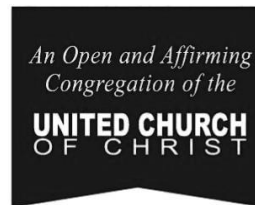




38 South Winooski Avenue  
Burlington, Vermont



firstchurchburlington.org

**July 7, 2024**

*Seventh Sunday after Pentecost  
Communion Sunday*

*Today, the first Sunday of the month, is a Communion Sunday.*

*All ages, every person, is welcome to the Communion Table at First Congregational Church. Before worship, gather a candle and elements to participate in Communion – any form of juice and bread that you have readily available.*

*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** Chris Lyons-Dinh, *organ*  
**WORDS OF WELCOME** Ava Bilton

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CENTERING SILENCE**  
*Centering silence has roots in the earliest desert monastic traditions and the Christian mystic tradition. Relaxing into quietness creates space for deep listening and draws us into ourselves.*

**\*OPENING HYMN** *Community of Christ* #314 NCH

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Ayanna Harlow  
*by Burgess & Polhill, and the Buddha, adapt.*

Leader: From the corners of this city, from the confusion of life, from the loneliness of our hearts:

**All: Gather us, O God.**

Leader: To feed our minds, to fire our imagination, to free our hearts:

**All: Gather us, O God.**

Leader: As the thought manifests as the word, and the word manifests as the deed.

**All: The deed develops into habit, and habit hardens into character.**

Leader: Let us pray:

**All: Holy Spirit, help us watch the thought and its ways with care, that all we think, say, and do, might spring from love, born out of concern for all beings, this day and always. Amen.**

**\*PASSING THE PEACE.**

**SCRIPTURE READING** Mark 6:6b-9 Jamie Polli

**CALL TO THE OFFERING AND OFFERTORY**

*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 a check payable to:*

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

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND SONG OF PRAISE** #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.*

**SCRIPTURE READING** Acts 11:19-26 The Rev. Elissa Johnk

**MEDITATION**

**\*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING** *As We Gather at Your Table* #332 NCH

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

INVITATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

One: [...] And so, as we remember these words and acts of Jesus, we offer our own lives, leaving behind what we do not need, seeking new paths full of resurrected life in you. As followers of Christ, we proclaim and live out this holy mystery:

**All: Christ was born among us. Christ was killed among us.  
Christ will rise again among us.**

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 • PRAYER OF BLESSING • 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.**

#### SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

*We believe this is God's meal, not ours, so all are welcome at this table, regardless of age or faith.  
You are invited to come forward, and receive the bread, and then the cup. The cup is unfermented  
grape juice, and gluten-free bread is available. Prepackaged sets are available for those who are  
most Covid-conscious.*

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### **WORD OF GOD FOR (SM) ALL AGES**      *Ceremony of Release*

#### GREETING AND LITANY OF RELEASE

One: For 5 years, 2.5 years, and 5 months, these friends have been serving with us faithfully.

Staff: We thank First Church, its members and friends, [...] As we leave these roles, we carry with us all that we have learned here.

**All: We receive your thankfulness, and accept that you are now embarking on new, wonderful journeys.**

**We express our gratitude for your time among us in your roles.**

**Your influence on our community has been profound.**

#### QUESTIONS OF THE CONGREGATION AND QUESTIONS OF CAROLINE, JASON AND CHRIS

Pastor: Do you, the members and friends of First Church release Caroline, Jason and Chris from their respective duties?

**All: We do, with the help of God.**

Pastor: As Caroline and Chris may return as congregants, do you pledge to refrain from calling on them to help in these roles, to the best of your abilities?

**All: We do, with the help of God.**

Leader: Let us pray: O God, we give thanks for [...] Your name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments.

**All: Guide us as we hold these cherished memories and move in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other.**

Pastor: In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

**All: Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**      *When in Our Music God Is Glorified*      NCH #561

#### **\*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!

The flowers on the pulpit this morning are given in special appreciation of Caroline Catlin, *Office Manager*, Chris Lyons-Dinh, *Interim Dir. Of Music*, and Jason Vanderlaan, *Youth Leader*, and in grateful thanksgiving for the gifts each has brought and shared, at just the right time, to the life of this congregation.

#### 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*      Jesse O'Gorman, *Security Staff*  
Jennifer Coleman, *Bell Choir Director*      Derik Breen, *Building & Grounds*  
Laura Elder-Connors, *Children's Choir Director*

Baki Nelson, *Head Usher* • Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher*  
Sara Wilcoxson, *Welcomer* • Max Johnson, *A/V Technician*

🌐 [www.firstchurchburlington.org](http://www.firstchurchburlington.org)    ✉ [info@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:info@firstchurchburlington.org)    ☎ 802.862.5010

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