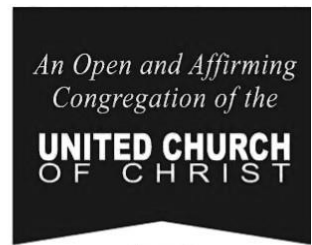




38 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont



firstchurchburlington.org

July 31, 2022
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

*My vocation (to use the poet's term) is the spiritual life,
the quest for God, which relies on the eye of the heart.
My avocation is education, the quest for knowledge, which relies on the eye of the mind.
I have seen life through both these eyes as long as I can remember –
but the two images have not always coincided...
I have been forced to find ways for my eyes to work together,
to find a common focus for my spirit-seeking heart and my
knowledge-seeking mind that embraces reality in all its amazing dimensions.*

*Parker Palmer in A Hidden Wholeness:
The Journey Toward an Undivided Life*

A NOTE FROM JOAN: This morning we have a special opportunity to engage our voices in responding to questions about our faith/spiritual journey such as "Who is someone who has guided your faith journey? How did they do that?", "Describe a defining moment of your faith journey - what made it important?", or "How has the church/faith community guided and supported you?"

There will be an invitation during worship to share a grief response to one of these questions. For those who are worshipping virtually, you may enter your response in the YouTube chat, and as time allows, your words will be shared during the worship service.



PRELUDE *Fugue in c minor BWV 847* J.S. Bach

WORDS OF WELCOME The Rev. Joan Newton O’Gorman
*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**

Faith for the Journey by Rev. Jennifer Sacks

One: Today, we affirm the Power and Presence of God, Divine Creator who created us in love and continues to love us into being.

All: Today, we open ourselves more fully to experience this awesome Power and Presence in our lives,

One: as we listen to the still, small voice within us, as we hear the whisper of assurance, as we know the clarity of discernment,

**All: as we feel the guidance of faith,
as we allow ourselves to follow the divine direction which guides us continually on the journey which is our lives.**

One: Today, we consider what is ours to do, what tugs on our heartstrings, what inspires us, what uplifts us, and what nourishes us, so we can follow the way of Spirit, the way which is truly ours, to inspire, uplift, and nourish others, too.

All: For the wisdom, strength, and courage, to see our journey through, we are truly grateful. And for this, and so much more we give thanks to God.

***OPENING HYMN** *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* #4 Vv 1,2 NCH
Amazing Grace #547 Vv 1,2 NCH

TIME FOR UNBURDENING *Rosemary Bray McNatt, adapted*

In this moment of worship we call to mind those times of failure and regret common to all of us. We remember first, in silence, those times when we have failed to do all that we meant to do, or through our actions failed to be all we were meant to be. (Silence)

We now recall our moments of integrity, those times we have lived into our deepest values, and acted as the human beings we always dreamed of being. (Silence)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

WORD OF GOD FOR SM(ALL) AGES

Hilah Clarke

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 107: 1-9, 43

MESSAGE

Faith Journeys – The Stories That Shape Our Lives

***HYMN OF THANKSGIVING**

Jesus Loves Me

#327 Vv 1,2 NCH

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

#351 Vv 1,4 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.

CALL TO THE OFFERING & OFFERTORY

*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*

***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**

Abide with Me

#99 Vv 1, 2 NCH

Great is Your Faithfulness

#423 Vv 1,2 NCH

***BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Postludio

Georg Philipp Telemann

**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](https://bit.ly/sundayfellowship) - the link is: <https://bit.ly/sundayfellowship>

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. Joan O’Gorman, *Parental Leave Pastor*
Rev. Elissa Johnk, *Lead Minister, on parental leave*
Caroline Catlin, *Office & Nursery Administrator*
Lucy Samara, *Communications Coordinator*
Jennifer Coleman, *Bell Choir Director*
Laura Elder-Connors, *Children’s Choir Director*
Derik Breen, *Building & Grounds*

Hannah Sachs, *Director of Creative Ministries and Youth Ministries*
Amy Shortt, *Director of Music*
Hilah Clarke, *Faith Formation Director*
Max Johnson, *A/V Coordinator*
Ian Rock-Jones, *Security Staff*

Paul Hobbs, *Head Usher*
Sara Wilcoxson & Bob Wolf, *Welcomers*
Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher*

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