

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Third Sunday After Easter

May 4, 2025

*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.*

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*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

Joel Ramseyer, organ

## CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION *by Carol Penner, adapted*

Susan Ellwood

One: We have come to worship for a glimpse of Your kin-dom of kindness,

**Many: A world where love rules over all and enemies embrace.**

One: Let the distinctions between us and the “other” evaporate in the light of your love.

**Many: Let this gathering transform us.**

One: God of Mercy, we ask you to come mighty close [...]

In the name of Jesus, the Center that Holds,

**Many: And in the power of the Spirit that Transforms, amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** *Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain #230 NCH (black hymnal)*

## WORDS OF WELCOME

the Rev. Elissa C. Johnk

## FIRST GOSPEL READING

Luke 6:31-36

Asa Jorgenson

## TIME OF CONFESSION

Donal Dugan

**O God, our distance from our neighbors grows, and with it our suspicions. We lack understanding, and so become fearful. Our differences feel too great. We doubt we could have anything in common? Despite your Great Commandment, we fail to see, know, and love our neighbors. Forgive us.**

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

## ANTHEM

*Christ Has Broken Down the Wall*  
Sanctuary Choir

*arr. Mark Miller*

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING AND 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 AND \*DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow!*

*Praise God all creatures here below! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Help us to work together well, off'ring our kindness to the world.  
Follow Jesus, praise the Spirit, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL READING AND SERMON

Ava Bilton

### \*SUNG RESPONSE

### Ubi Caritas

Taize



## SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*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.*

### INVITATION

#### GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The God of all Love be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

One: Open your hearts to the One sets us free!

**All: We open our hearts to you, O God!**

One: Let us give thanks to the source of all relationship!

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

One: [...] He proclaimed God's love to all who share the cup. And he told us to remember:

**All: You are one at this table, the table of grace.**

One: We lift our voices in thanksgiving, proclaiming the mystery of our faith,  
that Christ has died, Christ has risen,

**All: and Christ is here again in this meal we eat together!**

#### PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYER OF BLESSING

One: [...] Pour out your Spirit of hope in the midst of our struggles, brokenness, conflict and  
strife, as we remember those who journey with us, straining with difficult burdens:

*All: Name struggles and burdens now. If we speak at the same time as one another – that's fine!*

One: Pour out your Spirit of Joy as we give thanks in taking this bread and cup and remember all  
who bring laughter to our days, and warmth to our hearts in this season.

*All: Name joys now. If we speak at the same time as one another – that's fine!*

One: This we pray,

**All: God who knits us all together, we give you thanks.**

One: [...] as we pray together now, using the prayer Jesus taught us:

#### 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

*The bread will come to you first, and you are invited to take a piece and hold it until all are served. We will  
eat together as a sign of our unity in Christ. The cup will come next, and you are invited to drink your cup as  
it arrives, as a sign of our individual relationships with our Creator.*

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**\*PARTING HYMN**

*Morning Has Broken, #38 PH (blue hymnal)*

**\*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

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

*Portions of this morning's liturgy come from Rev. Marcia McFee, as well as the Urban Abbot.*

*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.*