



February 9, 2025

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

*When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free. -Wendell Berry*

*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

***CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION**

Sage Bryson

from On Earth Peace

One: Come, let us worship together
and share our witness of God's living presence in the world.

Many: We accept the invitation to discipleship.

One: In the midst of a world where cruelty abounds, and language is
divided into 'us' and 'them'

Many: we proclaim the God of Compassion, and Community.

One: In the midst of despair that threatens to swallow up
whole lives, whole peoples,

Many: we proclaim the God of Hope.

One: In the midst of indifference and apathy,

Many: we proclaim the God of Love.

One: When we are tempted to think we are not enough,
and have not enough to make a difference,

Many: Jesus asks us to take our place in God's economy of abundance.

One: Let us pray:

***OPENING HYMN**

Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult, #171, Vv. 1,3, 4 NCH (black hymnal)

WORDS OF WELCOME

the Rev. Elissa C. Johnk

GOSPEL READING

Luke 5:1-11

Bill Neil

TIME OF UNBURDENING

**God of the universe, and Creator of all that is, we admit that we are not
always honest about our lives. We have carelessly consumed the goods
you offer and have failed to be faithful stewards of the earth's resources.
We have sought security in our possessions, and let our anxieties and
preoccupations tempt us toward shallow lives. Forgive us when our
lives do not reflect the depth of purpose you intend. In the name of Jesus
we pray, Amen.**

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

WORD OF GOD FOR (SM)ALL AGES

Hilah Clarke

ANTHEM

Come to the Water

John Foley

Sanctuary Choir

Linda Hasseller, arr.

Sam Rosenbaum, piano

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 AND 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.

***HYMN OF REFLECTION**

How Firm a Foundation, #407 NCH (black hymnal)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Sonatina #1 *arr. Michael Helman*
Austin Bell Choir

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***DOXOLOGY** *Abundance* *Thompson/Miller*

READING *From Two Economies, by Wendell Berry*

SERMON

***PARTING HYMN**

I Sing the Mighty Power of God, #12 NCH (black hymnal)

***BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

**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 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. That means YOU!

Many thanks to our musicians today for lending their gifts in worship. Portions of today's liturgy come from the Worship Design Studio's "Six Stone Jars" worship series.

**Today's flowers are given by the family of Jan Jackson,
in memory of her 88 years of life.**

STAFF DIRECTORY

Elissa Johnk, *Lead Minister*
Ava Bilton, *Director of Congregational Life*
Hilah Clarke, *Faith Formation Director*
Lucy Samara, *Communications Coordinator*
Will Gunger, *Office Admin & Youth Ministry Leader*
Jeff Bryant, *Ensemble Director*
Michael Dyke, *A/V Coordinator*
Caroline Catlin, *Early Childhood Coordinator*
Grace Raines, *Elementary Ministries Coordinator*
Jennifer Coleman, *Bell Choir Director*
Laura Elder-Connors, *Children's Choir Director*
Tyler Warren, Michelle Mraz, Ethan Hobbs, *Security Staff*
Derik Breen, *Building & Grounds*

USHERS

Paul Hobbs & Dawn Plante
Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher*

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