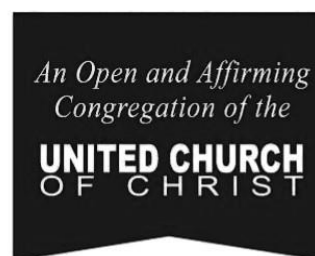




38 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont



firstchurchburlington.org

September 11, 2022
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*“And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.”*
-T.S. Eliot

PRELUDE *Simple Gifts* arr. Schulz-Widmar

*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.”*

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *Come O Fount of Every Blessing* #459 NCH

***CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION** Andy Barker
by Rev. Nathan Decker, adapted

One: Welcome Home!
Home is not a building or a place we meet.
All: Home is not just where we came from.
One: Home is more than people and memories.
All: Home is more than sentimentality or traditions.
One: Home is toys on the floor or a mess in the kitchen.
All: Home is a welcome at the door...
One: and a hug of acceptance.
All: Home is the laughter around the table, bread and cup.
One: Home is remembering promises made in water and spirit.
All: Home is seeing where God is leading us...
One: ...and going there together.
Welcome home to the First Congregational Church of Burlington, Vermont, UCC.
All: where we welcome you, care for all, and learn how to love.
One: Welcome Home...
All: ...where we are better together. Amen.

CHORAL INTROIT *Halleluja*
Sanctuary Choir

WORDS OF WELCOME The Rev. Elissa Johnk

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 15: 1-10

TIME OF UNBURDENING

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PASSING THE PEACE

WORD OF GOD FOR (SM)ALL AGES *Blessing of the Backpacks* Hilah Clarke

ANTHEM

Angels of Heaven

arr. Siegfried

SERMON

***HYMN OF THANKSGIVING**

Softly and Tenderly

Original tune and lyrics: Will L. Thompson, 1880; New lyrics: Jim Burklo, 2019

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling/ Calling for you and for me
Walking his pathway toward joy and compassion/Calling for you and for me

*Refrain: Come home, come home, You who are weary come home;
Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling, Calling, "Dear searcher, come home"*

Leave behind selfishness, fear, isolation/Leave behind hatred and greed -
Hear now the words of his kind invitation/Calling for you and for me:

Refrain

Up on the mount you can hear him announcing/Mercy for you and for me
Love without limits, forgiveness abounding/Justice for you and for me

Refrain

Answer his call with your feet on his pathway/Heading for love and for peace
Heading for home in the kingdom we're building/Home that's for you and for me

Refrain

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

Offertoire

Boellmann

*You are invited to offer 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**

God of Grace and God of Glory

#436 NCH

***BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

John Rutter

**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](#) - 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
Bob and Cyndy Cowie in memory of their parents and sisters.

Staff Directory

Elissa Johnk, *Lead Minister*

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*

Amy Shortt, *Director of Music*

Hilah Clarke, *Faith Formation Director*

Max Johnson, *A/V Coordinator*

Ian Rock-Jones, *Security Staff*

Jason Vanderlaan, *Youth Ministries*

Baki Nelson, *Head Usher*

Jennifer Jorgenson, *Welcomer*

Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher*

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