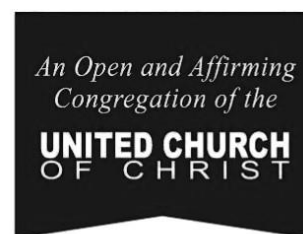




38 South Winooski Avenue  
Burlington, Vermont



firstchurchburlington.org

**March 26, 2023**  
*Fifth Sunday of Lent*

*“To set the mind on the flesh is death,  
but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.” – Romans 8:6*

**PRELUDE**

*What Wondrous Love*  
Bellana Driscoll, soloist

*arr. Shortt*

*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 Johnk

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION**

The Polli Family

*by Elsa Cook and Joan Stott, based on Psalm 130, adapted*

One: Healing God, we come together in our rupture and fragility,  
to call to you in your grace, to make us whole again.

**All: Wholeness-giving God, listen to our prayers, we pray.**

One: Restoring God, we are worn and tired by what has not yet occurred,  
so we are seeking to be renewed and restored to continue on.

**All: God, our Quiet-Centre, listen to our prayers this day.**

One: Foundational God, we know that we have changed, but you have not.  
Your love rises with us in the morning, wiping slumber from our eyes.

**All: Supporting God, encourage us toward hope.**

One: In the depths of your Holy Being we find peace and rest,  
even as we travel on.

**All: God – our Beginning and our End, we hope always in you. Amen.**

**\*OPENING SONG**

*Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary*

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried, and true.*

*With thanksgiving, I'll be a living Sanctuary for you.*

**READING**

Susan Ellwood

**TIME OF UNBURDENING** *by John Birch, adapted*

One: You call us to be your voices in this world

**All: and we stay silent.**

One: You call us to be your hands in this world

**All: and we keep them hidden.**

One: You call us to be your feet in this world

**All: and we go our own way.**

One: When we meet those who are struggling and say nothing, forgive us.

**All: When we meet those who need your presence, and do nothing,  
forgive us.**

One: When we are called to take up your cross

**All: and respond 'our hands are full', forgive us.**

One: In these moments of silence, breathe life into these bones, bring freedom to these lives, that we might declare with heart and soul and voice that you are our Lord and our God. Amen

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

**ANTHEM** *Lord Have Mercy* *arr. Choplin*  
Sanctuary Choir

**GOSPEL READING** From John 11

**SERMON** *Loving Our Neighbor: Common Ground*

**\*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING** *O Savior, Let Me Walk with You* #503 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

PRAYER OF BLESSING

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** *On Holy Ground* *Salt of the Sound*  
*You are invited to offer monetary gifts online using this link: <https://bit.ly/fcconlinegiving> (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** #223 NCH

*To God and to the Lamb I will sing,  
I will sing, to God and to the Lamb I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb who is great I Am,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;  
while millions join the theme, I will sing.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** *We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed* #540 NCH

**\*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary* *arr. Hayes*

*\*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!

The flowers on the pulpit this morning are in honor and gratefulness to the Visioning Team and all those who worked on a proposal.

### 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*

Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher*

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