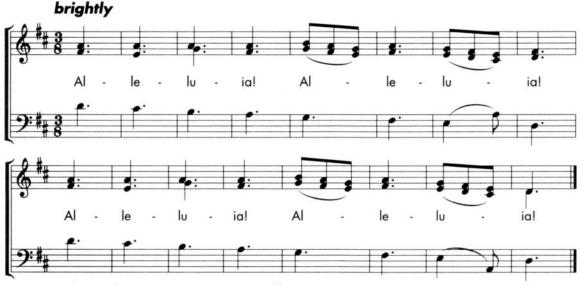
One Voice: Because this is a part of our faith, not diminishing of it.

Because you were compassionate toward Thomas, who showed us we may doubt and still be a disciple.

All Voices: Amen.

#### SUNG INVITATION TO PRAYER

#### "Alleluia"



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#### 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.

# We Are Growing Authentic Christian Faith.

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

John 20:24-28 Common English Bible Connie Buckley

A Reading from the Poets "Thomas Reflecting" Rudy Cortez by Iona Community Wild Goose Worship Group



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SERMON

"Resurrection Reactions: Thomas"

Sharon Benton

A GIFT OF MUSIC

"Prayer" by Willard Zilk Leigh Hjelmseth, flute Joy Brown, Piano

### WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

#### Announcements & Offering

You may make an offering either in the plates or online. Your generosity allows the work of this place nurture beloved community, grow authentic Christian faith, and live Christ-inspired action. Thank you! There are several 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 on the back cover of the bulletin.

Musical Offering Judy Widrig

Нүмм 256 (black hymnal)	"We Live by Faith and Not by Sight"	Dunlap's Creek
*Benediction & Passing the	E PEACE	Sharon Benton
Postlude		Judy Widrig

**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
Our Chaplain is also available at
chaplain@fccb.net.
Or you can 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

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

PASTOR: Sharon Benton, she/her
DIRECTORY OF COMMUNITY LIFE:
Scott Ward, he/him
CHAPLAIN: Charlene Epp, she/her
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, she/her

MODERATOR: Diane Cooper-Schick, she/her VICE MODERATOR: Jordan Sandoval PAST MODERATOR: Scott Ward, he/him CLERK: Janet Malley, she/her TREASURER: Craig Jennings OneLicense #A-718199, CCS #12615

