

The First Congregational Church of Burlington United Church of Christ



*We claim as our mission the promotion of justice, human dignity and peace,
and participation in meeting the unfolding needs of God's people.
We bind ourselves to follow the leadings of God's spirit
as God reveals them to us.*

*Service of Installation
of the Rev. Elissa Catherine Johnk*

*February 8, 2020
2 o'clock p.m.*

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

JOINING THE MINISTRIES OF
THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BURLINGTON
AND
THE REV. ELISSA C. JOHNK

"The world will not be overcome by destruction but by reconciliation. Not ideals or programs, not conscience, duty or responsibility, or virtue, but only ... consummate love can meet and overcome reality."

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Prelude *Improvisation on "Simple Gifts"* David Neiweem

Introit *Come Sunday* *Duke Ellington*
Sanctuary Choir with A.J. Banach, *saxophone*

***Call to Worship** Kyendamina C. Mukeba
Founder and Executive Director, Vermont Ibutwa Initiative
First Church Member

Leader: We gather this day in celebration of God, and all God desires for us!

**People: We gather in celebration of Creation,
and all Creation needs from us.**

Leader: We gather in celebration of Relationship,

People: and all Relationship requires of us.

Leader: We gather this day to take up the mantle of the past.

People: We gather to claim our future, and be fully alive in the present.

Leader: We gather to worship the God who was, and is, and ever shall be—
world without end.

People: Alleluia!

Leader: Amen!

Anthem

Abide with Me
The Austin Handbell Choir

A. Bonde, arr.

Rite of Installation

Greeting

Rev. Sally May

Pastor, Mallet's Bay UCC

Moderator, Champlain Association of the VT Conference UCC

The Champlain Association of the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ greets you in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church in all God's Creating. As we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us remember our past, celebrate our present, and lean into our future as people of faith, running with perseverance the race that is set before us.

Congregation: May we look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, recognizing the cost and reaping the joy of discipleship.

Presentation

Rob Backus, *First Church President*

Danielle Rochford, *Member-in-Discernment at First Church,*
Vice-Moderator, Champlain Association of the VT Conference UCC

Exhortation

Service of Covenanting

Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak

Conference Minister, Vermont Conference UCC

Vows of Intent

Symbolizing the many ministries of First Church is the Executive Council—Past President, President, President Elect, as well as Chair of Deacons and Treasurer.

Of the Pastor

Of the Congregation

Local Church Vows

*Of the Pastor

I promise to serve this church faithfully, preaching and teaching the word of God, administering the sacraments, and fulfilling the pastoral office, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

***Of the Congregation**

We, the members of First Church, receive Elissa as our pastor and teacher, promising to labor with her in the ministry of the gospel and to give her due honor and support.

Association Vows

***Of the Association**

We, the members of The Champlain Association of the Vermont Conference UCC, gather with you, the people and the pastor and teacher of First Church as a sign of our covenant and in celebration of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

***Of the Congregation**

We gather with Elissa, with the United Church of Christ, and the wider Church, as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

Vows to the Wider Community

Sung Prayer of Installation *Veni Sancte Spiritus* Taizé
The Sanctuary Choir, featuring Doris Ogden, will begin singing the Veni Sancte Spiritus ("Come, Holy Spirit"), a chant from the Taizé Ecumenical Community in France. You are welcome to join as the refrain becomes familiar.

Prayer of Installation

Declaration

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Champlain Association of the Vermont Conference UCC I declare you duly installed as pastor and teacher of First Congregational Church of Burlington, United Church of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God!

Presentation of Symbols of Ministry

Search Committee

Charge from the Search Committee

Susan Ellwood
Chair, Search Committee

Anthem

Julian of Norwich
Youth Choir, Andy Barker and Simon Jorgenson, *guitars*
Emma Barker, *violin*

Sydney Carter

and open the prisons of those who are bound!

Leader: As we leave this place, may we go with the love of God,

People: who seeks peace in broken relationships,

Leader: healing in alienated persons,

People: and justice in oppressive structures.

Leader: People of God, the peace of God is with you!

People: And also with you!

***Closing Hymn**

For All the Saints, Vv. 1-4

NCH 299

***Benediction**

Rev. Elissa C. Johnk

Postlude

Come, Creator Spirit

Jean Titelouze

**Please rise as you are able, in body or in spirit*

Preaching today is the Rev. Martin B. Copenhaver. The Rev. Copenhaver is a Senior Fellow at Andover Newton Seminary at Yale, where he served as President before his retirement in June, 2019. Prior to that, for thirty-four years he served as a pastor of United Church of Christ congregations, including First Congregational Church, Burlington (1982-91). He is also the author of eight books. Martin and his wife, Karen, now live in Woodstock, Vermont. Their children, both of whom were born in Burlington, are married and living in the Boston area. Alanna, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, and her husband, Colin, have a son, Henry. Todd and his wife, Maggie, are expecting their first child any day now.

The Rev. Elissa Johnk was called to be the Lead Minister at First Church in January 2019. Before serving here she was the Senior Minister at The Old Meeting House in East Montpelier Center, and a Pastoral Resident at the Wellesley Village Church (UCC). Elissa brings a strong commitment to social justice, and feels acutely the need to address our increasing communal longing for deeper connections with God, the earth, and one another. She is a graduate of Harvard Divinity School and Wellesley College, and received a Fulbright Award to South Korea to teach English and study the rise of Christianity on the peninsula. She lives in Middlesex with her wife, Sarah, their daughter, Carolyn, their dogs, Lyle and Lola, and five chickens.

WELCOME VISITORS!

Welcome to First Congregational Church in Burlington. Our faith is over 2,000 years old, but our thinking is not! First Church opens its doors to the Greater Burlington area, to seekers, to tourists from near and far, to those in need, to an array of building users, and to a congregation (of members, friends, and family—both curious and the committed) who call our faith community their church home.

We celebrate the sacred worth of all persons as unique individuals made in the image of God. Whatever your age, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, or physical, cognitive or emotional ability, we invite you to find a safe and nurturing spiritual home with us. All are welcome to participate, fully and without reservation, in the life, leadership, ministry and mission of this church as we seek to grow together in a community of faith.

The First Congregational Church of Burlington is an Open & Affirming Church of the United Church of Christ. This means everyone – **everyone** – is welcome. Including YOU!

Staff Directory

Rev. Elissa Johnk, *Lead Minister*

In Search, *Director of Creative Ministries*

Caroline Catlin, *Office Manager*

Lucy Samara, *Communications Coor*

David Neiweem, *Director of Music*

Jennifer Coleman, *Bell Choir Director*

Ana Ruesink, *Youth Choir Director*

Laura Elder-Connors, *Children's Choir Director*

Hilah Clarke, *Faith Formation Director*

Elizabeth Emmett, *High School Ministries*

Becky Johnston, *Middle School Ministries*

Caroline Sheehan, *Elementary Ministries*

Caroline Catlin, *Early Childhood Ministries*

Derik Breen, *Building & Grounds Staff*

Brian Bing, *Security Staff*

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