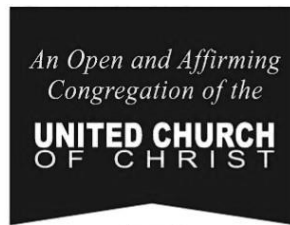




38 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont



firstchurchburlington.org

November 19, 2023

Dedication and Thanksgiving Sunday

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let everyone come to know your gentleness. Be anxious for nothing...God's peace can do this better than our human minds...for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need.

I can do all things through him who strengthens me. – Philippians 4

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 – to be shared during "Prayers of the People."

GATHERING MUSIC Sing Praise to God! *arr. Lanny*
Amy Shortt

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS the Rev. Elissa Johnk

***CALL TO WORSHIP & INVOCATION** The Baker Niles Family

based on Psalm 100

Leader: The world is filled with the glory of Creation,

People: And we give thanks!

Leader: Our lives are gifted with laughter,

People: And we give thanks!

Leader: Our world resounds with great song,

People: And we give thanks!

Leader: In worship, we know we are loved,

People: And offer our love to others.

Leader: As we enter into worship this morning, let us fill this space with our gratitude:

People: *(Call out the things you are grateful for in your own life)*

Leader: Let us pray:

***OPENING HYMN** *Come, O Thankful People, Come* #422 NCH

HEBREW BIBLE READING Micah 4:3-4

TIME OF UNBURDENING

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

WORD OF GOD FOR (SM) ALL AGES

Children are always welcome in worship. Those who wish to join their peer groups are invited to leave with our Faith Formation Director following this time.

ANTHEM *All Good Gifts* *arr. Penny Rodriguez*
Sanctuary Choir

GOSPEL READING From Matthew 25

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** *We Gather Together* #421 NCH

STEWARDSHIP WITNESS Karen and Matt Bushey

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *A Living Prayer* Austin Handbell Choir

You are invited to offer monetary gifts online using this link:

<https://bit.ly/fccbongiving> (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

The link to make a 2024 pledge online to First Congregational Church is:

<https://bit.ly/pledgeform2024> *The stewardship information packet is available at:*

<https://bit.ly/FCCB2024stewardship>

***SONG OF PRAISE** *Good Enough*

(Please join in refrain) God is still here and somehow, this faith is good enough.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SERMON

***DEDICATION SONG** *This is the Sound of One Voice* *The Wailin' Jennys*

***BIDDING TO MISSION**

***BENEDICTION** *Blessing the Talents* *by Jan Richardson*

POSTLUDE

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

*God, give me gratitude for what I have,
the wisdom to understand I don't need most of what I want,
and the joy that comes from simplicity and generosity.
- Contentment prayer, adapted*

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!

Special thanks to our Worship Team for creating today's Thanksgiving display for the pulpit.

Staff Directory

Elissa Johnk, *Lead Minister*

Amy Shortt, *Director of Music*

Caroline Catlin, *Office & Nursery Administrator*

Hilah Clarke, *Faith Formation Director*

Lucy Samara, *Communications Coordinator*

Max Johnson, *A/V Coordinator*

Jennifer Coleman, *Bell Choir Director*

Jason Vanderlaan, *Youth Ministries*

Laura Elder-Connors, *Children's Choir Director*

Jesse O'Gorman, *Security Staff*

Derik Breen, *Building & Grounds*

Many thanks to our ushers, digital ushers, and welcomers today!

 www.firstchurchburlington.org  info@firstchurchburlington.org  802.862.5010

Follow us @firstchurchbtv