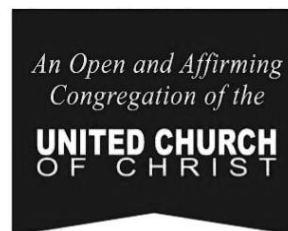




38 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont



firstchurchburlington.org

April 24, 2022
Second Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* arr. Greer

WORDS OF WELCOME Susan Saunders

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.”

INTROIT *What Does the Lord Require of You?*
Sanctuary Choir

***CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION** Bob Wolf

One: Awake, people of God, to receive the Lord’s messenger;
Be reminded of our covenant with the Living God.

**All: God has done great things for us;
We are called to be partners in the Gospel of Jesus the Christ.**

One: Messengers of God remind of promises made
And of good work, not yet completed.

**All: We are refined in the fires of God’s love
and purified to carry forward God’s intent.**

One: God will lead us in all time and places.
God is with us here to bless and confront.

All: You are not here.

One: “Why do you look for the living amongst the dead? He is not here,
but has risen.”

**All: We dedicate this hour of worship to God’s glory,
opening ourselves to true encounter with the Eternal.**

***OPENING HYMN** *Jesus Calls Us o’er the Tumult* #172 NCH

READING & SCRIPTURE Gunilla Norris - Simple Ways
Toward the Sacred:
Meditation on “Receiving Our Opportunities”
Micah 6:8

TIME OF UNBURDENING Louise Brewster

UNISON PRAYER:

You have been patient with us, loving God, for we have blended in with our surroundings and denied your claim on us. We revel in the things we have made for ourselves, forgetting that you have supplied the resources and granted the ability to create. We have failed to embrace your way of love and have become prisoners of our own self-seeking ways. Forgive us, O God, that we may partake of your grace and manifest the fruits of following in Your ways.

SILENT PRAYERS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM	<i>Come to the Water</i>	arr. Foley
WORD OF GOD FOR (SM)ALL AGES	"The Sneetches" by Theodor Geisel	Hilah Clarke
GOSPEL READINGS	Matthew 25:34-40, 13:1-9	Paul Hobbs
SERMON	Planting Seeds of Love	Tony Hall
*HYMN	<i>Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant</i>	#539 NCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Amy Mellencamp

This week's "Celebrations & Prayer's" list is available for you on the front page of our website – and among the links under the title of the YouTube live stream throughout this morning's live stream of the worship service

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING Dianne Griffiths

You are invited to offer your monetary gifts online using this link: <https://bit.ly/fcchonlinegiving> (also under the video title on YouTube) or by texting FCCBUCC to 73256 - or mail a check payable to: First Congregational Church at 38 South Winooski Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401

OFFERTORY *Little Things with Great Love* arr. Wardell

***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**

***CLOSING HYMN** *In Christ There is No East or West* #394 NCH

READING The Journey by Mary Oliver Carol Hauke

***BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION** Linda Elrick

POSTLUDE *This Joyful Eastertide* arr. Haulus

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

Virtual Fellowship: Worship is followed by Fellowship outside at First Church – and remotely on **ZOOM** - the link is: <https://bit.ly/sundayfellowship> OR- Phone in: 1-301-715-8592. When prompted, enter 591-074-317#

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!

The flowers this morning are in honor of and with gratitude for the presence of Amy Shortt in our church life.

Staff Directory

Rev. Elissa Johnk, *Lead Minister*

Hannah Sachs, *Director of Creative Ministries and Youth Ministries, on parental leave*

Amy Shortt, *Director of Music*

Caroline Catlin, *Office & Nursery Administrator*

Hilah Clarke, *Faith Formation Director*

Lucy Samara, *Communications Coordinator*

Max Johnson, *A/V Coordinator*

Jennifer Coleman, *Bell Choir Director*

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

Ian Rock-Jones, *Security Staff*

Derik Breen, *Building & Grounds Staff*

Paul Hobbs, *Head Usher*

Jennifer Jorgenson & Amy Mellencamp, *Welcomers*

Eric Davis, *Digital Usher*

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