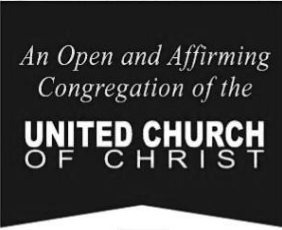




38 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont



firstchurchburlington.org

January 28, 2024

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

*If love traveled only in lines / not also in waves / what child could withstand /
the impact of a parent's love?*

What spouse could survive / that week or month or year / of longing for another?

"Luminous" Julie Cadwallader Staub

*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

Gathering Music
Amy Shortt

WORDS OF WELCOME

The Rev. Elissa Johnk

***CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION**

The Trussell family

One: Each new day is a gift.
Each new phase of life brings generous possibilities.
Each new question brings learning and growth.

**All: May we greet each day as gift and blessing,
folding its promise into who we will become,
and living the fullness of its teachings.**

One: We pray: As we gather, let us affirm the connection we have:
with each other, and with that creative mystery we call God.

**All: We pause again to reflect, to feel, and to commit
to thoughtful and mindful intention. (Silence)**

One: We wonder again about the ebb and flow
of this living, breathing, expanding universe...
And of this community. *(Silence)*
May we remain open to the unfolding of
all that can be celebrated,
all that can be learned,
all that can be done,
all that can be,

All: in this place where we are fully known, and fully loved.

One: May we wrap our lives around the blessings and challenges of today.

All: May we live our hope into tomorrow. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *Great Is Your Faithfulness* #423 NCH

GOSPEL READING Mark 1:21-28 Steve Fuchs

TIME OF UNBURDENING *by Cheryl Lawrie, adapted*

***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.*

ANTHEM *Come to Zion* arr. Kevin Siegfried
Sanctuary Choir

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** *There is a Balm in Gilead* #553 NCH

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY Ave Maria arr. Ardis Freeman
Emy Berger, flute and 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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SONG OF PRAISE #780 NCH
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

READING Luminous by Julie Cadwallader-Staub

SERMON

*CLOSING HYMN O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing #42 NCH

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Allegro moderato in D minor C. V. Stanford
Chris Lyons-Dinh, organ

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

NOTES ON TODAY’S SERVICE:

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 Amy Shortt, Director of Music
Caroline Catlin, Office & Nursery Administrator Hilah Clarke, Faith Formation Director
Lucy Samara, Communications Coordinator Emerson Grow, Interim 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

Dawn Plante, Head Usher
Amy Mellencamp, Welcomer
Lou Rochford, Digital Usher

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Follow us @firstchurchbtv

