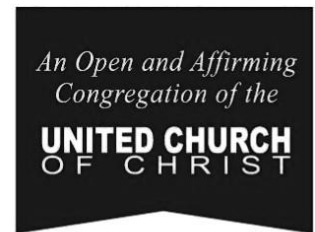




38 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont



firstchurchburlington.org

December 26, 2021

10 a.m.

First Sunday after Christmas

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

The Rev. Elissa Johnk

***CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION**

One: Here on the first Sunday of Christmas

All: We speak of love.

One: We speak of joy.

All: We speak of candlelight and fireside.

One: We speak of being welcomed home, here in God's house.

All: We speak of "glorias" and angel choruses.

One: We speak of sanctuaries created and found.

All: Here on the heels of Christmas,

We are called to speak, for the world needs a light.

One: A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

All: Let us worship and listen. Then, let us speak. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

#131 NCH

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."

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

HEBREW BIBLE READING

Numbers 6:22-27

TIME OF UNBURDENING

One: We could offer welcome,

All: but we often choose judgment.

One: We could choose action,

All: but we often choose silence.

One: We could choose advocacy,

All: but we often choose comfort.

One: We could choose truth,

All: but we often choose ignorance.

One: We could choose God,

All: but we often choose ourselves.

One: Forgive us, gracious God, for the moments when we chose poorly.

All: Open our hearts to choose you, to choose community, to choose love.

Gratefully we pray, Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

WORD OF GOD

***HYMN OF THANKSGIVING**

What Child is This

#148 NCH

READING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please remember our congregation includes those who are worshipping digitally, and share concerns appropriately – with permission and using first names only.

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.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

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**

Please Note Special Christmas Lyrics

To God, all glorious heavenly light; to Christ revealed in earthly night,

To God the Spirit now we raise, our joyful songs of thankful praise.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***CLOSING HYMN**

In the Bleak Midwinter

#128, Vv. 1-2, 4 NCH

***BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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.*

FELLOWSHIP ON ZOOM: All worshipping remotely are invited to a virtual time in fellowship – on Zoom – following 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

NOTES ON TODAY'S SERVICE

Special thanks to the Elder-Connors family for sharing their musical gifts this morning!

Portions of today's liturgy come from the Sanctified Art Collective.

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, *Usher* • Jennifer Jorgenson, Bob Wolf, and
Linda Elrick, *Welcomers* • Lou Daniel Rochford, *Digital Usher*

Many thanks to all our musicians who are helping out while we wait for our new Music Director, Amy Shortt to arrive in mid-February!

 www.firstchurchburlington.org  info@firstchurchburlington.org  802.862.5010

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