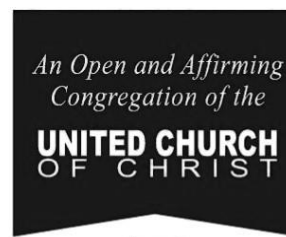




38 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont



firstchurchburlington.org

August 28, 2022

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

*Have compassion for everyone you meet,
Even if they don't want it. What seems conceit,
Bad manners, or cynicism is always a sign
Of things no ears have heard, no eyes have seen.
You do not know what wars are going on
Down there where the spirit meets the bone.*

- Compassion by Miller Williams

PRELUDE

When I Can Read My Title Clear

Scottish Melody

*Remote worshipers are invited to greet the congregation
by writing your name in the YouTube chat.*

*Please also submit any prayer requests via the YouTube chat –
prayer requests received prior to the sermon will be shared during "Prayers of the People."*

WORDS OF WELCOME

The Rev. Joan Newton O’Gorman

***CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION**

One: Welcome to First Congregational Church in Burlington, Vermont

All: Welcome to new visitors and to old friends.

One: Welcome to grandparents, mothers, fathers, and children. Welcome to old and young.

All: Welcome to single, partnered, married, widowed, and divorced people.

One: Welcome to people of all colors, languages, cultures, nationalities, sexual orientations, and gender expressions.

All: Welcome to people across the full spectrum of abilities, financial circumstances, and mental and physical health.

One: Welcome to seekers and searchers, believers and questioners, and welcome to questioning believers.

All: In our brokenness and in our healing, in our sorrow and in our joy we are welcome here just the way we are! Together we gather to know and live God’s unconditional love, justice and peace.

***OPENING HYMN**

Come Let Us Join

#383 NCH

GATHERING PRAYER by Thomas Merton, *Thoughts in Solitude*

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 14: 1;7 7-14

MESSAGE

Extravagant Welcome

***HYMN OF THANKSGIVING**

We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

#563 NCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

This week's "Celebrations & Prayer's" list is available for you on the front page of our website – <https://firstchurchburlington.org/> - 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

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Spiritual

You are invited to offer your monetary gifts online using this link: <https://bit.ly/fcconlinegiving> (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**

We Would Be Building

#607 NCH

***BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Bourée

Charles Stanford

**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!




The flowers on the pulpit this morning are given by Libby Ivy in memory of George E. Passage Jr., who passed away one year ago today. George was a member of First Church for more than 60 years and participated in church activities in his childhood.

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*

Baki Nelson, *Head Usher*
Dawn Plante, *Welcomer*
Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher*

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