

*Welcoming All.  
Seeking Justice.  
Finding God.*

38 South Winooski Avenue  
Burlington, Vermont



*An Open and Affirming  
Congregation of the*  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

  
firstchurchburlington.org

**June 30, 2024**

*Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*

*When we are caught up in the limitations of our human conceptions of kingdom, it means that we will perpetually struggle to remember that the whole reason that we say, "Jesus is Lord," is because by doing so it means Caesar is not. And if we forget this and forget that the gospel invitation is into a family then we will keep on ordering our lives in response to earthly powers and imaginations and will give away our power to the kings of this earth who promise to fortify our egos and keep us from having to awaken to the seashore kindom family. For God's kingdom is a kindom where we're invited to take up the responsibility to love and lay down our lives." –Sara Wilhelm Carbers*

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*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."*

*First Congregational Church at 38 South Winooski Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401*

**PRELUDE** Kenneth Vigne, organ

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND CENTERING SILENCE** The Rev. Elissa Johnk  
*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.*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF INVOCATION** Liz Royer  
*from Psalm 33, interpreted by Nan Merrill and adapted*

**One:** Sing joyfully to God, praise the Lord with music!

**All:** We sing with our lives a new song, of peace and truth,

**and we do so with joy!**

**One:** For the word of the Creator is truth,

**All:** and blessed is the nation that reflects the faithfulness of God's love.

**One:** All creation, from the distant stars to the depths of the seas, is held together by Love. From this perspective, God sees all humanity.

**All:** No nation is saved by the size of an army; despite all its great strength it cannot save.

**One:** But the wisdom of God is with those who live in awe and wonder, for when the Beloved speaks, it comes to pass;

**All:** as Love's way guides and directs, thus, it stands.

**One:** In God our hearts rejoice, for we trust in the holy name of our God. And in this time, God, may your unfailing love rest upon us,

**All:** for we put our hope in you. Amen.

**\*OPENING HYMN** God, We Thank You for Our People #376 NCH

**GOSPEL READING** Mark 5:21-24, 35-42, Jim Hughes

**TIME OF UNBURDENING** Ava Bilton

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

**YOUTH SERVICE WITNESS** Tegan Bushey

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

**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**  
*Based on prayers by the Rev. Neil Thorogood and the Book of Common 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** *For the Healing of the Nations* #576 NCH

**CALL TO THE OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** Chris Lyons-Dinh

*You are invited to offer monetary gifts  
online using this link: <https://bit.ly/fcconlinegiving>  
(also under the video title on YouTube)*

*or by texting FCCBUCC to 73256 - or mail a check payable to:*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND DOXOLOGY** #522 NCH

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.*

**NEW TESTAMENT READING** From Acts 9:1-19 and 22:6-21

**SERMON**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** *This is My Song, We Would Be Building* #591 & 607  
(See Slides)

**\*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

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

**NOTES ON TODAY'S SERVICE:**

Special thanks to Kenneth Vigne, Associate Director of  
Music at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis  
for joining us in worship this morning!

**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!

The flowers on the pulpit this morning are given by  
Doug Viehmann and Ann Vivian in loving memory of  
Norman J. Viehmann (March 8, 1929 – June 23, 2024)

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 &amp; Nursery Administrator</i> | Jason Vanderlaan, <i>Youth Ministries</i>          |
| Lucy Samara, <i>Communications Coordinator</i>             | Max Johnson, <i>A/V Technician</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 &amp; Grounds</i>         |

Dawn Plante, *Head Usher*  
Bob Wolf, *Welcomer*  
Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher*

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