

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## *Seventh Sunday of Easter*

*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.*

*Online worshippers (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.” 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.*

*Children are always welcome in worship. Those who wish to join their peer groups are invited to begin in  
Church School and rejoin their families during the celebration of communion.*

### PRELUDE

Chris Lyons-Dinh, organ

### CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION

Sage Bryson

One: By whispers or shouts, through song or on impulse, we have all been called to gather here.

**Many: We are responding to God’s invitation to Presence.**

One: From fragmentation to wholeness, from witness to with-ness, as we open our hearts to  
the Spirit of 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

*Sing A New Church*

NETTLETON

*Summoned by the God who made us rich in our diversity / Gathered in the name of Jesus, richer still in unity.*

**Refrain:** *Let us bring the gifts that differ and, in splendid, varied ways,  
sing a new Church into being, one in faith and love and praise.*

*Trust the goodness of creation; trust the Spirit strong within.*

*Dare to dream the vision promised, sprung from seed of what has been. Refrain.*

*Draw together at one table, all the human family; shape a circle ever wider and a people ever free. Refrain.*

### WORDS OF WELCOME

the Rev. Elissa C. Johnk

### GOSPEL READING

The Story of Mary

Paul Bloomhardt

### TIME OF CONFESSION

Jennifer Jorgenson

**Loving God, we come to you exhausted and disillusioned. Overwhelmed by systems and  
societies that prioritize wealth and prestige, we have surrendered to numbness. Forgive  
us for all the ways we turn away from each other and pull away from you.**

### ASSURANCE OF GRACE AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

### SANCTUARY CHOIR ANTHEM

*You Do Not Walk Alone*

Elaine Hagenberg

### 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) - you may also give via Venmo @firstchurchbtv -*

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, offering our kindness to the world. Follow Jesus, praise the Spirit  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

## **GOSPEL READING AND SERMON**

Ava Bilton

## **\*HYMN OF PREPARATION**

*For Everyone Born, Vv. 1, 3, 5*

*See Insert*

## **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 AND GREAT THANKSGIVING**

One: The God of all Love dwells within you!

**All: And also in you!**

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

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

One: Let us give thanks to the Source that overflows!

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

One: [...] as we lift our voices together with all those who dare to walk in your Way:

**All: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O  
God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the  
highest!**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

One: [...] He proclaimed God's grace and love. 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 Mercy in the midst of our struggles, brokenness, conflict and  
pain, 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 have offered their loving presence in our lives, and the beauty that overflows.

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

One: This we pray,

**All: God who nourishes and sustains, 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 AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

## **\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling Vv. 1, 3, 4*

*See Insert*

## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

- I. Call to Order and Declaration of Quorum
- II. Discussion and Vote on Trustee Motion to Call Ava Bilton
- III. Adjournment

## **\*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.*