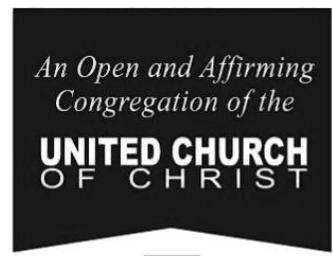




38 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont



firstchurchburlington.org

September 26, 2021
10 a.m.

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

“Profound joy of the heart is like a magnet that indicates the path of life.” (Mother Theresa)

PRELUDE

We Will Glorify by Twila Paris
Carlanne Herzog, piano

arr. Fred Bock

WORDS OF WELCOME

The Rev. Elissa Johnk

CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION

By Rev. Dr. Laurel Koepf Taylor

Margie and Tara Brown

All: We are the church together.

One: I am the church; you are the church.

All: We are the church together.

One: We depend on our seniors and long-time members to remember where we came from and where we have been.

All: We are the church together.

One: We depend on our children to retell our sacred stories as they grow.

All: We are the church together.

One: We depend on our youth and young adults to ask us why we do things this way and to suggest something new.

All: We are the church together.

One: We need each other to be the church.

All: We are the church together.

One: Let us pray:

***OPENING HYMN**

Come O Fount

#459 NCH

GOSPEL READING

Mark 9:38-41

Carol Hauke

TIME OF UNBURDENING

One: Creator of us all, we sometimes forget:

We forget that we are not alone, we forget that you made us,
we forget that we have had help along the way,
we forget to ask for what we need.

All: Embodied God, remind us that we are surrounded.

**We are surrounded by the people you have created,
and by the many gifts you have given them to share.**

Remind us of our own gifts,

And the ways we may use them in community.

One: Suffering Savior, we confess that in our own struggle to survive,

We have ignored other communities. We have forgotten that they too have the right to thrive. Make us mindful. Make us compassionate. Help us to see you in one another. In your name we pray, Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Remote worshipers are invited to submit prayer requests via the YouTube chat –
prayer requests received prior to the sermon will be shared during “Prayers of the People.”*

EPISTLE READING

1 Peter 4:10-11

WORD OF GOD FOR (SM)ALL AGES

Hilah Clarke

READING

From Scott Stoner's "Your Living Compass"

SERMON

***HYMN OF THANKSGIVING**

Take My Life, Let it Be

#404 PH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SILENT PRAYER

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.

OUTREACH TESTIMONY

Neighbors in Need

Susan Ellwood

In addition to our regular offering this morning, the Outreach Team is sponsoring a special offering for Neighbors in Need, the annual offering of the United Church of Christ, dedicated to supporting Justice and Witness ministries.

Please give generously - by check payable to First Church and indicate "NIN" in the memo section

Or online, selecting "NIN" from the drop-down menu. Thank you.

CALL TO THE OFFERING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

What Wondrous Love is

This Southern Harmony

Tess Barker with Andy Barker, *guitar* and Ana Ruesink, *viola*

During this time you are invited to offer your monetary gifts.

You can give online using this link

which is also under the video title on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/fcconlinegiving>

or by texting FCCBUCC to 73256

or mail a check payable to:

First Congregational Church at 38 South Winooski Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401

***DOXOLOGY**

#780 NCH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***CLOSING HYMN**

Here I am, Lord

***BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Give Thanks by Henry Smith

arr. Fred Bock

FELLOWSHIP ON ZOOM: All worshipping remotely are invited to a virtual time in fellowship – on Zoom – following worship. The link is in the YouTube description for this morning's live-stream and on the front page of the First Church website: www.firstchurchburlington.org

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

NOTES ON TODAY'S SERVICE:

Many thanks to our lay musicians, Carlanne Herzog, Ana Ruesink, Tess Barker, Andy Barker, Doug Viehmann, and Ann Vivian.

WELCOME VISITORS!

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 tourists from near and far, 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. Including YOU!

Staff Directory

Rev. Elissa Johnk, *Lead Minister*

Caroline Catlin, *Office & Nursery Administrator*

Lucy Samara, *Communications Coordinator*

Max Johnson, *A/V Coordinator*

Jennifer Coleman, *Bell Choir Director*

Laura Elder-Connors, *Children's Choir Director*

Derik Breen, *Building & Grounds Staff*

Hannah Sachs, *Director of Creative Ministries
and Youth Ministries*

Hilah Clarke, *Faith Formation Director*

Ana Ruesink, *Youth Choir Director*

Ann Vivian, *Fall Music Coordinator*

Ian Rock-Jones, *Security Staff*

Baki Nelson, *Usher* • Caroline Crawford and Dawn Plante, *Welcomers*

• Lou Daniel Rochford, *Digital Usher*

The flowers were given by Susan Saunders in memory of her parents,
Betty and Oatman Saunders, married September 25, 1948.

 www.firstchurchburlington.org  info@firstchurchburlington.org  802.862.5010

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