

The United Church of Christ, Congregational
Burlington, MA

Epiphany Season

"We gather for worship, study, planning and mission to celebrate the life, teachings, death and living presence of Jesus Christ which frees us to love boldly and to serve gladly as God would want us to do."

January 22, 2023

10:30 A.M.

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We believe God calls us to love unconditionally, following the example of Jesus Christ.

Recognizing that all people are equal in the sight of God, we seek to be an inclusive and respectful community for persons of every color, age, sexual orientation, gender, ability and economic means.

In our calling to express the love and welcome of Christ, we affirm the dignity and worth of every person, and declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation.

We strive to respond to the needs of our town and world with practical deeds of love.

We welcome individuals and families of every configuration into the full life and ministry of this church, and invite you to join us on our faith journey!

Coming...

Musical Prelude

Reflective Prelude

Gustav Mahler

"Tradition is not the worship of ashes, but the preservation of fire."

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

"Come and Bring the Light"

*Come and bring light to a people in darkness. Come, set us free from the chains we have made.
We are your people, the flock that you tend. Lord, open our eyes once again.*

Praising & Learning...

***Call to Worship**

One: God created and called forth the universe of life!

All: Praise God for this morning's light!

One: God sent Jesus to be our life-saving Light!

All: Praise God for Christ-like Light amidst the world's darkness!

One: God's Holy Spirit calls forth Light from us!

All: Let us worship that we may shine!

***Opening Hymn**

"God Reigns o'er All the Earth"

#21

***Please rise in body or spirit.**

***Opening Prayer**

Holy God of Life and Light, awaken us to the Light of Christ Help us see, find, and follow its illumination. Bless us with the right blend of caution and courage that we might bring Christ-Light into times and places of life threatening darkness. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

***Praise Response**

“Love has Come”

*Love has come, a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See all heaven has come to proclaim it. Hear how their song of joy arises;
Love! Love! Born unto you a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high!*

Children of God Time

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Congregational Response

“We Three Kings”, verse 1

**We three kings of Orient are, Bearing gifts, we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.**

Sharing of Sorrows, Joys, & Concerns

Devotional Hymn

“What a Covenant”

#471

Reflecting & Praying...

Scripture Readings

Mark 7:1-13 & Colossians 2:6-10

Mark

Now when some Pharisees and scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees and other Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands, and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash, and there are also many other traditions that they observe including the washing of cups and pots and bronze kettles and beds.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders but eat with defiled hands?” Jesus said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ And, ‘You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.’”

Then Jesus added: “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition! For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.’ But you say that if anyone tells father or mother, ‘Whatever support you might have had from me is Corban’ (an offering to God), then you no longer permit doing anything for a father or mother, thus nullifying the word of God through your tradition that you have handed on. And you do many things like this.”

Paul

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority.

Reflective Interlude

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response

"As with Gladness Those of Old", verse 4

**Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;
And when mortal things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need not star to guide, where no clouds your glory hide.**

Committing...

Stewardship Invitation

Offertory

*Doxology

#780

**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. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication & Consecration

*Musical Reflection

Going...

*Commissioning

One: Having rested in worship, let us go forth!

All: Refreshed, may we serve God faithfully!

One: Let us serve up inclusive love for God's creation!

All: May we honor God with life-giving words and deeds!

*Closing Hymn

"Come, Let us Join with Faithful Souls"

#383

*Benediction

Postlude

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Rev. Ed Koonz, Interim Pastor
Brian Gionet, Director of Music Ministries
Deb Raymond, Director of Christian Education
Bobbie Killilea, Administrative Assistant
Uccburlington.org

**CHURCH VISION STATEMENT
Adopted February 2017:**

At the UCC Burlington, we cultivate a thriving environment, which empowers us to embody the beloved, diverse community that Jesus modeled for us, proclaiming that **all are welcome, all are loved**. We celebrate our colonial roots as we change, adapt and grow into who God is calling us to be. We respect the sanctity of each person's spiritual journey and we are blessed by the gifts that each person brings to the life of the church. We join together in faithful service and advocacy with the ongoing hope that we can make the world a better, more just, and peaceful place for everyone.

Joys and Concerns

The passing of Bill Livezey's sister Lee
Nancy Davis
Roberta Low
Jane Raymond
John Heald's Mom

Anne Stafford, and her son Bill
Sally Willard's friend, Frank
Deb Glancy's friend, Pat

Alan Wright's cousin Tim and friend Jimmy's Dad
Joyce Carpenter, brother Bob and niece Cindy
Jessy McNeil's brother Mel and sister Grace
Ginger Mungillo's daughter Cindy and son Jim
Jean Williamson

Joe Stoddard's Mom Lillian and sister-in-law Joy
Marilyn Langley and friend Mary
Shirley Garside's daughter Lynn Larsen
Sally Mansfield's son Mark
Tom and Jim Killilea
Claire Simas
Luella Brown
Kelly Sievert
Rev. Elizabeth King
Jan Blandino and daughter Brenda
And son-in-law Rick
Barbara Garland

Stop Gun Violence
Save Mother Earth
People of Ukraine
Floods in California

First Responders, Caregivers, Urgent Care Workers
Military here and abroad

NEW MEMBERS

Are you interested in knowing more about our church? Are you wishing to join our congregation? Please see Pastor Ed. We would love to have a session before February 5th.

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Join us for Choir Rehearsal every Wednesday evening 7-9pm. All voices are welcome! You don't need to read music, just enjoy singing!

January 22 10:30am Worship

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Interim Pastor: | Rev. Ed Koonz |
| Organist: | Brian Gionet |
| Lay Leader: | Sally Willard |
| Head Usher: | Dave McNeil |
| Usher: | Chris Stahlinski |
| Greeter: | Jan Costa |
| Flowers: | Bobbie Killilea |
| Collector: | Marcia Rich |
| Nursery: | Mark Flecchia |
| Sunday School: | With Presbyterian Church
Jen Slater, CE Director |
| Coffee Hour: | Chris Stahlinski |

January 29 10:30am Worship

Red Wagon Needs for the Burlington Pantry

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|-----------------|------------------|
| Interim Pastor: | Rev. Ed Koonz |
| Organist: | Brian Gionet |
| Lay Leader: | Debbie Claar |
| Head Usher: | Dick Butler |
| Usher: | Chris Stahlinski |
| Greeter: | Carol Downing |
| Flowers: | Nancy Davis |
| Collector: | Dick Butler |
| Nursery: | |
| Sunday School: | Deb Raymond |
| Coffee Hour: | Jan McSheffrey |

SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR TODAY

Please join the Choir and Music Committee TODAY for a special coffee hour to formally welcome Brian; our new Director of Music Ministries. We'll offer a chance for you to chat with Brian over coffee and special treats. Hope to see you there!

RED WAGON FOR PANTRY NEEDS!

The Burlington Pantry is in need of specific items listed below. Please bring these to worship on **January 29** and we will bring these forward during worship. You can also drop items off anytime at the pantry location: 21 Murray Way, Burlington.

| | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Mayonnaise | Pasta |
| Cereal | Oatmeal |
| Chicken Broth | Cooking Oil |
| Jelly | Sugar |
| Flour | Coffee, Tea, Cocoa |

BIBLE DISCUSSION!

Five Stories of Creation from the Bible & Their Potential Impact on our Lives and World

Most of us associate the first chapters of Genesis with the Biblical story of creation. But, there are actually *two* stories in these chapters and *three* additional creation stories in Scripture! And, in these five stories, we may discover something surprising: their focus is not on how the world was made, but on God and our relationship to God and God's creation. In a time of significant climate change what could be more important than this?

**Wednesdays through February 22nd
10:00-11:20am*
Office Conference Room or via Zoom**

The Zoom link can be found on our website: uccburlington.org or:

Click <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/756975189> to watch.

If you can't connect to Zoom, you can call from your phone and listen.

The phone number is 929-205-6099 and the meeting ID is 756 975 189 when prompted.

*"If you did not attend the first session and are planning to attend the second session, please contact Pastor Ed." Notice the start time has changed to 10am!

CLOTHING NEEDS:

Missions will be collecting men's hats, gloves and white socks for our Veterans. There is a bin outside the church office area.

WISH PROJECT in Chelmsford is taking clothing donations for in-season items. Please be sure they are free of stains and holes. There is a bin in the hallway to Sewall Hall under the coat rack.



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you can volunteer to be Lay Leader, Head Usher, Usher, Greeter, Coffee Host or Nursery, please be sure to sign up on the Signup.com site.

Here is the link:

<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/567269842043/false?popup=true#/invitation>

Burlington High School Class of 1973 50th Class Reunion! Weekend of September 15, 16 and 17!

Multiple events and a reunion dinner
have been organized!

We are searching for some of our classmates,
(A few have attended our church in the past).

All the details are available on our class website:

www.bhs-classof1973.org or email us at

burlingtonclassof1973@gmail.com

Thank you!!

United Church of Christ, Congregational, Burlington
Warrant for the 290th Annual Meeting
February 5, 2023

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Article 1 | To approve the minutes of the 289th Annual Meeting |
| Article 2 | To accept the Annual Reports of the Church Officers, Boards, and Committees. |
| Article 3 | To consider and vote upon the slate of Church Officers, Boards, and Committees as presented by the Nominating Committee. |
| Article 4 | To consider and vote upon the 2023 Operating Budget as presented by the Board of Finance & Stewardship and recommended by the Parish Council. |
| Article 5 | To consider and vote upon empowering the Parish Council to spend up to \$5,000 from the Endowment Fund in case of an emergency. |
| Article 6 | To consider and vote upon the 2023 Church Goal as recommended by Parish Council. |
| Article 7 | To hear any other business that may legally come before the Congregation. |
| Article 8 | To hear and consider remarks for the good of the Parish. |

God Reigns o'er All the Earth

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

Isa. 52:7-10

1 God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and val-leys low, the
 2 God reigns o'er hu-man life! Through youth and ag-ing years, in
 3 God reigns o'er time and space! In his-tory's by-gone days, Christ's
 4 God reigns! Em-man - u - el! God with us ev-ery day, in

farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beau-ty show.
 death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.
 faith-ful folk in rev-erence spoke to bring God earn-est praise.
 all our past and to the last, our com-fort and our stay.

God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spread-ing plains, in
 God reigns o'er hu-man life! Our in-spi-ra-tion still. Through
 God reigns o'er time and space! O'er gal-ax-y and sun, through
 God reigns! Em-man - u - el! Let praise to Christ be sung! God's

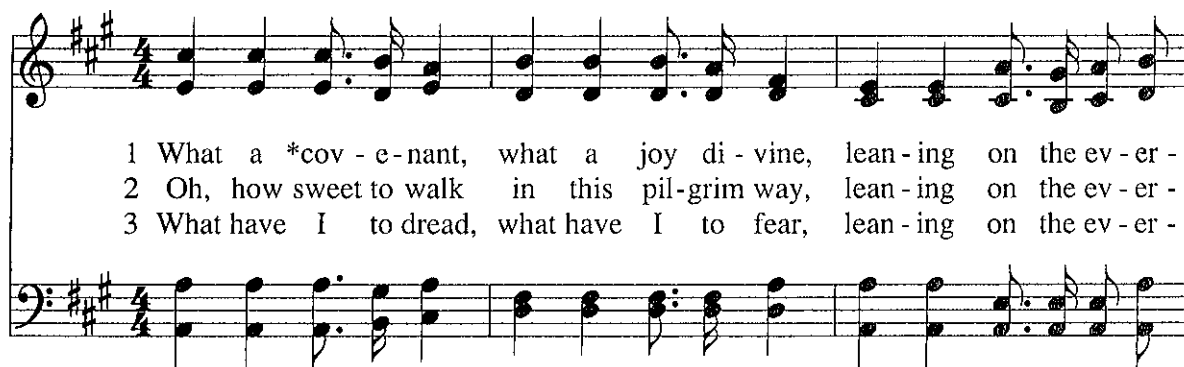
rain-bow hues—reds, yel-lows, blues—of streams and coun-try lanes.
 all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's reign-ing will.
 time-less years the cos-mos hears the heaven-ly mu-sic run.
 pres-ence here makes all things dear. Let joy-ful bells be rung!

The author's notes on this text describe it as a progression of awareness of God's reign among us—in physical surroundings, in the various stages of life, in time and space, and supremely in Christ, God with us.

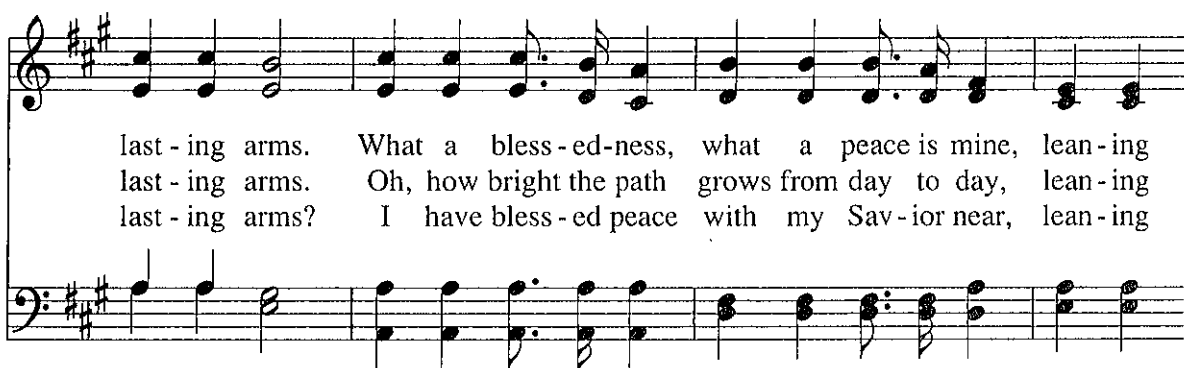
Tune: TERRA BEATA S.M.D.
 Traditional English melody
 Adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915

Deut. 33:27

Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; alt.

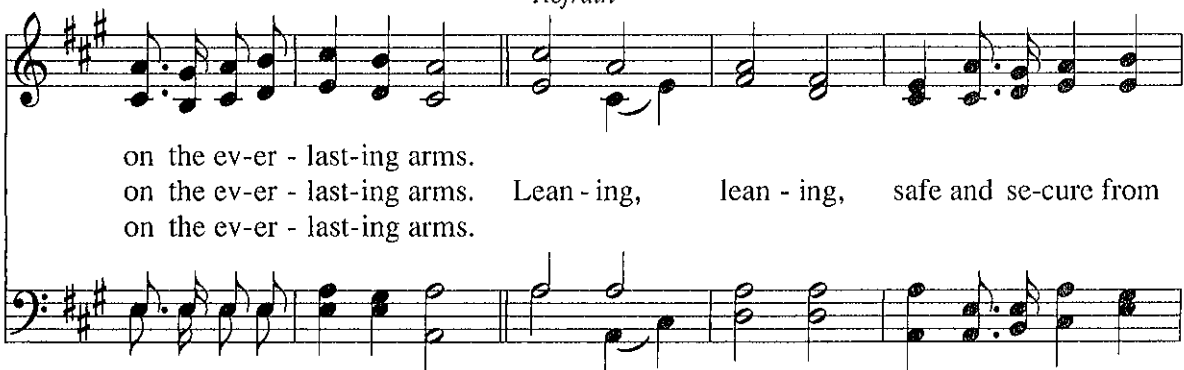


1 What a *cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -




last - ing arms. What a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing
 last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing
 last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing

Refrain



on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms.



all a - larms; lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

*Or, "fellowship"

In a letter to two grieving friends, A. J. Showalter quoted
 Deuteronomy 33:27, "... underneath are the everlasting arms."
 Showalter then wrote this music and the refrain and sent them to
 E. A. Hoffman to provide the stanzas.


Tune: LEANING 5.5.9.D. with refrain
 Anthony J. Showalter, 1887

Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls


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William G. Tarrant, 1892; alt.

Rev. 5:11-14



1 Come, let us join with faith-ful souls our song of faith to raise;
 2 Faith - ful are all who love the truth and per - fect truth pro - claim,
 3 And faith-ful are the gen - tle hearts to whom the power is given
 4 O God of hosts, our faith re-new, and grant us, in your grace,



One fam - i - ly in heart are we, and one the God we praise.
 Who stead-fast stand at God's right hand and glo - ri - fy God's name.
 Of ev - ery hearth to make a home, of ev - ery home a heaven.
 To join the songs sung by the saints in ev - ery time and place.

A leader of the Unitarian Church in England, William Tarrant edited a Unitarian weekly and for thirty-seven years ministered to the Unitarian Christian Church in London. This hymn was one of many he wrote for use by that congregation.

Tune: AZMON C.M.
 Carl G. Gläser, 1828
 Arr. Lowell Mason, in *Modern Psalmody*, 1839