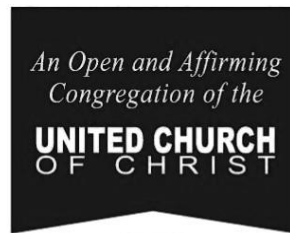


April 21, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Celebration of Earth Day



38 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont

firstchurchburlington.org

*“Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.”*
- Hymn, John Crum

*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 *Tuba Tune* C.S. Lang
Chris Lyons-Dinh, organ

WORDS OF WELCOME AND PRAYER OF INVOCATION The Rev. Bill Neil

THE COLLECTIVE STORY OF RESURRECTION: BEING FOUND The Trussell Family
from Luke 24, by Marcia McFee, adapted

One: Jesus appeared among the disciples again. He stood among them and
said: “Peace be with you.” Yet, the disciples were terrified.
[...]

One: Jesus asked if they had anything to eat, and the disciples shared a piece
of fish, which Jesus ate while in their presence.

**All: Jesus frequently shows us how to create community in the midst of
feeling lost. We can form communities of sustenance and belonging.
We are not alone – we are found –
when we share Christ’s call to peace.**

One: This is a Word of Hope for the people who long for it.

All: Thanks be to the Living Word.

***OPENING HYMN** #248 to the tune of #109 NCH
Such Perfect Love My Shepherd Shows

GOSPEL READING John 10:10-18, p.933-34

TIME OF UNBURDENING

Response: Forgive us, Creator God.

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

WORD OF GOD FOR (SM) ALL AGES *A Church for All*

*Children are always welcome in worship. Those who wish to join their peer groups for Kids Lab
are invited to follow go to their classrooms following the story.*

ANTHEM *Like a River in My Soul* arr. T. Osiek
Sanctuary Choir

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.*

PASTORAL PRAYER • 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.

***HYMN OF THANKSGIVING** *All Belong Here*

1.

When you're not sure who you really are
When all you feel is the shape of your scars
And you have more wounds than you can count
Open your eyes, look all around
You aren't alone, this is your home

Chorus:

*Come and remember who you are here
Do this to remember who I am
Come and remember you belong here
All belong here*

2.

When you don't know how to forgive
When locked doors seem like the only way to live
And you've got more questions than you can count
Open your eyes, look all around
You aren't alone, this is your home

Repeat Chorus

Bridge

At this table come as you are
Broken and bleeding's ok
At this table eat and be filled
Come and drink in this grace.

Repeat Chorus

RESURRECTION WITNESS: FOUND Ava Bilton and Caroline Crawford

Ava Bilton is our Director of Congregational Life. On the weekends, she is serving as a Parental Leave Pastor at the Vergennes United Church of Christ. She will join us full-time in May.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Morning Has Broken
Austin Handbell Choir

arr. Bill Ingram

*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 SONG OF PRAISE**

#522 NCH

*The Savior of our stories has brought his peace to you;
now go and tell the story, for others need it too.
To ev'ry one who's hurting ring out the gospel call;
proclaim that Christ is risen and grants his peace to all.
I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

HEBREW BIBLE READING

Psalm 23, p.476

SERMON

***CLOSING HYMN**

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

#252 NCH

***BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Carillon de Westminster

L. Vierne

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

NOTES ON TODAY'S SERVICE

The Rev. Bill Neil is retired clergy, who has served with with United Methodist and United Church of Christ congregations of many sizes in many locations. Married to Faith, dad and grandad, brother, and friend.
Glad to be retired!

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

Elissa Johnk, <i>Lead Minister</i>	Chris Lyons-Dinh, <i>Interim Director of Music</i>
Ava Bilton, <i>Director of Congregational Life</i>	Hilah Clarke, <i>Faith Formation Director</i>
Caroline Catlin, <i>Office & Nursery Administrator</i>	Jason Vanderlaan, <i>Youth Ministries</i>
Lucy Samara, <i>Communications Coordinator</i>	<i>on parental leave</i>
Jennifer Coleman, <i>Bell Choir Director</i>	Luca Petrosso, <i>A/V Coordinator</i>
Laura Elder-Connors, <i>Children's Choir Director</i>	Jesse O'Gorman, <i>Security Staff</i>
Derik Breen, <i>Building & Grounds</i>	

Dawn Plante, *Head Usher*
Sara Wilcoxson, *Welcomer*
Eric Davis, *Digital Usher*

Many thanks to Worship Design Studio and Rev. Marcia McFee for today's liturgies

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