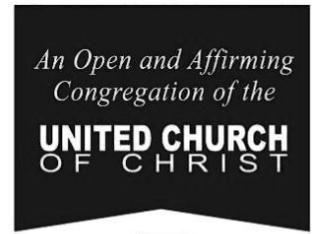




38 South Winooski Avenue  
Burlington, Vermont



firstchurchburlington.org

January 2, 2022  
10 a.m.  
*Celebration of Epiphany*

*(To prepare for worship gather a candle, and juice and bread for the celebration of Communion – all are welcome at the Communion Table at First Church.)*

**PRELUDE**

Patti Casey

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

The Rev. Elissa Johnk

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION**

The Bushey Family

One: We come to this place—

**All: each of us on our own path.**

One: The path is winding,

**All: and the path is not always clear,**

One: and the path changes,

**All: but we are here.**

One: God is walking us home.

**All: What a gift it is**

**to not walk alone.**

One: Let us worship Holy God. Let us pray:

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*Go Tell it On the Mountain*

**GOSPEL READING**

From Matthew 2:1-12

Janice Clements

**TIME OF UNBURDENING**

One: God of changed plans, the Magi heard in a dream that they were to take a new way home—a different path, an untraveled road. And to our amazement, they did just that. The Magi packed their bags and went home by another way.

**All: We wish that change could be easy for us, but more often than not, when whispers of change come, we tend to clench our fists and hold on tighter.**

**Forgive us for resisting change that might be holy.**

**Forgive us for ignoring that there is more than one road home.**

**Forgive us for failing to hear your invitation.**

**Guide our steps to unfamiliar places.**

**Gratefully we pray, amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

**CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS**

**MEDITATION**

*Into This Night*

**CALL TO THE OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

*Into This Night, reprisal*

*You are invited to offer your 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*

**\*DOXOLOGY**

*Special Christmas Lyrics*

*To God, all glorious heavenly light; to Christ revealed in earthly night,  
To God the Spirit now we raise, our joyful songs of thankful praise.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Prayer*

**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**INVITATION**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**SILENT PRAYER**

**WESLEY'S COVENANT PRAYER**

**I am no longer my own, but yours, O God.**

**Tell me what you want me to do, and I will do it. Tell me who you want me to work with, and I will join with them gladly.**

**If you want me to work, I will work. If you want me to wait, I will wait.**

**Let me be raised up or put down for you, let me have many things or nothing, I offer all that I have and all that I am**

**to you, glorious and blessed God. Help me to live each day to your glory.**

**And this covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

**SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS**

*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.*

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**\*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING**

*Song of the Magi*

**\*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

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

**Fellowship on Zoom:** All worshipping remotely are invited to a virtual time in fellowship following worship. The Zoom 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](http://www.firstchurchburlington.org)

**NOTES ON TODAY'S SERVICE**

Portions of today's liturgy come from the Sanctified Art Collective.  
We are grateful for Patti Casey's music leadership this morning.

## 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, *Head Usher* • Patty Thomas, *Welcomer*  
• Lou Daniel Rochford, *Digital Usher*

Many thanks to all our musicians who are helping out while we wait for our new Music Director, Amy Shortt to arrive in mid-February!

 [www.firstchurchburlington.org](http://www.firstchurchburlington.org)  [info@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:info@firstchurchburlington.org)  802.862.5010

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