# 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

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"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!

\*Processional Hymn God, You Have Set Us, Vv. 1-4 NCH 372

**Words of Welcome**Caroline Crawford *President Elect, First Church* 

Invocation Rev. Debbie Ingram

Executive Director, Vermont Interfaith Action Member, College Street Congregational Church, UCC

Anthem In the Beginning Was the Word Linnea Good
Children's Choir

**Scripture Reading** 2 Corinthians 1:16-22 Rev. Mark Hughes Founder, Justice for All

**Sermon** Yes! Rev. Martin Copenhaver

Song of Thanksgiving
One Voice
Ruth Moody
The Youth Choir is going to lead us, by singing verses 1-3.
When indicated, you are invited to stand, and join in the final two verses, printed below.
This is the sound of all of us,
singing with love and the will to trust,

Leave the rest behind it'll turn to dust This is the sound of all of us, this is the sound of all of us. (Bridge)

This is the sound of one voice, one people one voice,
A song for every one of us
This is the sound of one voice, this is the sound of one voice
This is the sound of one....voice.

**Reading** Prophets of a Future Not Our Own by Cardinal Dearden Executive Director, COTS

## 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

**Reading** Social Action, by Jack Riemer (adapted) Rabbi Amy Small Rabbi, Ohavi Zedek Synagogue

## Call to the Offering

Rev. Ken White

Pastor, College Street Congregational Church, UCC

During this time, you are invited to offer your monetary gifts. You may also use the yellow card in your pew to make an offering of a prayer or your time. Today's offering will go to support excellence in clergy formation and education, by supporting the scholar-ship fund of the Champlain Association of the United Church of Christ.

**Offertory** All Lands, All Peoples (based on Psalm 100) Austin C. Lovelace Sanctuary Choir, Paul Hobbs and A.J. Banach, trumpets

\*Doxology Stuttgart

All the wealth that we may gather
Is for use in causes just.
We are stewards of the bounty
Loaned to us in solemn trust. Amen.

### \*Prayer of Dedication

Reading

Wanda Hines

Director, Joint Urban Ministry Project

**Charge to the Congregat** Jarvis Grant on behalf of Rev. Rodney Patterson Founder, New Alpha Missionary Baptist Church

**Anthem** 

Yesu Aniona/Jesus Sees Me Sarah Kariuki Youth Choir, featuring Kipene Tabu

Andy Barker & Simon Jorgenson, guitars, Zach Kelly, djembe

## \*Bidding to Mission

Lincoln Safran

Leader: The Spirit of God is upon us. First Church Youth

People: God has anointed us to bear good news to the afflicted,

Leader: To bind up the broken hearted,

People: To proclaim freedom to the captives

#### 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

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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.

<sup>\*</sup>Please rise as you are able, in body or in spirit

#### 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
tor Brian Bing, Security Staff