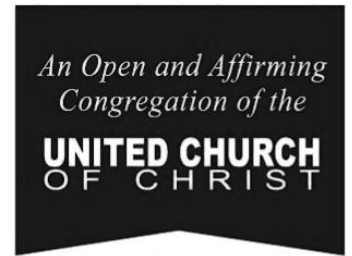




38 South Winooski Avenue  
Burlington, Vermont



firstchurchburlington.org

April 9, 2023  
Easter Sunday

**PRELUDE**

*This Joyful Eastertide, Movements I,II,III*  
*What Wondrous Love*  
*Easter Bells*

*Raymond Haan*  
*Bellana Driscoll, soloist*

*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."*

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*Jesus Christ is Risen Today Vv 1-3,5*

#240 NCH

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

The Trussell Family

One: In your hand, O God, we see the whole cosmos,  
heaven and earth reflecting your handiwork.

**All: In your hand, O God, we see a little child, born in Bethlehem, whose birth  
prompted the singing of angels.**

One: In your hand, O God, we see the scar of the cross,  
a reminder that you have conquered sin and death.

**All: In your hand, O God, we behold a new light. Day and night are transformed in the  
glory of this Easter morning.**

One: We gather together to sing and pray the story we know by heart,  
a story of love's triumph and powerful grace.

The story of Jesus' resurrection,

**All: And our own.**

One: For the truth that no one suffers alone, we say:

**All: Alleluia!**

One: For the truth that violence does not have the final word, we say:

**All: Alleluia!**

One: For the knowledge that death has been put to death, we say:

**All: Alleluia!**

One: Let us pray: [...] And so, eternal, living God, we ask that you:

**All: Transform us now. Help us make the journey from death to life. From our grief,  
bring joy, and from our brokenness bring hope. Just as the sun rises, may we rise  
boldly to greet this new truth in our lives - that in the battle between death and  
love, love always wins. Amen.**

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

The Rev. Elissa Johnk

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**GOSPEL READING**

John 20: 1-18

Theresa Mazza

**ANTHEM**

*A Love Round*

*Traditional arr. Gifford*

Cherub and Alleluia Choirs

**WORD OF GOD FOR (SM)ALL AGES.**

Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen



All: 1. Rise, O church, like Christ a - ris - en,  
 Choir: 2. Rise, trans - formed, and choose to fol - low  
 Choir: 3. Rise, re - mem - ber well the fu - ture  
 All: 4. Ser - vice be our sure vo - ca - tion;



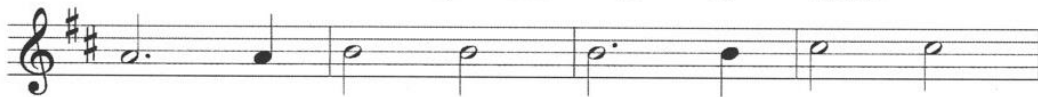
from this meal of love and grace;  
*af - ter Christ, though wound - ed, whole;*  
*God has called us to re - ceive;*  
 cour - age be our dai - ly breath;



may we through such love en - vi - sion  
*bro - ken, shared, our lives are hal - lowed*  
*pres - ent by God's lov - ing nur - ture,*  
 mer - cy be our des - ti - na - tion



whose we are, and whose, our praise.  
*to re - lease and to con - sole.*  
*Spir - it - ed then let us live.*  
 from this day and un - to death.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;  
*Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;*  
*Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;*  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



God, the won - der of our days.  
*Christ, our pres - ent, past, and goal.*  
*Spir - it, grace by whom we live.*  
 Rise, O church, a liv - ing faith.

GOSPEL READING

SERMON

ANTHEM

Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen

Cherwien

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.**

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**      *I Know that My Redeemer Liveth, from Messiah*      Handel

**CALL TO THE OFFERING**

One: Today we celebrate life over death,  
and the indestructible love that Jesus showed to the world.

**All: Jesus lives! Alleluia!**

One: We celebrate by dedicating ourselves to living in his Way of wisdom.

**All: We celebrate him as we forgive, and let go of hurts**

One: We celebrate him as we resist all forms of violence.

**All: We celebrate him by giving until it makes a difference.**

One: We celebrate him as we feed the hungry,

**All: shelter the homeless and befriend the lonely.**

One: We celebrate him as we follow his commandment to love,  
with no exceptions. Let us do so now, as the offering is given and received.

**All: Alleluia!**

**OFFERTORY**      *Hymn to Joy*      arr. Kerry Johnston  
Austin Handbell Choir

*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*

*To contribute to the "Easter Offering"- supporting the ministries and missions of First Church, with a  
10% tithe going to the Hope Fund of the Vermont Conference UCC – give online  
(<https://bit.ly/fccbonlinegiving> ) selecting "Easter Offering" from the menu of options –  
or send a check to First Congregational Church, MEMO: Easter Offering.*

**\*SONG OF PRAISE**      #233 NCH

*Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Where O Death, is now your sting? Alleluia!  
Death in vain for-bids Christ rise, Alleluia! God has opened paradise, Alleluia!*

*Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**      *Thine is the Glory*      #193 PH

**BIDDING TO MISSION**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION**      *All Shall be Amen and Alleluia*      James Whitburn

**POSTLUDE**      *Psalm XIX*      Marcello

*\*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*  
Sara Wilcoxson and Dawn Plante, *Welcomers*  
Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher*

🌐 [www.firstchurchburlington.org](http://www.firstchurchburlington.org)    ✉ [info@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:info@firstchurchburlington.org)    ☎ 802.862.5010

Follow us @firstchurchbtv



Thank you to our readers, and to our Sanctuary, Alleluia choirs, and our UVM vocalists, Bellana Driscoll, Cal Hale, Kenna Lund, and Braydan Medbury.  
Thank you also to all our musicians this morning; D. Thomas Toner, *percussion*, Tom Cleary, *piano*, Joel Ramseyer, *organ*, Tim Berger, and Paul Hobbs, *trumpet*.

*A Note on Holy Week*

Of all the weeks in the Christian year, this week poses some of the most painful problems for us in relationship with our Jewish brothers and sisters. The gospels appear to place responsibility for Jesus’ death on “The Jews.” It is important to remember that Jesus himself was a Jew and that the story we tell is of an *internal* conflict within the Jewish community in the context of occupation by Rome. This is not an account of Jews betraying Jesus but of how religious people in general, *including Christians*, are threatened by what Jesus says and does, and want to deny him and be rid of him.

In short, the Jews in our Gospels are *you and me*, or those parts of all of us, who out of self-protection, hard-heartedness, or fear of change or surrender, turn our backs on God. Indeed, Good Friday is the day of death. It is the day that shows us what breaks God’s heart – violence, suffering, separation, death.

Yet the three days of Easter, counted from sunset to sunset, are also days of waiting, and resurrection. We have prayed, held silence, remembering the ancient story contained not *just* in scripture, but also in our hearts, and in all the violence that has been carried out in the name of Christ. We have prepared ourselves for this day, when we celebrate and proclaim the good news that is the very heart of the gospel:

God can transform our deepest darkness  
No one suffers alone  
Violence does not have the final word  
And death has been put to death!

