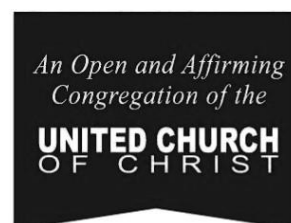




38 South Winooski Avenue  
Burlington, Vermont



firstchurchburlington.org

June 4, 2023

Trinity and Communion Sunday

*Today, the first Sunday of the month, is a Communion Sunday.*

*All ages, every person, is welcome at the Communion Table at First Congregational Church.*

*Before worship, gather a candle and elements to participate in Communion – any form of juice and bread that you have readily available.*

**PRELUDE**

*O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*  
Ben Lively, violin Amy Shortt, piano

*arr. Richard A. Nichols*

*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**

Jennifer Jorgenson

*by Nancy L. Steeves, adapt.*

One: In the beginning was diversity:

**Many: puddle and creek, mountain and paddock, dandelion and daisy, starling and sparrow, fox and cow, you and me.**

One: And it was good!

**Many: From the beginning, diversity confused us.**

One: We created categories: race, rank and religion; color, class and creed; language, looks and learning.

**Many: And divisions came to be!**

One: And so we gather, today, to honor diversity:

**Many: To love creation, to celebrate difference, to embrace all within the Sacred's unending circle of love.**

One: Let us pray:

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*From All that Dwell below the Skies*

#27 NCH

**READING**

*In Praise of the Earth by John O'Donohue*

**TIME OF UNBURDENING**

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

**GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 28:16-20

John Floyd

**SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING** *Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?*

#539 NCH Vv 2-4

**CALL TO THE OFFERING**

One: Everything we have comes from God.

**All: How we use what we have been given reflects our image of the Giver.**

One: With open hearts and hands let us join in celebrating the life we share,

**All: as we return a portion of what we have been given.**

**OFFERTORY**

*Down By the Sally Gardens*

*Celtic Trad., arr. Dempsey*

*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*

**\*SONG OF PRAISE**

#562 NCH V3

*Take what-ev-er I can of-fer, gifts that I have yet to find,  
skills that I am slow to sharp-en, tal-ents of the hand and mind,  
things made beau-ti-ful for oth-ers in the place where I must be:  
take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**WORD OF GOD FOR (SM)ALL AGES**      Recognition of Graduates

PRAYER OF BLESSING

*by David Balzer, adapted*

One: O Lord, Our God, how majestic is your name... And now, as they go from here we ask that you would graciously continue to fill them with a deep and abiding knowledge of your love for them.

**All: And we ask that, by your Spirit, they may tend to the world and help set it right once again.**

One: Give them open hearts to feel its pain,

**All: and courage enough not to be overwhelmed by its suffering.**

One: May they add to the beauty of your world [...] May it be so.

**All: Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Laurie's Song*

*Aaron Copland*

*Bellana Driscoll, soloist*

**RITE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

INVITATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.**

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS      *Come to Me All Pilgrims Thirsty*

*arr. Highben*

Sanctuary Choir

*We believe this is God's table, not ours, so all are welcome at this table, regardless of age or faith. The cup is unfermented grape juice, and gluten-free bread is available. Prepackaged sets are available for those who are Covid-conscious.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant*

#539 NCH Vv1, 5, 6

**\*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](#)  
- 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!

Welcome to First Congregational Church of 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 given in honor of Charlie Wolf.

Many thanks to Ben Lively, our guest musician! Ben is a violinist, violist, string arranger and composer based in Shelburne, VT. He plays frequently with The Dartmouth Symphony and the Vermont Symphony Orchestra.

### 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*

Baki Nelson, *Head Usher* • Amy Mellencamp, *Welcomer*  
Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher*

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