

*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

February 5, 2023
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
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.*

PRELUDE

What a Wonderful World

Amy Shortt

*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 –
prayer requests received prior to the sermon will be shared during "Prayers of the People."*

WORDS OF WELCOME

The Rev. Elissa Johnk

***CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION**

The Baker Niles Family

by Katherine Hawker, adapted

One: Happy are we

All: when our treasures cannot be quantified.

One: Happy are we

All: when our knowledge is tempered by mystery.

One: Happy are we

All: when our pain is held in the balm of love.

One: Happy are we

All: when our delight comes from beyond ourselves.

One: Happy are we

All: when we are able to gather in and create beloved community.

One: May it be so. Amen.

***OPENING SONG**

Turn, Turn, Turn

arr. Pete Seeger

FIRST READING

Modern Beatitudes

Carole Hauke

by Rob Bell & Brian McLaren

TIME OF UNBURDENING

One: O God, forgive us when our faith falters in front of your call to follow,

All: Even as, through your Spirit, we stand in the knowledge of your love.

One: Forgive us when we are caged by our narrow understandings of discipleship and our clouded sense of purpose.

All: Forgive us when we are frightened of the future, or pull back from the demand of your calling.

One: Forgive us when we fail to sense your presence in our past,

**All: to acknowledge your grace in the present moment,
and to trust you for our future. [Silent Prayer]**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Christ Has Broken Down the Wall
Sanctuary Choir

arr. Mark Miller

SECOND GOSPEL READING

John 1:31-39

SERMON

The State of the Church

***SUNG RESPONSE**

I Want to Walk as a Child of Light

(See Separate Music Insert)

COMMISSIONING OF BOARDS AND TEAMS

HONORING OF NEW, GOLDEN, AND DECEASED MEMBERS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands
Bellana Driscoll, soloist

AFRICAN AMERICAN
SPIRITUAL

*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*

***SONG OF PRAISE**

STUTT GART

All the wealth that we may gather, Is for use in causes just.

We are stewards of the bounty, Loaned to us in solemn trust. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

by Revs Hunt and Milner, adapted

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

by the Rev. Anna Blaedel, adapted

One: The Holy One be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Open your hearts to the One who is Love.

All: We open our hearts to you, O God.

One: Let us give thanks to God who takes risks for love.

All: For the courage of the Holy that lives in us, we give thanks.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.*

PRAYER OF BLESSING • THE 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 table, not ours, so all are welcome at this table, regardless of age or faith. The cup is unfermented grape juice, and gluten-free bread is available.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

***CLOSING SONG**

One in the Spirit

Peter Scholtes

***BIDDING TO MEETING AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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

Virtual Fellowship: Worship is followed by Fellowship at First Church – and remotely on [ZOOM](https://bit.ly/sundayfellowship) - the link is: <https://bit.ly/sundayfellowship>

ANNUAL MEETING 12PM TODAY VIA ZOOM

Zoom Link for Annual Meeting:

<https://bit.ly/annualmeetingzoom2023>

Meeting ID: 860 0604 7017

Passcode: 8625010

Or call: +1 929 205 6099 and
enter 860 0604 7017# followed by 8625010

Link to Annual Report with slate of candidates:

<https://bit.ly/annualreport2022withslate>

Use this link for all Annual Meeting Information & Zoom detail:

<https://bit.ly/annualmeetinginfo2023>

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 today are given by Susan Saunders in gratitude for this church. All are invited to sign-up in the Narthex to donate flowers throughout the coming year.

Staff Directory

Elissa Johnk, *Lead Minister*

Caroline Catlin, *Office & Nursery Administrator*

Lucy Samara, *Communications Coordinator*

Jennifer Coleman, *Bell Choir Director*

Laura Elder-Connors, *Children's Choir Director*

Derik Breen, *Building & Grounds*

Amy Shortt, *Director of Music*

Hilah Clarke, *Faith Formation Director*

Max Johnson, *A/V Coordinator*

Jason Vanderlaan, *Youth Ministries*

Ian Rock-Jones, *Security Staff*

Jesse O'Gorman, *Security Staff*

Baki Nelson, *Head Usher* • Bob Wolf, *Welcomer*

• Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher*

www.firstchurchburlington.org info@firstchurchburlington.org 802.862.5010

Follow us @firstchurchbtv