



38 South Winooski Avenue  
Burlington, Vermont



firstchurchburlington.org

**September 17, 2023**  
*Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*"Landscape is an incredible, mystical teacher,  
and when you begin to tune into its sacred presence,  
something shifts inside you."  
-John O'Donohue*

*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."*

- GATHERING MUSIC** Amy Shortt
- GATHERING SONG**      *Gathered Here* #742 NCH
- CALL TO WORSHIP AND WORDS OF WELCOME** the Rev. Elissa Johnk
- \*GATHERING SONG**      *Gathered Here* #742 NCH
- \*INVOCATION** Tony Hall
- HEBREW BIBLE READING**    From Genesis, *The Message*
- PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION**
- WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PASSING OF THE PEACE**
- BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS** Hilah Clarke  
*Children are always welcome in worship. Those who wish to join other children for Sunday School  
peer groups are invited to leave following this portion of the service.*
- One: May the backpacks these keychains [...] and blessed, ever blessed, by your  
love.
- All: **In the name of the great Teacher at whose knee we are all students,  
Amen.**
- ANTHEM**      *Look at the World* John Rutter
- SCRIPTURE READING**      From Psalm 104

**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 • 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.**

**\*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING** *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

#12 NCH

**CALL TO THE OFFERING**

*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*

**OFFERTORY**

*A Sacred Reflection*

*David Lasky*

*You are invited to offer your monetary gifts and/or to complete the yellow offering card found in your pew. If you are new or visiting us today, please use this time to complete a welcome card and place it in the offering plate – and introduce yourself to our ushers after the service!*

**\*SONG OF PRAISE**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low; Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; One God, Triune, whom we adore.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen!*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**SERMON**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** *Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works*

#3 NCH

**\*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Postlude on Foundation*

*D. Lasky*

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

**NOTES ON TODAY'S SERVICE:**

Sepcial thanks to Zach Kelly for playing percussion this morning!

**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 by Robyn Courville.  
May there always be flowers!

### 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*

Jesse O'Gorman, *Security Staff*

Paul Hobbs, *Head Usher*

Dawn Plante and Sara Wilcoxson, *Welcomers*

Eric Davis, *Digital Usher*

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