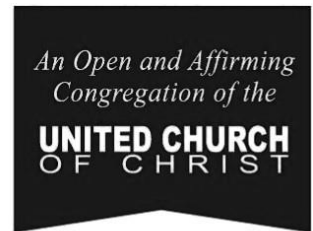




38 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont



firstchurchburlington.org

February 26, 2023 First Sunday in Lent

“Daily, hourly, to give up our own possessions and especially to subordinate our own impulses and wishes to others – these are hard, hard things; and I don’t think they ever get any easier. You can strip yourself, you can be stripped, but still you will reach out like an octopus to seek your own comfort, your untroubled time, your ease, your refreshment.”
– Dorothy Day

PRELUDE

Wondrous Love

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

Jason Vanderlaan

by the Rev. Jan Berry, adapted

Response: Let us walk his way with Joy!

Leader: Friends, this Lent, Jesus invites us to a way of celebration, meeting and feasting with the humble and poor. **(Response)**

Leader: Jesus beckons us to a way of risk, letting go of our security. **(Response)**

Leader: Jesus challenges us to listen to the voices of those who have nothing to lose. **(Response)**

Leader: Jesus points us to a way of self-giving, where power and status are overturned. **(Response)**

Leader: Jesus calls us to follow the way of the cross, where despair is transformed by the promise of new life. **(Response)**

Leader: Let us pray:

INTROIT

The Greatest Commandment
Children’s Choir

Paul Zach

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 4:1-16

Asa Jorgenson

TIME OF UNBURDENING

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

WORD OF GOD FOR (SM)ALL AGES

ANTHEM

The Lord is My Light
Children’s Choir

arr. Michael Bedford

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 22:34-40

SERMON

Loving Your Neighbor: Why?

***HYMN OF THANKSGIVING**

In the Midst of New Dimensions

#391 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

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PEACE PRAYER

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Angels of Heaven
Sanctuary Choir

Shaker tune arr. Siegfried

You are invited to offer monetary gifts online using this link: <https://bit.ly/fccbongiving> (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**

#223 NCH

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul! O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this! that Christ should come in bliss
to bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul
to bear the heavy cross for my soul!*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***CLOSING HYMN**

Unite and Join Your Cheerful Songs

#617 NCH

***BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Walk Together Children

**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*

Will Gunger, *Head Usher*

Jennifer Jorgenson & Sara Wilcoxson, *Welcomer*

Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher*

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