

*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 23, 2023
*Third Sunday of Easter
Earth Day Celebration*

*“The Lord is more constant and far more extravagant than it seems to imply.
Wherever you turn your eyes the world can shine like transfiguration.
You don’t have to bring a thing to it except a little willingness to see.
Only, who could have the courage to see it?”*

— Marilynne Robinson

PRELUDE

Over the Rainbow

Harold Arlen

*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**

Dustin & Bryan Bruley

by Wendell Berry, adapted

One: If we have the wisdom to survive,
to stand like slow-growing trees on a ruined place,

All: Renewing, enriching it,

One: If we will make our seasons welcome here,
asking not too much of earth or of heaven,

**All: Then a long time after we are dead
the lives our lives prepare will live here,**

One: Their houses strongly placed upon the valley sides,

**All: Fields and gardens rich in the windows.
The river will run clear as we will never know it.**

One: And over it, birdsong like a canopy.

**All: On the levels of the hills will be green meadows,
stock bells in noon shade.**

One: On the steeps where greed and ignorance cut down the old forest,

All: An old forest will stand, its rich leaf-fall drifting on its roots.

One: The veins of forgotten springs will have opened.
Families will be singing in the fields.

**All: In their voices they will hear
a music risen out of the ground.**

One: They will take nothing [...] will be health and wisdom and indwelling light.

All: This is no impossible dream. Its hardship is its possibility.

One: Holy God who is time itself, we ask that in this worship together,
we might begin to see, and then commit ourselves to,
your inclusive, healing, and resurrecting vision, for all your creation.

All: Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *Come, O Fount of Every Blessing* #459 NCH

PASSING OF THE PEACE

GOSPEL READING From Luke 24:13-35 Will Gunger

One: In this reading, let each of us find a window

All: To see beyond our own enclosures.

One: Let each of us find a door

All: To open ourselves into new being.

WORD OF GOD FOR (SM)ALL AGES Hilah Clarke

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

ANTHEM *Look at the World* arr. Rutter

SERMON

***HYMN OF THANKSGIVING** *Creator God, Creating Still* #278 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

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 *Sacred Reflection* arr. Glaskow

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** *All Things Bright and Beautiful* #31 NCH

***BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Te Deum* Purcell

**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](#)

- the link is: <https://bit.ly/fellowshipzoom> or <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!

The flowers on the pulpit this morning are given
by Eunice Newell in memory of loved ones.

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, *Welcomer*
Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher*

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