

March 23, 2025 Third Sunday in Lent

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."

> It is better to know how to learn than to know. - Dr. Seuss

Prelude

Watermark Izzy Fiske, Piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Newman-O'Shea Family

Marcia McFee, adapted

- One: God of the universe, let this morning give us new ways of seeing.
- Many: Inspire our curiosity so that we may revel in the richness of the novel, the undiscovered, the enchanting.
- One: Let us worship this morning with more questions than answers: Where exactly are you God? Will you be with us here and now?

Introit

Bellana Driscoll

Enya

God's Graceful Moment (PICARDY, From Iona Abbey Worship) Now the earth in all its glory springs to meet the rising sun, warms to all who walk upon it, cradling all that will be done. All our labor, all our loving mingle and become as one.

We receive God's graceful moment, while the day is fresh and still, ours to choose how we will greet it, ours to make it what we will. Here is given perfect freedom, every hope in love to fulfil.

As we take the first step together, Passing through the door of the day, may the love of Christ the Creator give us peace in all that we say, heart for all that lies before us, grace to guide us on our way.

WORDS OF WELCO	ОМЕ	the Rev. Elissa Johnk			
SCRIPTURE READ	ING Proverbs 2:1-5	Judy Gray			
TIME OF UNBURDENING AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE					
*PASSING OF THE	Реасе				
Word of God for (sm)All Ages		Hilah Clarke			
ANTHEM	<i>Look At The World</i> Sanctuary Choir	Rutter			
PRAYERS OF THE I	People				
on the front page of	eek's "Celebrations & Prayer's" list is avail our website – <u>https://firstchurchburlingt</u> der the title of the YouTube live stream thr morning's live stream of the worship serv	<u>con.org/</u> - and among the roughout this			

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.

***Opening Hymn**

*Hymn of Thanksgiving

By Whatever Name We Call You

#560 NCH (black hymnal)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Love Like You

Sugar

You are invited to offer monetary gifts online using this link: <u>https://bit.ly/fccbonlinegiving</u> (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		Old Hundredth
	Praise God, Creator of us all, Praise Christ, by whom we hear our call, Praise Spirit, that which sets us free, Our awe is yours, the One-in-Three.	
Gospel Reading	Matthew 7:1-8	Ava Bilton
Sermon		
* Parting Hymn O for a Woi	d, Vv. 1, 2, 4, 5; #575 NCH (black hymnal)	
*BIDDING TO MISS	ION AND BENEDICTION	
Postlude	Not Alone	Costlow
™Ulaaca ctand ac va	u are able in body or in spirit	

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

We are grateful to Julie Lindorff for offering her musical gifts accompanying our congregational singing this morning.



WELCOME!

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 are given in honor of Dawn Plante's daughter who died three years ago tomorrow.

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, Security Staff Derik Breen, Building & Grounds

<u>Ushers</u>

Baki Nelson & Dawn Plante Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher* & Slide Creator

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