



38 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont



firstchurchburlington.org

August 14, 2022
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

*The people I love the best jump into work head first
without dallying in the shallows and swim off with sure strokes almost out of sight.
They seem to become natives of that element, the black sleek heads
of seals bouncing like half-submerged balls.*

*I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart,
who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience, who strain in the mud
and the muck to move things forward, who do what has to be done, again and again.*

*I want to be with people who submerge in the task,
who go into the fields to harvest and work in a row and pass the bags along,
who are not parlor generals and field deserters but move in a common rhythm
when the food must come in or the fire be put out.*

*The work of the world is common as mud.
Botched, it smears the hands, crumbles to dust.
But the thing worth doing well done has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident.
Greek amphoras for wine or oil, Hopi vases that held corn, are put
in museums but you know they were made to be used.*

*The pitcher cries for water to carry and a person for work that is real.
~ Marge Piercy, To Be of Use*

PRELUDE *Prelude on "Land of Rest"* arr. Lasky

*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 Celebration of "Pulling Together"
Our Dragonboat Team and a Trophy

***CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION** Dustin Bruley
adapted from Thom Shuman liturgies

One: Gracious God, some of us gather in sanctuaries
while others create sacred spaces in living rooms and bedrooms,
in backyards or in cars,

**All: Yet, we all join to worship you,
God who is with the scattered and the gathered.**

One: Some of your followers are going out to work while others work virtually;
some care for babies, children and grandchildren,

**All: Yet, all of us seek to follow your example to love and serve where we
are,**

One: Some care for others by shopping for them, visiting with those who are
sick and all of us plant seeds of peace and hope,

**All: And all of whether gathered or scattered, all seek to live in your love
and give thanks that we are together to worship You.**

***OPENING HYMN** *The Church's One Foundation* #386 NCH

TIME FOR UNBURDENING

The Rev. Joan Newton O’Gorman

In stories and in song, along the lakeshore and our city streets, in a church sanctuary and at home, we encounter God. We meet the One who fills every moment with the sacred. We confess our failures and our brokenness in trust that we can turn aside and notice God welcoming us with forgiveness and hope. Let us pray.

Loving God, we confess the ways that we have not lived at peace with others and with your creation. Forgive us for our foolish choices. We come to you for the reminder that our ways are not always your ways and that we can change. (Time of silence)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE**PASSING OF THE PEACE****SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 16:13-19

MESSAGE*Whoever Heard of Building a Church on a Rock?****HYMN OF THANKSGIVING***You Are the Seed*

#528 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***I Will Arise and Go to Jesus*

Folk Melody

You are invited to offer your monetary gifts online using this link: <https://bit.ly/fcbonlinegiving> (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***Be Now My Vision*

#451 NCH

BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION*POSTLUDE***Rondeau*

Henry Purcell

**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*

Libby Ivy, *User*

Bob Wolf, *Welcomer*

Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher*

 www.firstchurchburlington.org  info@firstchurchburlington.org  802.862.5010

Follow us @firstchurchbtv