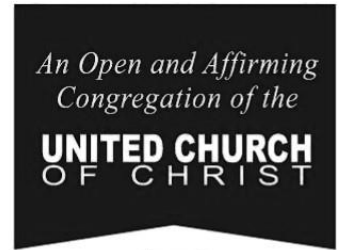




38 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont



firstchurchburlington.org

February 12, 2023
10 a.m.

I knew that to really minister to Rwanda's needs meant working toward reconciliation in the prisons, in the churches, and in the cities and villages throughout the country. It meant feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, [...] but it also meant healing the wounded and forgiving the unforgivable. [...] Jesus did not die for people to be religious. He died so that we might believe in Him and be transformed.
— John Rucyahana, *The Bishop of Rwanda: Finding Forgiveness Amidst a Pile of Bones*

PRELUDE *Fantasia in G Major, BWV 572, Tres vitement* J.S. Bach

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."

WORDS OF WELCOME The Rev. Elissa C. Johnk

***CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION**

by the C3 Exchange, adapted

Leader: May our brief, fragile lives build
on the work of those who went before us,

People: for no work is final.

Leader: May we create a sustainable foundation for those who follow us,

People: for no age is final.

Leader: May we stretch our consciousness with open minds,
and a sense of humble curiosity,

People: for no belief is final.

Leader: May we have courage in uncertain times,

People: for no mood is final.

Leader: May we recognize new beginnings in what seem to be endings,

People: for no feeling is final.

Leader: So let us allow for what is, and make space for what is even now becoming, in these next moments of silent prayer. [Silent Prayer]

***OPENING HYMN** *For the Beauty of the Earth* #28 NCH

HEBREW BIBLE READING Deuteronomy 30:15-18a Dawn Plante

EPISTLE READING 1 Corinthians 3:1-3

TIME OF UNBURDENING

You have shown us the way of life, yet we often stray with what we say and what we do, and what we do not say and do not do. We are distracted by our screens, our own image, and our own plans. Put Your presence, and humanity's need, back into our focus, and lead us from a life of fear into a life of hope.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE PASSING OF THE PEACE

WORD OF GOD FOR (SM)ALL AGES

ANTHEM Requiem *Eliza Gilkyson arr. C. Johnson*
Sanctuary Choir

HEBREW BIBLE READING From Matthew 5:17-37

SERMON

***HYMN OF THANKSGIVING** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* #23 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

THE 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 *Fantasia in G Major, BWV 572, Gravement (excerpt)* J.S. Bach

*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** STUTTGART

*All the wealth that we may gather, Is for use in causes just.
We are stewards of the bounty, Loaned to us in solemn trust. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***CLOSING HYMN** *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* #76 NCH

***BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Fantasia in G Major, BWV 572, (excerpt)* J. S. Bach

**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>

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*

Baki Nelson, *Head Usher*

Sara Wilcoxson, *Welcomer*

Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher*

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