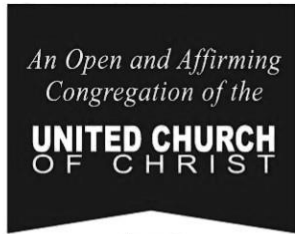




38 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont



firstchurchburlington.org

September 4, 2022
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Today, the first Sunday of the month, is a Communion Sunday. All ages, every person, is welcome to the Communion Table at First Congregational Church. Before worship, gather a candle and elements to participate in Communion – any form of juice and bread that you have readily available.

~~~~~

*If God invited you to a party and said,  
"Everyone in the ballroom tonight will be my special guest"  
~ how would you treat them when you arrived?  
Indeed, Indeed! And Hafiz knows that there is no one in this  
world who is not standing upon God's jeweled dance floor."  
– Hafiz (Love Poems from God)*

**PRELUDE** *Rejoice, the Lord is King – DARWALL'S 148th* arr. Forrest

*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 O’Gorman

**INTROIT** *We Are Singing for the Lord Is Our Light*  
Sanctuary Choir

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION** Dawn Plante

One: You are with us, God of sunrises,  
**All: You awaken us with each bright new day, overflowing with promise.**  
One: You are with us, Inviting God  
**All: Calling us to respond to all the chances to share the spirit of grace and hope**  
One: You are with us Glory of God  
**All: Gathering us into the presence of your peace, listening to the deep prayers of our hearts.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You* #4 NCH

**TIME FOR UNBURDENING**  
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** Psalm 139:1-6; 13-18

**MESSAGE** *Wonderfully Made*

**HYMN OF THANKSGIVING** *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit* #293 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**

*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*

**OFFERTORY** *Nearer, My God to Thee* arr. Forrest

**\*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**

**\*HYMN OF PREPARATION** *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* #347 Vv 1-2 NCH

**INVITATION** *Thom Shuman, adapted*

Leader: May God be gracious to you.

**Response: And also to you.**

Leader: Beloved of God, open your hearts to the One who nourishes us at this table that is long and wide,

**Response: To the One who offers us hope, life and grace,**

Leader: As God's people we gather for this sacred meal that blesses us, creates community and feeds our hungry hearts and spirits,

**Response: We join all creation in lifting our praises to our God.**

**PRAYER OF BLESSING AND SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS**

*We believe this is God's table, not ours, so all are welcome at this table, regardless of age or faith.*

**COMMUNION ANTHEM** *Come to the Water* arr. Foley

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**\*CLOSING VERSES** *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* #347 Vv 3 NCH

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Voluntary in D (Fugue)* William Selby

*\*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!

### 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*

Bob Wolf, *Welcomer*

Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher*

 [www.firstchurchburlington.org](http://www.firstchurchburlington.org)  [info@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:info@firstchurchburlington.org)  802.862.5010

Follow us @firstchurchbtv