



38 South Winooski Avenue  
Burlington, Vermont

firstchurchburlington.org

**March 24, 2024**  
*Palm Sunday*

*Only holiness will call people to listen now. And the work of holiness is not about perfection or niceness; it is about belonging, that sense of being in the Presence, and through the quality of that belonging, the mild magnetic of implicating others in the Presence.... This is not about forging a relationship with a distant God but about the realization that we are already within God. – 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 – to be shared during “Prayers of the People.”*

**PRELUDE** *Jubilant Procession* Jane McFadden  
Austin Handbell Choir

*Children are invited to begin the service in the back of the Sanctuary,  
and process to the front during the opening hymn.*

**WORDS OF WELCOME** The Rev. Elissa Johnk

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *All Glory, Laud and Honor* #216 NCH

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND UNBURDENING** The Baker-Niles Family  
*by J. Young, adapted*

One: Twenty centuries past ... and still we cry out:  
**All: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.**  
**Hosanna in the highest!**

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

**GOSPEL READING** From Matthew 21:1-11 Amy Mellencamp  
and Luke 19:28-39

**WORD OF GOD FOR (SM)ALL AGES**

*Children are always welcome in worship.  
Those who wish to join their peers are invited to follow Hilah Clarke now.*

**ANTHEM** *Sanctus* Sandra Howard  
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** *“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”* #213 NCH

**GOSPEL READING** From John 12:1-8 Ava Bilton

**CALL TO THE OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me* H. Atkin

*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 AND SONG OF PRAISE** J. Berthier, Taize  
*Ubi caritas, et a--mor. Ubi caritas, Deus i--bi est.*  
(Where charity and love prevail, there is God.)

**SERMON** Wilderness: Hold hands. With strangers.

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *Hosanna Song* Jon Guerra and Paul Zach  
Lilly Merchant, soloist

**BIDDING TO MISSION**

**\*CLOSING VERSE**  
*Were you there when they gathered for the meal (x3)*  
*Oh, sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble*  
*Were you there when they gathered for the meal*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Dialogue sur les Grands Jeux* L-N Clerambault  
*Those who are observing physical distancing are encouraged to leave*  
*immediately following the benediction. Those who are not are encouraged to stay*  
*for a portion of the postlude to facilitate their departure.*

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

**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* Chris Lyons-Dinh, *Interim Director of Music*  
Ava Bilton, *Director of Congregational Life* Hilah Clarke, *Faith Formation Director*  
Caroline Catlin, *Office & Nursery Administrator* Jason Vanderlaan, *Youth Ministries*  
Lucy Samara, *Communications Coordinator* Luca Petrosso, *A/V Coordinator*  
Jennifer Coleman, *Bell Choir Director* Emerson Grow, *Interim A/V Coordinator*  
Laura Elder-Connors, *Children's Choir Director* Jesse O'Gorman, *Security Staff*  
Derik Breen, *Building & Grounds*

Dawn Plante, *Head Usher*  
Sara Wilcoxson and Bob Wolf, *Welcomers*  
Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher*