

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*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 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

Emy Berger, *flute*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Paul Bloomhardt

by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay

One: Sing praises to the Holy One, O you faithful, and give thanks to God's holy name

Many: Shepherd and Source, you guide us in wisdom. You cover us in love.

One: Sing praises to the Holy One, O you faithful, and give thanks to God's holy name

Many: Comforter and Spirit, you encourage us in times of trouble. You strengthen us for the journey.

One: Sing praises to the Holy One, O you faithful, and give thanks to God's holy name

Many: Redeemer and Friend, you hear our cry, redeem the years of struggle, and restore our joy. Praise the Holy One!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*OPENING HYMN

O for a World

#575 NCH (black hymnal)

WORDS OF WELCOME

the Rev. Dr. James Ross II

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Kings 5:1-14

Judy Gray

TIME OF UNBURDENING

Roya Millard

Michael L. Hostetter, adapted

O God of hope and healing, we confess that our lives are often marked by brokenness and separation. We turn to you in the hope that your hand will pass over us and we will be healed. Yet so often, we prefer healing that comes in our own way and on our own terms. When you do not respond according to our expectations, we turn away in anger and disappointment. Have mercy on us when we grow impatient or do not understand. Open our hearts and minds to the balms and salves of your creation, so that we may be guided into pathways of healing. Make us whole we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

Praise life that makes us change and grow K. Struckmeyer/Old Hundredth
Praise love that makes compassion flow
Praise peace that ends all strife and fear
Praise hands that work for justice here! Amen!

SERMON

*HYMN OF PREPARATION

Be Now My Vision

#451 NCH (black hymnal)

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 TO THE TABLE AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

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.

BREAKING AND SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of Grace, you keep your covenant. You renew us at your table with the bread of life. May this meal strengthen us in love, and help us to bless and serve you and your world. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Your Peace Will Make Us One

Traditional/A. Assad

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord
You are speaking truth to power, you are laying down our swords
Replanting every vineyard til a brand new wine is poured
Your peace will make us one

Refrain: Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Your peace will make us one
I've seen you in our home fires burning with a quiet light
You are mothering and feeding in the wee hours of the night
Your gentle love is patient, you will never fade or tire

Your peace will make us one! **Refrain**

In the beauty of the lilies you were born across the sea
With a glory in your bosom that is still transfiguring
Dismantling our empires til each one of us is free
Your peace will make us one! **Refrain**

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

We are honored to welcome guest preacher, Rev. Dr. James D. Ross II in worship this morning. He is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, called and committed to partnering with God and God's people to transform the church and society into places of justice, joy, and liberation.

Rev. Dr. Ross has served congregations in Washington, D.C. and St. Louis. He also supported churches in their justice work as an Area Conference Minister and as Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the UCC's Southern New England Conference. As a consultant and trained professional coach, he works with clergy, nonprofit leaders, and business executives as they discern how they can best use their talents, skills, and commitments to benefit the organizations they serve and communities in which they live. He is a former journalist, organizational and political communications professional, and nonprofit and foundation executive, and has been active in the effort to end the practice of sentencing children to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

He has an undergraduate degree in journalism, graduate degrees in both American Culture Studies and Divinity, and a doctorate in African-Centered Religious Thought and Practice. Rev. Dr. Ross currently serves as Senior Director of Intercultural Centers and Director of the Interfaith Center at the University of Vermont.

*The flowers on the pulpit this morning are given by the
Comstock family in memory of Jackie Comstock.*