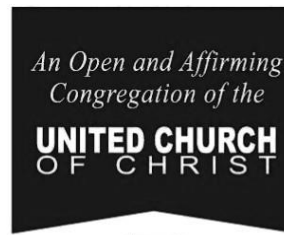




38 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont



firstchurchburlington.org

April 14, 2024

Third Sunday of Easter

“As...Cardinal Suhard says, “To be a witness does not consist in engaging in propaganda, nor even in stirring people up, but in being a living mystery. It means to live in such a way that one’s life would not make sense if God did not exist.”

— Madeleine L’Engle

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

Rhosymedre
Chris Lyons-Dinh, organ

R. Vaughan Williams

WORDS OF WELCOME

The Rev. Elissa Johnk

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CENTERING SILENCE

Centering silence has its roots in the earliest of desert monastic traditions and the Christian mystic tradition. Relaxing into quietness creates the space for deep listening and draws us into ourselves.

***OPENING HYMN**

My Shepherd Is the Living God

#247 NCH

GOSPEL READING

John 20:19-23, p.945

Paul Bloomhardt

THE COLLECTIVE STORY OF RESURRECTION

from John 20, by Marcia McFee, adapted

Dave Grace

One: They trembled in fear behind locked doors as the sun set on that first Easter...

[...]

One: Again, Jesus offered his peace and said, as he was sent by God, he now sends them... Even in the midst of our own turmoil, can we find the courage to go where we are sent?

All: **Can we seek healing for ourselves?**

Do we understand that others are in need of our witness?

One: Jesus breathed on them and said: “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

All: **The Spirit is always with us, and within us, to guide and sometimes cajole and awaken us to all the possibilities for renewed life.**

One: Jesus assured them: Forgive the sins of anyone, and they are forgiven, hold the sins of any and they are retained.

We see in the example of Christ how to forgive others and how to release our own woundedness.

All: **We seek the courage of forgiveness, and open ourselves to the freedom, release, and peace that comes through it. We forgive ourselves and we forgive others.**

One: This is a Word of Hope for the people who long for it.

All: **Thanks be to the Living Word.**

***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 peer groups for Kids Lab are invited to follow Hilah Clarke to their classrooms now.

ANTHEM

Angels of Heaven

arr. K. 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** *Peace I Leave with You* #249, Vv. 1-2 NCH

WITNESS Ava Bilton and Will Gunger
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.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Piano Song* P. Halley
*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** #522 NCH
*The Savior of our stories has brought his peace to you;
now go and tell the story, for others need it too.
To ev'ry one who's hurting ring out the gospel call;
proclaim that Christ is risen and grants his peace to all.
I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

HEBREW BIBLE READING Nehemiah 9:9-14, p.421

SERMON Resurrection: Held

***CLOSING HYMN** *Joyful Joyful, We Adore You, select verses* #4 NCH

***BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

**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>	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>	

Paul Hobbs, *Head Usher*
Leendert Huisman and Sara Wilcoxson, *Welcomers*
Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher*

Many thanks to Worship Design Studio and Rev. Marcia McFee for today's liturgies

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