

*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

January 8, 2023

10 a.m.

*Celebration of Epiphany – Star Sunday!*

**PRELUDE**

*Guiding Light*

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Rev. Elissa Johnk

*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.”*

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE AND INVOCATION**

John and Joan Goodell

One: [...] Living God, Christ Mystery, Spirit of New Beginnings,  
we give you thanks for our commitment to one another.

**All: As we take in the renewed life you offer,  
may we be a beacon of your light,  
using the sacred actions of our community  
to alleviate suffering wherever it is found. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*Beautiful Star of Bethlehem*

**GOSPEL READING**

From Matthew 2:1-12

**TIME OF UNBURDENING** by Rev. John Nelson

One: We remember the Magi, who set out with singular focus on the promise  
of the heavens.

**All: And we remember the ways that we have lost sight of you, God,  
as the bright guide for our lives.**

One: We remember that they stayed determined on their journey,  
not even swayed by Herod’s power and promises.

**All: And we remember that often we have started out well, but strayed from your  
path, detoured by our fleeting fears and desires.**

One: We remember the wise ones who adored the child:  
wisdom and wealth falling to their knees before a poor infant.

**All: And we remember that too often we have given our adoration to wealth or  
wisdom, not seeing the Christ in our midst.**

[Silent Prayer]

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**READING**

**MEDITATION**

**\*SONG OF THANKSGIVING**

*Love Came Down at Christmas*

#165 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.*

**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.**

MUSICAL MEDITATION

*Light of Light*

arr. Gifford

CALL TO THE OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

*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*

\*SONG OF PRAISE

GREENSLEEVES

Praise God from whom all blessings flow/ Praise God all creatures here below Praise God  
all heavens and the earth/ reflecting the sacred story.  
This, this is Christ the One, / who mirrors light for all of us.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Word of time eternal.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*CLOSING HYMN

*Brightest and Best*

#157 NCH

\*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*O Morning Star How Bright and Fair*

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

**Virtual Fellowship:** Worship is followed by Fellowship at First Church – and remotely on  
[ZOOM](https://bit.ly/sundayfellowship) - the link is: <https://bit.ly/sundayfellowship>

NOTES ON TODAY'S SERVICE

Portions of today's liturgy come from the Worship Design Studio.

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 are in loving memory of Joan Lauber who loved flowers and served faithfully for many years on the Flower Committee.

The rosebud is in celebration of the birth of Bri Kathryn Whitaker on December 12, 2022, in Millis, Massachusetts to Laura and Chris Whitaker.

The proud and happy maternal grandparents are Mary and Bob McKearin.

Staff Directory




Elissa Johnk, *Lead Minister*

Amy Shortt, *Director of Music*

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*

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

Ann Cerrato, *Head Usher*  
Sara Wilcoxson, *Welcomer*  
Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher*

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