

# 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.



## 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

$\text{♩} = 140$

O Spir - it, send doubt when our faith turns to fact that  
O Spir - it, send doubt when our faith turns to pride and  
O Spir - it, send doubt when our faith turns to fear of  
O Spir - it, send doubt as a gift of your grace to

hard - en to doc - trines ob - scure and ab - stract. Come  
builds big - ger walls to keep oth - ers out - side. Come  
all that is for - eign, un - com - mon, or queer. Come  
top - ple the i - dols still shroud - ing your face. Come

10

teach us the wis - dom of sto - ry and song that  
teach us the wis - dom of let - ting you choose the  
teach us the wis - dom of all we find strange that  
teach us the wis - dom of all we yet know, for

14

help us live an - swers bey - yond right and wrong.  
scope and ex - trav - a - gance of your good news.  
baf - fles our bi - as and leads us to change.  
on - ly in won - der can faith fin - 'ly grow.

**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"

***brightly***

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Alto) and two parts (Tenor and Bass). It is in 3/8 time and the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia!' are written below the notes. The score is divided into two systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The piano accompaniment consists of simple chords and single notes.

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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/](http://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

Connie Buckley

*Common English Bible*

**A READING FROM THE POETS**

“Thomas Reflecting”

Rudy Cortez

by Iona Community Wild Goose Worship Group

**SCRIPTURE RESPONSE****"Hallelujah"**

Palestinian Traditional



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**SERMON****"Resurrection Reactions: Thomas"**

Sharon Benton

**A GIFT OF MUSIC****"Prayer"**  
by Willard ZilkLeigh 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

**HYMN 256** (black hymnal)

“We Live by Faith and Not by Sight”

DUNLAP’S CREEK

**\*BENEDICTION & PASSING THE 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**

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