

*Welcoming All.  
Seeking Justice.  
Finding God.*

38 South Winooski Avenue  
Burlington, Vermont



*An Open and Affirming  
Congregation of the*

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



firstchurchburlington.org

**November 14, 2021**

**10 a.m.**

*Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost*

**PRELUDE**

*Concerto in D Minor, BWV 974 - 2. Adagio*  
Cameron Brownell, organ

Bach/Marcello

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

The Rev. Elissa Johnk

**CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION**

One: Can you imagine unfettered love? Free and bold, wild and true, the kind of love that changes you? [...] A world where news stories are testimonies and funerals are far between?  
Can you imagine?

**All: Yes, we can imagine!**

One: Today in worship, dare to dream. Dare to imagine what could be. And pay attention, for God is here, in wandering thoughts, hopes, and prayers.

**All: Let us worship holy God, that great unfettered love!**

One: Let it be so, and let us pray:

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*O How Glorious, Full of Wonder*

#558 NCH

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Mark 13: 1-8

**TIME OF UNBURDENING**

One: God of Grace, You invite us to dream of a better world,

**All: But instead we bury our heads in the sand.**

**We are afraid to recognize how much must change.**

**We are afraid, because if we know the truth, then don't we have a job to do?**

One: So instead, more often than not, we maintain the status quo.

**All: We passively allow things to stay the same.**

One: We don't speak out; we don't imagine a new day.

**All: We don't dream of a world without racism, sexism, bigotry, or shame.**

One: Instead we allow ourselves to believe that some things will never change.

**All: Forgive us. Show us the way. Teach us to dream.**

One: Teach us to imagine again.

**All: Humbly we pray. Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**WORD OF GOD FOR (SM)ALL AGES**

Hilah Clarke

**SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING**

*We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky*

#563 NCH

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Remote worshipers are invited to submit prayer requests via YouTube chat –  
prayer requests received prior to the sermon will be shared during "Prayers of the People."*

**SILENT PRAYER • LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.

STEWARDSHIP WITNESS

Sara Wilcoxson

Buildings & Grounds

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*For the Beauty of the Earth*  
Austin Chimers Handbell Choir

J.D. Frizzell

*During this time you are invited to offer your monetary gifts.*

*You can give online using this link*

*which is also under the video title on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/fccbonlinegiving>*

*or by texting FCCBUCC to 73256*

*or mail a check payable to:*

*First Congregational Church at 38 South Winooski Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401*

\*DOXOLOGY

#780 NCH

*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

**Today, for every person who cannot afford to give to you, God, and put food on the table, we offer our gifts. We pray that you would use them for your good.**

**Right what is wrong. Balance the systems of injustice. Use these gifts to build the world that we can only imagine, but you can bring forth.**

**In hope we pray, Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN

*Take My Gifts*

#562 NCH

\*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Invention in C Major, BWV 772*

Bach

*Those who are observing physical distancing are encouraged to leave immediately following the benediction. Those who are not are encouraged to stay for a portion of the postlude to facilitate their departure.*

*\*Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit.*

### NOTES ON TODAY'S SERVICE

Many thanks to our lay readers and musicians this morning including Cameron Brownell, the Austin Chimers Handbell Choir, Doris and Jeff Ogden, and Sara Wilcoxson.

**FELLOWSHIP ON ZOOM:** All worshipping remotely are invited to a virtual time in fellowship – on Zoom – follows worship. The link is in the YouTube description for this morning's live-stream and on the front page of the First Church website: [www.firstchurchburlington.org](http://www.firstchurchburlington.org)

### 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*

Caroline Catlin, *Office & Nursery Administrator*

Lucy Samara, *Communications Coordinator*

Max Johnson, *A/V Coordinator*

Jennifer Coleman, *Bell Choir Director*

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

Derik Breen, *Building & Grounds Staff*

Hannah Sachs, *Director of Creative Ministries  
and Youth Ministries*

Hilah Clarke, *Faith Formation Director*

Ana Ruesink, *Youth Choir Director*

Ann Vivian, *Fall Music Coordinator*

Ian Rock-Jones, *Security Staff*

Baki Nelson and Paul Hobbs, *Ushers* • Bob Wolf, Linda Elrick, and Caroline Crawford,  
*Welcomers* • Lou Daniel (Danielle) Rochford, *Digital Usher*

Many thanks to all our lay musicians who are helping out while are in search for our new  
Music Director!

 [www.firstchurchburlington.org](http://www.firstchurchburlington.org)  [info@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:info@firstchurchburlington.org)  802.862.5010

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