



April 18, 2021
10:00 a.m.
Third Sunday of Easter

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Be Now My Vision
Dr. David Neiweem

arr. Dale Wood

CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION (Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer/wsj)

The Bushey Family

May we awaken to the presence of God,

All: here in this ordinary place.

May we awaken to the power of love,

All: here with other ordinary people.

May we build a neighbourhood of justice for all,

All: now in this ordinary time.

May we daily work to build a world at peace,

All: now with these ordinary hands.

Let us pray:

God of love and light,

we come as heirs to those who witnessed your glory and faithfulness, all those years ago,

amazed to discover your transformative love.

And so, too, we desire for you to abide within us,

and for your grace to be revealed anew daily.

Be with us

and awaken within us the call to love one another,

in the way it was made real through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME AND LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Hannah Sachs

* OPENING HYMN

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

PH 195 Vv1, 2, 4

TIME OF UNBURDENING

The Rev. Elissa Johnk

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

READING

Luke 24:36b-48

Karen Bushey

SPECIAL MUSIC

Now the Green Blade Rises
First Church Choir

SERMON

The Rev. Elissa Johnk

*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING *Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day*

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

ORDER FOR THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS
AND RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM

Joining today are
Caroline Catlin, the Rev. Bill and Jill Crawford, Nolwenn Madden,
Theresa Mazza, and the Rev. Bill and Faith Neil.

INTRODUCTION

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM

QUESTION OF THE CANDIDATE

QUESTION OF THE CONGREGATION

Do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament promise your love, support and care to Caroline as she lives and grow in Christ?

Unison: We, as the church, promise our love, support and care

Prayer of Baptism

Prayer of Blessing

Pastor: God of our fathers and mothers, and our God, we thank you for this, your child, and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the spirit.

Deacon: Grant us grace to receive, nurture and befriend this new member of the body of Christ.

Pastor: May they be filled with joy; may they never be ashamed to confess a personal faith in you.

Deacon: Give to them strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom to love, and the hope of new life, through Jesus Christ, who makes us one.

All: Amen.

FINAL QUESTION OF THE CANDIDATES

QUESTIONS OF THE CONGREGATION

Before you stand God's people, God's gift to you, as you are to them. Will you welcome them with open hearts? Will you confirm the promises made to them at the time of baptism, offering them the love and support of the Christian church? And will you welcome the new challenges, questions, gifts and insights they bring, as together we grow in faith?

We will, with the help of God.

WELCOME AND RECEPTION

Deacon: Let us, the members and friends of the First Congregational Church of Burlington, United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ. Since with them we are changed in body, we reunite ourselves by reciting our church's historic covenant together:

(UNISON) We covenant with the Lord and with one another to respond to God's call that we be people of God in the name of Jesus Christ. We take this to be our Church, promising to walk with our fellow members in faithfulness and Christian love. We accept as our responsibility the worship of God, the fellowship of this community, and the witness of our church. 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.

Deacon: On behalf of this congregation, we will be pleased to extend to you certificates of baptism and of membership.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

SPECIAL MUSIC

Lift Every Voice and Sing
Emma Barker and Ana Ruesink, strings

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SILENT PRAYER, THE LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

Our Father, 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. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

You are invited to use this time to make your gifts electronically.

Give online: <https://onrealm.org/FirstChurchBurlington/-/give/now>

Text FCCBUCC to 73256 to give a gift to FCCB using your text messaging. Standard text message rates apply. You can also write a check and mail it to 38 S. Winooski, Burlington, VT 05401.

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

BIDDING TO MISSION AND SENDING FORTH

*CLOSING HYMN

The Strife is O'er

NCH 242

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God
Dr. David Neiweem, organ

arr. J. Sweelinck

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

JOINING TODAY:

Caroline Catlin: I'm originally from Houston, Texas and will be celebrating two years of living in Vermont come June. I graduated from St. Lawrence University in 2018, double majoring in Communications and Psychology. I'm the Office Manager for First Church, and when we have in person Sunday School you can find me running the nursery/preschool. When not at First Church, you can usually find me hanging out with my partner Will, and our cat Lilibet, eating yummy food, or trying to learn a new skill (I learned to ride a bicycle just last summer!). I'm so grateful to have found this community and am excited to continue getting to know members.

Rev. Bill Crawford: I grew up in Yonkers, New York until age 16, moving north to the town of Poughkeepsie in 1955. Our family was active in Baptist churches in Yonkers and Beacon, NY. Christian faith was central to my experience. I attended Wheaton College in Illinois, majoring in Bible and upon graduation, went on to Gordon Divinity. In the summer of 1961, I worked for a youth serving agency in East Harlem. Subsequent experience there in 1963 and 1964-67 was a conversion to a different engagement with the world which has informed my life and perspective to this day. I went on to serve as a pastor for 28 years in full-time capacity and 10 years as an interim pastor. When life has afforded me the opportunity, I have been passionate about my golf game. I enjoyed raising our biological children through the 1970's and 80's and Melissa our adopted daughter in the 90's and 2000's. I am passionate about peace, justice, and equality of opportunity.

Jill Crawford: I am a wife, mother to a daughter in Vermont, a son in Massachusetts and a daughter in Georgia (sadly, no grandchildren). I am a retired Neurodevelopmental Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. I enjoy gardening, cooking, sewing, knitting, reading, and friends. We moved from Naples, Florida to Milton in December, but had been worshipping with First Church virtually for months before that. I am eagerly anticipating in-person worship and the opportunity to make new friends.

Nolwenn Madden: I am originally from France and have lived in the US for nine years. I am the co-Executive Director of International Academic Competitions, an organization that runs academic competitions for elementary and secondary school students in over thirty countries, which I oversee with my husband, David. We fell in love with Burlington, Lake Champlain and the beautiful Vermont winters and moved here two years ago. In my spare time, I like playing the cello and the ukulele, traveling, baking, and skiing.

Theresa Mazza: I've lived in VT all my life, growing up in Colchester. I have 2 grown children, Rogelio and Gabriela. I'm a Spanish teacher and administrator. I love to be outdoors in the summer walking, biking, hiking, kayaking, and hanging at the beach. Although a long-time VT-er, I have just barely learned to appreciate winter! I am excited to become a member of this church and look forward to meeting more members of the congregation and getting involved.

Rev. Bill Neil: I am a recently retired pastor; thirty years United Methodist and fifteen years UCC. My wife Faith and I just recently moved to Burlington from western Massachusetts. I am a parent (4) and step-parent (3) and have lots of grandchildren and step grandchildren and step great-grandchildren! My interests involve reading and films. I'm glad to be back in Vermont!

Faith Neil: I am a native Vermonter and grew up in Middlebury. I am mother of 3, step-mom of 4, and I have numerous grandkids. I ran a day care for 12 years and was a CNA at Porter Hospital for 3 years. I was a Chairside Dental Assistant for 29 years. I am retired now, but a caregiver always.