

*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

April 30, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Easter

“Most of us have developed a fairly extensive vocabulary for describing pain, as though the journal were a doctor requiring much detail to make the correct diagnosis. The roundness of the spiritual journey cannot be expressed without developing an equally extensive vocabulary for talking to ourselves and others about the nature of wonder, joy, ecstasy, love, transfiguration.”

— Christina Baldwin

PRELUDE

Prelude and Fugue in F Major
Olenka Duncan, organ

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 Johnk

***CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Liz Royer

by Revs. Madison Shockley and Rex Hunt, adapted

One: Gathering in this sacred place, we anticipate new wonders each week.

**All: Wherever two or three are gathered to worship,
the Spirit is present.**

One: Open our eyes to witness the wondrous love and joy waiting to be revealed even on this day, even in this place.

All: When we leave today, may we be open to the wonders of creation.

One: For this is the time, and this is the place,
to see the world and the whole of life in a new light.

**All: That we might be filled with hope and joy
and certainty for the future.**

One: This is the place, as are all places:

All: This is the time, as are all times. Here and now.

One: Let us pray:

***OPENING HYMN**

O, For a World

#575 NCH

PASSING OF THE PEACE

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 17:1-9

Sara Wilcoxson

One: Until we see ourselves in the words we read and the stories we hear,
it is easy to remark on the rest of the world.

**All: May the light of these words fall strong upon each of us,
that we can find the truth they reveal
in our own hearts.**

Children of all ages are always welcome in worship, but they are also welcome to attend Church School, directly following this portion of the service.

ANTHEM

Come to the Water

arr. Foley

READING

SERMON

*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

You Are Mine

JESUS CHRIST: LIFE
177 I Will Come to You
You Are Mine

Leader or All

1 "I will come to you in the si - lence;
2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less;
3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,
(4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom;

I will lift you from all your fear.
I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the
heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
am the peace the world can - not give.

You will hear my voice; I claim you as my choice. Be
shad - ows of the night, I will be your light.
All the blind will see; the lame will all run free, and
I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand

still and know I am here. (to stanza 2)
Come and rest in me. (to Refrain)
all will know my name. (to Refrain)
up, now walk and live! (to Refrain)

Refrain All

Do not be a - fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by
name. Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I
love you and you are mine." 4 "I

EXT and MUSIC: David Haas, 1991
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YOU ARE MINE
Irregular

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.**

OUTREACH WITNESS

Outright Vermont

Louise Brewster

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

arr. Hamilton

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**

#780 NCH

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***CLOSING HYMN**

They Will Know We are Christians

We are One in The Spirit, We are One in The Lord. (x2)

And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

*Refrain: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, By our Love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

We will work with each other, We will work side by side. (x2)

And we'll guard each one's dignity, And save each one's pride. Refrain

We will walk with each other, We will walk hand in hand. (x2)

And together we'll spread the News, that God is in our land. Refrain

***BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Variations on St. Columba

arr. Burkhardt

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

Virtual Fellowship Option: following worship on Zoom - the link is:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82411411970> or join by phone - 1 646 876 9923 Meeting ID: 824 1141 1970

WELCOME VISITORS!



call our faith community their church home.

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

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*

Ann Cerrato, *Head Usher*

Dawn Plante, *Welcomer*

Eric Davis, *Digital Usher*

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