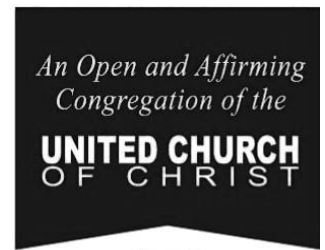




38 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont



firstchurchburlington.org

November 20, 2022
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

*"...in the end the universe can only be explained in terms of celebration.
It is all an exuberant expression of existence itself"*

- Thomas Berry

PRELUDE

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

arr. Greer

*Online worshipers (live stream) 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."*

CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION

from the Mission Prayer Handbook, by the Uniting Church of Australia

One: Deep within us, creeping past the facts
that stand before us, is hope:

All: And we lift up our hearts to God.

One: We walk towards the barriers to change,
believing they will fall to your power:

All: And we lift up our hearts to God.

One: We gather up the remnants of our energy
and wait for the extra we pray will come:

All: And we lift up our hearts to God.

One: In the moments of our lowness, in the doubts which rise among us,
in the depths of weakness and failing,

**All: God's hand is discovered beneath our wavering,
and we are called again to hope.**

One: Let us pray:

***OPENING HYMN**

Come, O Thankful People, Come

#422 NCH

WORDS OF WELCOME

The Rev. Elissa Johnk

GOSPEL READING

Luke 6:20-31

TIME OF UNBURDENING

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING THE PEACE

WORD OF GOD FOR (SM) ALL AGES

ANTHEM

All Good Gifts

arr. Penny Rodriguez

READING

SERMON

***HYMN OF THANKSGIVING**

Now Thank We All Our God

#419 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.

STEWARDSHIP WITNESS

The Rev. John Goodell

CALL TO THE OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Grace and Thanksgiving

Austin Handbell Choir

*In the sanctuary, all are invited to bring forward regular offerings,
as well as pledge &/or prayer cards.
The congregation will form a circle in the Sanctuary.*

Stewardship Brochure: <https://bit.ly/FCCB2023stewardship>

Online Pledging: <https://bit.ly/pledgeform2023>

Online Time & Talent Pledge: <https://bit.ly/timetalent2023>

*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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***SUNG PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

This Little Light

v1 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine

v2 Ev'rywhere I go,

v3 We all need a little light,

v4 Building up a world,

***BIDDING TO MISSION**

A Litany: Life in All its Fullness, by Norm Esdon

One: Bless you Wise and Holy One, for your down-to-earth vision
of the best of what human life can be.

All: Bless you Wise and Holy One, for your call to life in all its fullness...

One: when we honor who we are as easily as we are enthralled
by what others want us to be;

All: when we stop pursuing happiness and let it embrace us;

One: when we love not in the hope of getting but for the joy of giving;
When love is not what-you-can-do-for-me

All: but what-we-can-be together;

One: when we choose our leaders not for their image

All: but for their imagination,

One: not for the politics they play

All: but for the principles they live;

One: when our economy thrives on our expressing who we are

All: not on our spending what we have;

One: when the earth itself is our communion table;

All: when we bite into theology's questions

as readily as we swallow technology's answers;

One: when we celebrate today as not just all we have, but all we need.

**All: Bless you Wise and Holy One for calling us to life in all its fullness,
not just hereafter, but here and now.**

***BENEDICTION**

Those who are observing physical distancing are encouraged to leave immediately before the benediction.

***PARTING SONG** *This Little Light of mine, continued*
v5 *This First Church of ours, we're gonna let it shine*
v6 *Let it shine 'til Jesus comes*
v7 *Let it shine 'til Love Wins*

POSTLUDE *This Little Light, reprise*

**Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit.*

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

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*

Amy Shortt, *Director of Music*
Hilah Clarke, *Faith Formation Director*
Max Johnson, *A/V Coordinator*
Jason Vanderlaan, *Youth Ministries*
Ian Rock-Jones, *Security Staff*
Jesse O'Gorman, *Security Staff*

Donal Dugan, *Head Usher*
Linda Elrick and Sara Wilcoxson, *Welcomers*
Eric Davis, *Digital Usher*

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