



March 31, 2024

"The mark of the wild heart is living out the paradox of love in our lives. It's the ability to be tough and tender, excited and scared, brave and afraid – all in the same moment. It's showing up in our vulnerability and our courage, being both fierce and kind. Strong Back. Soft Front. Wild Heart."

- Brene Brown

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

Chris Lyons-Dinh

PRELUDE

*What Wondrous Love
Were You There*

Bellanna Driscoll

***CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

The Jorgenson Family

One: In your hand, O God, we see the whole cosmos,
heaven and earth reflecting your handiwork.

All: In your hand, O God, we see a little child, born in Bethlehem, whose birth prompted the singing of angels.

One: In your hand, O God, we see the scar of the cross,
a reminder that you have overcome sin and death.

All: In your hand, O God, we behold a new light. Day and night are transformed in the glory of this Easter morning.

One: We gather together to sing and pray the story we know by heart,

a story of love's triumph and powerful grace.
The story of Jesus' resurrection,

All: And our own.

One: Let us pray: [...] And so, eternal, living God, we ask that you:

All: Transform us now. Help us make the journey from death to life. From our grief, bring joy, and from our brokenness bring hope. Just as the sun rises, may we rise boldly to greet this new truth in our lives – that in the battle between death and love, love always wins. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Thine is the Glory
Tim Berger, *trumpet*

#193 PH

WORDS OF WELCOME

The Rev. Elissa Johnk

One: For the truth that no one suffers alone, we say:

All: Alleluia!

One: For the truth that violence does not have the final word, we say:

All: Alleluia!

One: For the knowledge that death has been put to death, we say:

All: Alleluia!

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

One: Christ is risen, indeed!

All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

GOSPEL READING

John 20: 1-18

WORD OF GOD FOR (SM)ALL AGES

Children of all ages are always welcome in worship, but if your little one needs a break, throughout the service there is childcare for children K and below in the Nursery.

SPECIAL MUSIC

I Know that My Redeemer Liveth, from Messiah

Handel

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.

ANTHEM *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* John Rutter
Sanctuary Choir

CALL TO THE OFFERING Ava Bilton
Ava Bilton is our Director of Congregational Life. On the weekends, she is serving as a Parental Leave Pastor at the Vergennes United Church of Christ. She will join us full-time in May.

OFFERTORY *Joy and Celebration* arr. Lee Afdahl
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 check payable to: First Congregational Church at 38 South Winooski Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401

[Online offerings](#) designated to the "Easter Offering" fund will support the ministries and missions of First Church, with a 10% tithe split between the Hope Fund of the Vermont Conference UCC and the Vermont Racial Justice Alliance.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***SONG OF PRAISE** LLANFAIR
*Sing we to our God a-bove: Al--le-lu-ia! Praise eternal as God's love, Al--le-lu-ia!
Christ now from the dead is raised, Al-le-lu-ia! Holy Trinity be praised, Al--le-lu-ia!*

SERMON

SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM (See Insert)

SUNG BENEDICTION *A Repeating Alleluia* Calvin Hampton

BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

***CLOSING HYMN** *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* #233 NCH

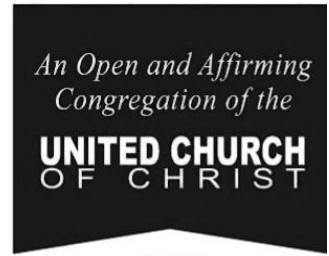
POSTLUDE *Toccata, from Symphony V* C-M Widor

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





38 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont




firstchurchburlington.org

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>	Luca Petrosso, <i>A/V Coordinator</i>
Jennifer Coleman, <i>Bell Choir Director</i>	Emerson Grow, <i>Interim A/V Coordinator</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* • Amy Mellencamp and Dawn Plante, *Welcomers*
Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher* • Jennifer Trussell & Sara Wilcoxson, *Nursery*

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