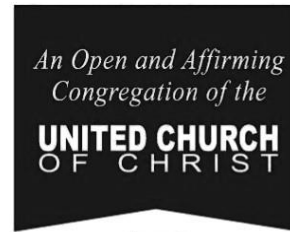




38 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont



firstchurchburlington.org

January 21, 2024

Third Sunday after Epiphany

"We are thoroughly nature. To claim otherwise is to attempt to place human beings and everything we do in some rare unimaginable realm beyond the universe, thus rendering the power of our origins lost and our obligations vague" – Pattiann Rogers

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."

PRELUDE

The Peace May Be Exchanged
Chris Lyons-Dinh, organ

D. Locklair

WORDS OF WELCOME

The Rev. Elissa Johnk

***CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION**

by Revs. Hunt and Galloway, adapted

One: The sky does it simply, naturally, day by day by day... and is comforted with them.

All: May we be like that...

One: so our faith is not in our words but in our lives,

All: not in what we say but in who we are,

One: passing on love like a contagious laugh: not worried, not threatening, just shining like the sun, like a starry night, like a lamp on a stand,

All: light for life – in our lives.

One: We pray together now... Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *All Creatures of Our God and King*

#64 PH

An inclusive language version can be found in NCH #17, please sing with the version you prefer.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:14-20, p.867

Theresa Mazza

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION *by Rev. Are, adapted*

Holy God, more days than not, hope feels like the rain. We try to hold onto it with cupped hands, but eventually, it slips right on through. Forgive us for holding hope so loosely. Forgive us for allowing the realities of today to define tomorrow. We know that this world needs people who see the possibilities of your Realm breaking through, so today we pray: turn us into those people. Call to us and send us out as your prayer for the world. With open hearts we pray, amen.

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

WORD OF GOD FOR (SM)ALL AGES

Hilah Clarke

Children are always welcome in worship. Those who wish to join their peers for Kidz Lab are invited to follow Hilah to their classrooms now.

MUSICAL MEDITATION *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne*

arr. Peter Hilliard

Emy Berger, flute

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 • SILENT PRAYER • 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** *De colores (Sing of Colors)*

#402 NCH

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Andante religioso

F. Mendelssohn

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SONG OF PRAISE *Love Came Down at Christmas* #165 NCH
Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;
Love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.

READING

SERMON

*CLOSING HYMN *You Walk along Our Shoreline* #504 NCH

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Improvisation on Engelberg*

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

NOTES ON TODAY’S SERVICE:

Many thanks to Emy Berger and Chris Lyons-Dinh for their music leadership this morning while Amy Shortt is away.

The Outreach Team is grateful for all the hygiene items donated this morning. We would appreciate your help in getting them organized and stored away. If you will be staying for coffee hour, please bring the items with you to the chapel for sorting. If you cannot attend coffee hour this morning, please bring your items forward during the offering and place them on the altar.

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, <i>Lead Minister</i>	Amy Shortt, <i>Director of Music</i>
Caroline Catlin, <i>Office & Nursery Administrator</i>	Hilah Clarke, <i>Faith Formation Director</i>
Lucy Samara, <i>Communications Coordinator</i>	Emerson Grow, <i>Interim A/V Coordinator</i>
Jennifer Coleman, <i>Bell Choir Director</i>	Jason Vanderlaan, <i>Youth Ministries</i>
Laura Elder-Connors, <i>Children’s Choir Director</i>	Jesse O’Gorman, <i>Security Staff</i>
Derik Breen, <i>Building & Grounds</i>	

Will Gunger, *Head Usher*
Leendert Huisman, Dawn Plante, and Sara Wilcoxson, *Welcomers*
Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher*

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