



February 16, 2025

Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

*Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.*

*They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream.
It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.
(Jer 17:7-8)*

*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**

from Sacredise, by Rev. van de Laar

One: Come, let us worship together, in defiance of cynicism:

Many: we embrace the mystery of faith,

One: and we pray for humility and wonder to increase in our world.

Many: In defiance of corruption and falsehood,

we gather to commit ourselves to truth and integrity,

One: and we pray for honesty and uprightness to increase in our world.

Many: In defiance of apathy and hatred,

we choose to be proactive in love,

One: and we pray for understanding and peace to increase in our world.

**Many: In defiance of self-interest and human arrogance,
we celebrate God’s Kingdom, and saving grace.**

One: and we pray for compassion and faith to increase in our world.

**All: In defiance of all that would oppose Your purposes of love and
justice, God, we choose again to follow Christ, and we continue
to pray, not just now, but at all times, asking for your guidance
to light our thoughts, words, and deeds. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

Guide Me O My Great Redeemer, #18 NCH (black hymnal)

WORDS OF WELCOME

the Rev. Elissa C. Johnk

GOSPEL READING

Luke 6:17-26

TIME OF UNBURDENING

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PASSING OF 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 are
invited to follow leaders their classrooms after this portion of the service.*

ANTHEM

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 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**

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian, #454 NCH (black hymnal)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

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

*DOXOLOGY

Abundance

Thompson/Miller



God's a - bun - dance is for all, no one is
left out - side, kin - dom come, all peo - ple
one in trust and love a - bide, in trust and love a - bide.

SERMON

*PARTING HYMN

Arise Your Light is Come, #164 NCH (black hymnal)

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

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.*



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!

Today's flowers were given by Jennie Coleman in honor of her mother, Jackie Comstock, who is celebrating her 92nd birthday today.

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

Matt Bushey & Baki Nelson
Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher
& Slide Creator*

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