

*Welcoming All.
Seeking Justice.
Finding God.*

38 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont



*An Open and Affirming
Congregation of the*
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

firstchurchburlington.org

August 21, 2022

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

I beg you, to have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and to try to love the questions themselves as if they were locked rooms or books written in a very foreign language.

*Don't search for the answers, which could not be given to you now,
because you would not be able to live them.*

And the point is to live everything. Live the questions now.

*Perhaps then, someday far in the future,
you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer.*

~ Rainer Maria Rilke. Letters to a Young Poet

PRELUDE

Lasky\

Meditation on "Foundation"

arr.

*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**

Tim Berger

(Psalm 103:1-4a, 8)

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,

All: Bless God's holy name.

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

All: And do not forget all God has done for us.

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

All: For God forgives, heals, and redeems us.

One: The Lord is merciful and gracious,

All: Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,

All: Bless God's holy name.

***OPENING HYMN**

All Things Bright and Beautiful

#31 NCH

TIME FOR UNBURDENING *adapted from Rev. Mindi Rev-o-lution worship resources*

Blessed One, we come before You, Author of Compassionate Love, Forgiver of Sins, Redeemer of us all. There is no one name that comes forth from our lips that conveys the breadth and depth of your love for us. We confess that our words often fall short and fail us. Instead, may our hearts be open to your mercy. May our souls be open to your grace. May our bodies be open to live out your compassion to one another by doing justice, practicing empathy and kindness, and living in humility with you. You are merciful and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love that endures forever and ever. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God is a God of renewal, of new beginnings, of new life. God is the God of the Rainbow, the covenant of restoration and life. God loves you, and God knows where you need a fresh start. God's forgiveness and restoration are yours. Seek to love one another, forgive one another, and join in the work of reparation and healing among each other and the world. Go and share the Good News of God's love, forgiveness, and salvation in Christ Jesus, who lives again and brings new life to all. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 71:1-6

MESSAGE

God's Grace in Times of Change

*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

God of Our Life

#366 NCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

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

OFFERTORY

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

arr. Sewell

*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

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

#76 NCH

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Postlude in C

Eugene Thayer

**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 & Dawn Plante, *Welcomers*
Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher*

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