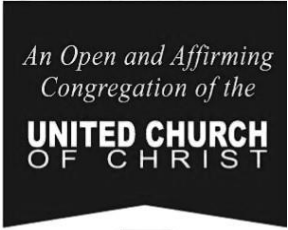




38 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont



firstchurchburlington.org

March 17, 2024
Fifth Sunday in Lent

“The amount of energy needed to refute “baloney” is an order of magnitude bigger than to produce it.” – Alberto Brandolini (edited)

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

Fugue C. Franck
Chris Lyons-Dinh, organ
Canary Joachim van den Hove
Ella Niles, piano

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Elissa Johnk

*CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION

adapted from the Sanctified Art Collective and Brene Brown

One: We have been in the wilderness—
All: **Knowing that if we see the path in front of us, it is not ours.**
One: We have *belonged* in the wilderness—
All: **Everywhere and nowhere, all at once.**
One: We have *been* the wilderness—
All: **Belonging to no one. Belonging to you.**
One: We have been in the wilderness—
All: **Learning to love your people, and ourselves.**

One: We have been in the wilderness, but we have not been alone;
for God walks with us, every step of the way.
All: **So let us worship the God of our darkest nights
and our brightest days.**
One: Let us worship you, Holy God.
All: **Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN *God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak* #531 NCH

GOSPEL READING Mark 7:24-30, p.874

TIME OF UNBURDENING *by the Sanctified Art collective, adapted*

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PASSING THE PEACE.

WORD OF GOD FOR (SM)ALL AGES

Children are always welcome in worship. Those who wish to join their peer groups for Kids Lab are invited to follow Hilah Clarke to their classrooms now.

ANTHEM

O Love Elaine Hagenberg
Sanctuary Choir

READING

Ava Bilton

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 *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* #197 NCH

OUTREACH WITNESS Laurie Nelson

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *O Sacred Heart* J. Pachelbel
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: Speaking Truth

*CLOSING HYMN *Come, O Fount of Every Blessing* #459 NCH

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Dialogue sur les Grands Jeux* F. Couperin

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

Leendert Huisman, Dawn Plante, and
Patty Thomas, *Welcomers* • Will Gunger, *Head Usher*
Eric Davis, *Digital Usher* • Caroline Catlin and Sara Wilcoxson, *Nursery*

 www.firstchurchburlington.org  info@firstchurchburlington.org  802.862.5010

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