

*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

March 12, 2023
Third Sunday in Lent

*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."*

PRELUDE

I Surrender All

arr. Sorenson

WORDS OF WELCOME

Cyndy Hall, Worship Team

***CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION**

The Jorgenson Family

by an anonymous author, and the Rev. Rex Hunt, adapted

One: As we gather to remember and share stories of faith, let us rejoice in the presence of God. Before our stories began, there was God; through all our days, God walks with us.

All: God's creative presence is moving among us.

One: In warm sunlight, and bright snow, in the seasons of color and courage,

All: Creative God is in our midst.

One: As we seek to answer your call to follow, and grow in faith and love for one another,

All: May we be open to your presence around and within.

One: Let us pray:

***OPENING HYMN**

Lift High the Cross

#198 NCH

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:15-22

Michael Samara
Partners in Pastoral Care

TIME OF UNBURDENING

Tony Hall, Partners in Pastoral Care

O Holy One, we are straying from your ideal for us, individually and together. We forget to trust in you, letting our fears rob us of the joy that comes from turning to you for guidance. We lose hope for your beautiful world as we see the chaos and conflict all around us. We feel helpless, and find it a challenge to love all people, not just those that are like us. In this time of silence hear us, and call us back to you.

[SILENT PRAYER]

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

WORD OF GOD FOR (SM) ALL AGES

Hilah Clarke

ANTHEM

Love Is Little
Sanctuary Choir

Shaker Tune arr. Siegfried

SERMON

Loving Your Neighbor: Forgiveness

The Rev. Bill Neil
Partners in Pastoral Care

***HYMN OF THANKSGIVING**

I Would Be True

#492 NCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Ann Vivian, *Worship Team*

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.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING WITNESS

Laurie Nelson, *Outreach Team*

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Karl Doerner, *Deacon*

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

In addition to our morning offering, Outreach is sponsoring a special offering to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). This ecumenical ministry provides disaster relief, refugee response and long-term development work, both here and abroad.

OFFERTORY

Love Can Build a Bridge
Doris Ogden, *soloist*

Judd, Overstreet, Jarvis

***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**

by Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott

O God who calls us to go out into the world with generosity, may these gifts call us from our lives of comfort and towards a faith journey that embraces your love, justice, and compassion for a world in need of your healing. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

#495 NCH

***BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION**

**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*

Caroline Crawford, *Head Usher*

Amy Mellencamp, *Welcomer*

Eric Davis, *Digital Usher*

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