

# Sacred Earth Sunday

## April 21, 2024



**SACRED EARTH SUNDAY**

April 21, 2024

10:00 am

*"Hope starts with honesty." -Greta Thunberg*

**PRELUDE**

Judy Widrig

**WELCOME**

Davi Weasley

*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 or in the Narthex.  
Their movements back and forth are a joy for us.*

**RINGING THE BELL**

*\*Rise in body or spirit*

**WELCOME SONG**

**"Be Not Afraid"**

Lucy Bledig

*Find a rhythm with an egg shaker!*

The musical score is written for a 4/4 time signature. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with a final measure containing a dotted half note. The lyrics are: "Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!". The melody is repeated twice, with the second instance ending with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

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Text: Taizé Community  
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994  
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**A READING FROM THE POETS**

**"Earthrise"**

Amanda Gorman

Used with permission from the Climate Reality Project

**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

KJ Hayes & Nancy Fayram

*Children may go with Josh to church school in the social hall  
or remain in the sanctuary as they choose.*

**\*HYMN 17** (black hymnal) **"To You, O God, All Creatures Sing"**  
verses 1-4

**LASST UNS ERFREUEN**

## WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

### A READING FROM THE POETS

### "We Are a Part"

Ted Huffman

*"We are a part of the earth and it is a part of us."* Si'ahl (1780-1866) also called Seattle

*Born under the tick, tick, tock  
Of the doomsday clock  
Hands climbing the stalk  
Two minutes to gawk*

*Hydrogen bombs tested  
Nuclear Armageddon forecasted  
Sirens blasted  
Children's desk dives mastered*

*Every place unsafe  
From fallout's chafe  
Food stocks for the waifs  
Will powdered milk be safe?*

*Seven decades later  
The danger yet greater  
The dictator debater  
Does not fear the Creator*

*Planet's temperature ignoring  
Flood waters pouring  
Wildfires roaring  
Crisis underscoring*

*No change in the law  
Bourgeois soaking in spas  
In place of the awe  
We hear blabla bla*

*Too late to recover  
Our mother they shove her  
Think they are above her  
More greed to discover*

*The money for one percent  
Content with their descent  
Ignoring the extent  
Injustice they could prevent*

*Our sons and our daughters  
Slide under the waters  
At the hands of marauders  
Blind to their slaughters*

*90 seconds remain  
To cry again and again  
Campaign to obtain  
Justice's domain*

*For tomorrow's position  
Accept this commission  
And learn to listen  
To voices of tradition's vision*

*For hundreds of years  
Our indigenous peers  
Taught pioneers on frontiers  
To live in new spheres*

*Si'ahl, Si'ahl, Si'ahl  
Reminded us all  
To hear earth's call  
Tragedy to forestall*

*We are part of it all  
What the earth will befall  
Casts a pall on y'all  
Si'ahl, Si'ahl, Si'ahl*

*With eyes wide open  
With words unspoken  
See all that is broken  
Our actions our token*

*Planet's drive to survive  
Contrives to jive this nosedive  
My hive of pollinators thrive  
And keep hope alive*

## SUNG PRAYER

"With Sighs Too Deep for Words"  
by Anne Krentz Organ. Used with permission.

Leader:



This is the sound of our Prayers And the Spirit in - ter - cedes for us

All:



with sighs, with sighs too deep for words. With sighs, with sighs too deep for words.

## 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**

Joshua 3:12-17

Janet Ott

*from the NRSVUE & The Inclusive Bible*

**SCRIPTURE RESPONSE**

Janet Ott

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.**

**SERMON**

“Dry Ground”

The Rev. Brooks Berndt

UCC Minister for Environmental Justice

**ANTHEM**

“This We Know”  
by Ron Jeffers

Chancel Choir

**WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.**

**A READING FROM THE POETS**

“Audacity”

Amelia Bacon

*God flicked the rock into space.*

*God gently caressed the new stone,*

*It was all that remained  
of the once lovely, lush  
little ball of energy and life,  
created so, so long ago.*

*a promising find amidst a myriad of stars.  
God whispered prayers of audacity,  
for hope gone wild, visions of new beginnings,  
and set it spinning.*

**CREATOR GOD,**  
who multiplies blessings,  
bless these symbols  
and the actions they represent  
as we join with you to heal and protect  
our planet from pollution and destruction.

**HELP US**  
to set aside the desire for material riches,  
opening our hearts to the myriad life forms  
around us and the rich beauty  
of this planet that we hold dear.

**GUIDE US**  
as we learn to make sustainable changes  
in our everyday lives.

**AND BLESS**  
the scientists, researchers, activists,  
and advocates for climate justice  
as they multiply the blessings we offer.

**WE PRAY**  
in awe  
of the life and the beauty  
on this planet that we call home.

**AMEN**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

Davi Weasley

*You may make an offering either in the plates at the door 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 below or on the back cover of the bulletin.*



## MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

Judy Widrig

**\*HYMN 556** (black hymnal) "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"

HOLY MANNA





## Bridge Conversations

Each **Wednesday** at **9:00 am** (Greene's Corner) and **7:00 pm** (Rm. 32 at church and on Zoom). Bridge 141 is the group holding space for our congregation to look to our past and future as a faith community, but it's the whole congregation—YOU!—who will listen to the Spirit and lead us in our restructuring endeavor. That means we need your perspectives, your experiences, and your prayers in order to make this truly congregation-led. Please join us as often as possible on Wednesday mornings or evenings.

For Wednesday we have two brief articles to read:

["No Longer Living in Christendom"](#)

and

["\(How\) Can We Attract Younger Adults and Families?"](#)

Future all church read articles/podcasts for Bridge Conversations will be found in the Friday Announcements emails and the Full Circle blog. If you'd like to be on a specific email list to receive links, please email [office@fcb.net](mailto:office@fcb.net) and let Cydne know.

## ROOM FOR YOUR REFLECTIONS

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

*Do you receive our Friday Announcements email? Contact [office@fccb.net](mailto:office@fccb.net) to sign up!*

*For more information, see our Connection Calendar in the Friday email*

*or contact [office@fccb.net](mailto:office@fccb.net).*

### Sunday

Hybrid worship in person, and on Facebook or on Zoom, our #BiggerBalcony, **10:00 am**  
Spirit "Exploring Prayer" Group, **April 28, after worship**, Fireplace Room

### Monday

Walking Group: weekly, **10:00 am**, Barkley Pond  
Church Council: **4th Mondays, 7:00 pm**, Zoom  
Poetry Group: **1st & 3rd Mondays 7:00 pm**, Zoom

### Tuesday

Book Club: **1st Tuesdays, 9:30 am**, Fireplace Room  
Pilgrim Circle: **2nd Tuesdays, 12:00 noon**, Narthex  
Green Team: **2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7:00 pm**, Mt. Baker Room

### Wednesday

Bridge 141 Conversation, **9:00 am**, Greene's Corner  
Glee Club: weekly, **5:00 pm**, Narthex  
Bridge 141 Conversation, **7:00 pm**, Room 32 and Zoom

### Thursday

Men's Breakfast Group, **1st Thursday, 9:00 am**, Country Club  
Grandparent Group: **2nd Thursdays, 10:30 am**, Fireplace Room  
Thursday Book Group: **2nd & 4th Thursdays, 5:00 pm**, Zoom  
20s/30s/40s/ Group, **5:30 pm, last Thursday** of the month, various locations  
20-Somethings Peer Philosophy Group: weekly, **7:00 pm**, Fireplace Room

### Friday

Game Night: **3rd Fridays, 6:00-9:00 pm**, Room 32

### Saturday

Centering Prayer Group: **Saturdays, 11:00 am**, Chapel

### Sunday

Chancel Choir: weekly, **8:30 am**, Sanctuary  
Children's Church School: weekly, **during worship**, Social Hall  
Handbells: weekly, **11:15 am**, Room 16

*To stay up to date, follow us on social media, subscribe to our Friday Email,  
or check in with our Full Circle Blog, <https://www.fccb.net/blog/>.*

**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.

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

*Office Hours: 10:00 am-4:30 pm*

**LEAD PASTOR: Sharon Benton, she/her**

**PASTOR: Davi Weasley, they/them**

**CHURCH SCHOOL COORDINATOR:**

**Josh Marchand, they/them**

**MINISTER OF MUSIC: Lucy Bledig, she/her**

**ORGANIST: Judy Widrig, she/her**

**OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran, she/her**

**CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE:**

**Kurt Aagard, he/him**

**BOOKKEEPER: Eric Bowen, he/him**

**WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR:**

**Georgia Drost, she/they**

**MODERATOR: Scott Ward, he/him**

**PAST MODERATOR: Mark Schofield**

**CLERK: Janet Malley, she/her**

**TREASURER: Craig Jennings**

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