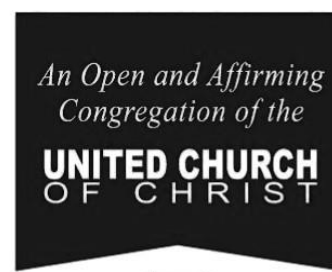




38 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont




firstchurchburlington.org

May 8, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE

This Land is Your Land

Simon Jorgenson, guitar

*Please see below for information on this American classic,
and the spirit with which we offer it this morning in worship.*

WORDS OF WELCOME

The Rev. Elissa Johnk

*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."*

CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION

Ann Vivian, Cyndy Hall, Dawn Plante

Nebi, by Cheryl Savageau

*We breathe
the traveling clouds
and drink what falls
glistening from cliffs
and into whirlpool
basins carved in granite
on its way back to sky*

*swamp me
bog me
trout and salmon me
frog and dragonfly me
loon and otter me*

*water me
glisten me
carve and
whirlpool me
cascade me
white water me
sing me babble me
pool me pond me
swamp me
bog me
trout and salmon me*

*breathe me
the humid sky
while leaves
gather pools
of summer air*

*Nebi, We say
wligonebi
the water is good*

***OPENING HYMN**

Here I Am, Lord

TIME OF UNBURDENING

The Rev. Dr. Claire Bamberg

One: Great Spirit, [...] curiosity, and grace.

All: **When we are more certain of what we think we know than curious, turn us towards humble curiosity. When we are present as another learns, grant us humility and grace. When we discover distortions in what we have been taught, what we have held as true, save us from debilitating shame and resistance to learning the new thing for fear of being seen as "wrong." Grant us eyes, ears, and hearts open to learning - every day of our lives - to walk more nearly and dearly in the ways of Jesus - to whom there was no "other". Help us to see one another as sojourners towards a common goal - to be present to one another as your children, in his name, we pray. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

READING

*"On Children", from The Prophet
by Kahlil Gibran*

Doug Viehmann

WORD OF GOD FOR (SM)ALL AGES

Hilah Clarke

Church School for Grades K thru 5 starts following the Word of God for (Sm)All Ages this morning– the virtual option is available on Zoom: <https://bit.ly/zoomchurchschool>

ANTHEM

The 23rd Psalm
arranged by Bobby McFerrin in honor of his mother and the sacred feminine

Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 6:8

SERMON

*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

This Is My Song

#591 NCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*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.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Amazing Grace
Jane Kittredge, violin

arr. Matt Riley

CALL TO THE OFFERING

The Rev. Bill Neil

OFFERTORY

Antiphon
The Austin Handbell Choir
*You are invited to offer your monetary gifts
online using this link: <https://bit.ly/fccbonlinegiving>
(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*

arr. Hal Hopson

*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.*

#780 NCH

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN

Many and Great

#3 NCH

*BIDDING TO MISSION

“Conflict Resolution” by Joy Harjo

Rob Backus

*Ms. Harjo is the Poet Laureate of the United States. She was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and is a member of the
Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The Muscogee originally lived in the southeastern part of what is now the United States. In
the 1830s they were forcibly relocated to Oklahoma. Many died on the Trail of Tears.*

One: Recognize whose lands these are on which we stand.

All: Ask the deer, turtle, and the crane.

One: Make sure the spirits of these lands are respected and treated with goodwill.

All: The land is a being who remembers everything.

One: You will have to answer to your children, and their children, and theirs—

**All: The red shimmer of remembering will compel you up the night to walk the perimeter of
truth for understanding.**

One: As I brushed my hair over the hotel sink to get ready I heard:

All: By listening we will understand who we are in this holy realm of words.

One: Do not parade, pleased with yourself.

All: You must speak in the language of justice.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

arr. R. A. Nichols

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

Virtual Fellowship follows worship on **ZOOM** - the link is: <https://bit.ly/sundayfellowship> OR- Phone in: 1-301-715-8592. When prompted, enter 591-074-317#

Vision Gathering at 11:15am today via YouTube Live Stream: Virtual fellowship will be brief today due to the 11:15 Vision Process gathering hosted by our Vision Team.

- The live stream of the Vision Gathering will be available by 11:15 at:
www.youtube.com/FirstChurchBTV - don't see it? Refresh your browser with a click – or – close YouTube and then reopen it.
- Learn more about our Vision Process
here: <https://firstchurchburlington.usmblogs.com/2020/03/19/the-vision-process-at-first-church/>

This Land is Your Land was originally written by Woody Guthrie as a response to *God Bless America*, which he considered blindly patriotic, and out of touch with the real suffering of many Americans. The original contained verses like this one:

*There was a big high wall there that tried to stop me.
The sign was painted, said 'Private Property.'
But on the backside, it didn't say nothing.
This land was made for you and me.*

The song was popularized by Pete Seeger, who was very aware of how his Indigenous followers would hear it, and often included a verse written by a Native friend that addressed this very fact:

*This Land is your land, but it once was my land,
Until we sold you Manhattan Island.
You pushed our Nations to the Reservations;
This land was stolen by you from me.*

As we use it to call ourselves into worship this day, we ask that it help us be aware of the hard parts of American history, and committed, like Guthrie, to making it better.

We do this *together*. You see, one of Guthrie's greatest challenges in this song is the verse he wrote about churches: *One bright sunny morning in the shadow of the steeple/ by the relief office I saw my people. As they stood hungry, I stood there wondering /if God blessed America just for me.*

For Further Study: History and Contemporary Activities of Indigenous Peoples in N'Dakinna (*Regional indigenous homeland: VT, NH, parts of MA., NY, ME, Quebec*)

The Brattleboro Historical Society article on the history of Vermont's indigenous peoples: <https://abenaki-edu.org/historic-society-explains-erasure-myth/>

The Abenaki Arts & Education Center: <http://abenaki-edu.org/> Resources for education and sharing Abenaki history and cultural resources.

The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum: Abenaki Heritage Weekend, June 18-19, 2022: <https://www.lcmm.org/event/>

The Vermont Indigenous Heritage Center and Alnôbaiwi: Focusing on indigenous culture and heritage - inter-tribal indigenous citizens, friends, and allies are coming together to participate in living history, culture, fellowship, and ceremony. Both organizations are in partnership with Ethan Allen Homestead and Winooski Valley Park District. <http://alnobaiwi.org/>



*Aerial View of N'dakinna
by Amy Hook Therrien*

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I Am, Lord

Leader or All

G Am D G C G D

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

G Em C Am7 D G

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est

Am D G C G D

made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

G Em C Am7 C/G D D7

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

All G C G D G C G D G

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you

Am7 G Am7 D G C G C

call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you

G C G D G Am7 D7 G Am7 G

lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

The stanzas here need to be understood as representing the voice of God, while the refrain (based on Isaiah 6:8) is the faithful human response to God's call. This becomes clearer if a leader or small group sings the stanzas, with the congregation joining on the refrain.

TEXT: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981, alt.
 MUSIC: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981; harm. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011
 Text and Music © 1981, 2000 OCP

HERE I AM (Schutte)
 7.7.7.4.D with refrain

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*

Amy Shortt, *Director of Music*

Caroline Catlin, *Office & Nursery Administrator*

Lucy Samara, *Communications Coordinator*

Jennifer Coleman, *Bell Choir Director*

Ian Rock-Jones, *Security Staff*

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

Hilah Clarke, *Faith Formation Director*

Max Johnson, *A/V Coordinator*

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

Derik Breen, *Building & Grounds Staff*

Paul Hobbs, *Head Usher*

Donal Dugan & Sara Wilcoxson, *Welcomers*

Eric Davis, *Digital Usher*

 www.firstchurchburlington.org  info@firstchurchburlington.org  802.862.5010

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