

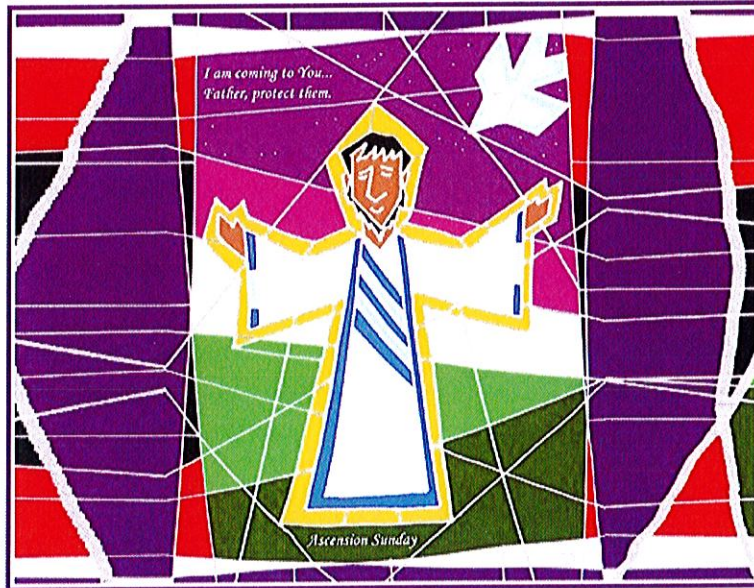
**The United Church of Christ, Congregational
Burlington, MA
Easter Season Ascension Sunday Worship**

"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."

May 21, 2023

10:30 A.M.

* + * + * + * + * + *



John Stuart

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

Meditative Thought

-Barbara Brown Taylor

"Every human interaction offers the chance to makes things better or worse."

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

"I Greet you, Sure Redeemer", v. 1

#251

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

Praising & Learning...

*Call to Worship

One: Life-creating are God's expressions of loving concern!

All: Praise God, Creator of the heavens from outer space to the inner mind!

One: Life-restoring are God Ways in Christ Jesus - on earth as in heaven!

All: Praise God, intimate "Father" to Jesus!

One: Life-sustaining, renewing, and propelling is God's energy!

All: Praise, God, rushing, overflowing, Spring of grace!

*Opening Hymn

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

#28

*Opening Prayer

O, God of Creation's Breath, Holy Birth, and Resurrection, as we worship and await the coming of your Spirit's power, stretch our imaginations to embrace the mystery and appreciate the majesty of Jesus' life and continuing power on earth. May your promising grace give us hope for our lives and the earth's future. One in Christ, we pray: 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 sin, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Sacrament of Baptism

The Fay Family

(Congregational Covenantal Promise)

Pastor: Do you who witness this sacrament receive Teddy into the Body of Christ, and do you promise to be faithful to our church's covenantal calling to express the love and welcome of Christ to him and his parents?

All: We welcome the Fay family members into our fellowship, we invite and encourage them to join with us on our Christian journey, and we promise them our love, support, & care as people of faith bearing Christ's name.

*Baptismal Hymn

"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"

NCH #325

(Children depart)

Sharing of Joys, Sorrows, & Concerns

Ascension Sunday Litany

Adapted from the "Breastplate of St. Patrick", 433CE

One: We arise today through a mighty strength!

All: We arise today through the strength of Christ with his Baptism!

One: We arise through the strength of His Crucifixion and Burial!

All: We arise through the strength of His Resurrection and Ascension!

One: We arise today, through the strength of Heaven;

All: Through the light of Sun, brilliance of Moon, splendor of Fire,

One: Through the speed of Lightning, swiftness of Wind, depth of Sea,

All: Through the stability of Earth and firmness of Rock.

One: Salvation is of the Lord!

All: Salvation is of Christ!

One: Christ, with, before, behind, in, beneath, and above us!

All: Amen!

*Devotional Hymn

"There's a Spirit in the Air" verses 1,6 & 7

NCH #294

Reflecting & Praying...

Scripture Readings

Acts 1:6-11 & Matthew 25:31-40

Acts 1:6-11

Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "Why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Matthew 25:31-40

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'"

Our Sermon **21st Century Stewardship: It's About More Than Money...**

Rev. Ed Koonz

"The Stewardship of Jesus' Going and Christ's Coming"

Musical Offering

Pastoral Prayer

***Praise Response** (seated)

"Such Perfect Love My Shepherd Shows"

#248 vs 3

**When vain and fool oft I strayed, you
Faithful Shepherd sought me,
And on your shoulder gently laid,
Then home rejoicing brought me.**

Committing...

Stewardship Invitation

Offertory

***Eastertide Doxology**

NCH #780

**Jesus risen now to bless, Do thou thyself our hearts possess,
That we may give you all our days; the willing tribute of our praise! Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication & Consecration**

***Meditative Interlude**

Going...

***Commissioning**

One: Go, remember the life-giving, life-saving witness of God's faithful people!

All: **Let their faith's trust be written on our hearts!**

One: Go, and give life to God's Loving Spirit in the World!

All: **May Christ be seen clearly in our thoughtful words and actions!**

***Closing Hymn**

"Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven"

#243

***Benediction**

Postlude

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.

Rev. Ed Koonz, Interim Pastor
Brian Gionet, Director of Music Ministries
Deb Raymond, Director of Christian Education
Bobbie Killilea, Administrative Assistant
Uccburlington.org
781-272-4547

PRAYER CONCERNS

John Getsinger
Bill Hitchcock
Rob Costa
Jacob Goodrich-Byers
Rollie Damiani
Debbie Claar
Eileen Sickler, Sally's wife
Lynn and Lee Tirrell
Luella Brown
Jessy McNeil's sister Grace
Kelly Sievert
Jan Blandino's grandson Toby
her daughter Brenda and Son-in-law Rick
Brian Gionet's Father
Lucy Damiani's sister-in-law Janice
Barbara Moran
Deb Glancy's friend Pat
Joyce Carpenter's brother Bob, niece Cindy
Ginger Mungillo's daughter Cindy Surette and
Ginger's son Jim
Jean Williamson
Joe Stoddard's Mom Lillian and sister-in-law
Joy Stoddard
Marilyn Langley, her brother Bill and
his wife Mary Anne
Shirley Garside's daughter Lynn Larsen
Sally Mansfield's son, Mark
Alan Wright's cousin Tim and friend Jimmy's dad
Jean Bastos
Rev. Elizabeth King
Barbara Garland

So much gun violence!
Mother Earth
Our Nation

Our First Responders! Caregivers!
Military here and abroad!

*Bobbie Killilea donated today's altar flowers to
celebrate granddaughter Brielle's 5th birthday and
to remember Jane Raymond who also celebrated a
birthday today!*

SUNDAY WORSHIP May 21

Pastor: Rev. Ed Koonz
Organist: Brian Gionet
Lay Leader: Sally Willard
Head Usher: Dave McNeil
Usher: Jan McSheffrey
Greeter: Jan Costa
Flowers: Bobbie Killilea
Collector: Dick Butler
Nursery:
Sunday School: Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro
Coffee Hour: Deb Raymond
Bakers: Sunday School

SUNDAY WORSHIP May 28

Red Wagon Sunday

Pastor: Rev. Ed Koonz
Organist: Brian Gionet
Lay Leader:
Head Usher: Dick Butler
Usher: Karen Butler
Greeter: Carol Downing
Flowers: Woody Knowles
Collector: Marge Zamanian
Nursery:
Sunday School: Chris Stahlinski
Coffee Hour:

BAPTIZED TODAY!

Baptized this morning is Theodore "Teddy" James
Fay. Son to Sarah and Randall Fay. Godparents:
Jacquelyn Keenan and Jennifer MacLeod.
Grandparents: Gail and Al Fay,
Leigh and James Keenan. Blessings to all!

CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

C4C will have hybrid meetings at 1pm on Thursdays. You can attend in person (we meet in the conference room) or attend via zoom. Zoom info is found below.

<https://zoom.us/j/93567188274?pwd=TVJ3L2xDODFxeUVSM0dWRnFhelI3dz09>
Meeting ID: 935 6718 8274
Passcode: 01803

WISH PROJECT

Wish Project in Chelmsford. We will continue to accept donated clothing that is free of stains, holes and freshly washed. Due to space considerations, the Wish Project asks that all donations be seasonally ***SPRING/SUMMER*** appropriate. Thank you to Woody Knowles who has offered to take the clothing in Chelmsford.

Donation bin under the coat rack

RED WAGON ROLLS NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday we will collect items to help stock the shelves at the Burlington Pantry. Please bring any of the following items to worship and we will bring these forward during our Children of God Time.

ANYTHING BUT CANS!

Pasta, Cereal
Coffee, Tea, Cocoa
Side Dishes
Toilet Paper, Tissues, Baby Wipes

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS!

Don't forget we need YOU to help during worship, etc. We are now adding bakers to our list of helpers. See the signup link:
<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/567269842043/false?popup=true#/invitation>

**JUNE 11 AT 2PM
CONCERT**



"Film and Game Music"

Brian Gionet – Organ
Dan Gable – Trombone
Alli Donais – Voice

Refreshments following
Free Will offering at the door

UPCOMING SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENTS

MAY 21 Sunday School Hosts Coffee Hour!

The kids will make coffee, set up tables in the hall and make snacks. They will also do the cleanup. This will be a "stepped up" coffee hour! We will offer finger sandwiches and a dessert, to honor Jane Raymond's birthday. Jane was our Coffee Organizer for many years.

The Presbyterian Church will join us for this Sunday School class.

MAY 28 - Create a Pollinator Garden on the Church Lawn!

Chris Stahlinski and the Green team will lead the Sunday School with planting outside. If it is cool, wear a warm coat. The area will be dug and ready for planting!

For the Beauty of the Earth

St. 1-3, *Folllott S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.*
 St. 4, *Miriam Therese Winter, 1993*

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the splen - dor of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 4 For the good that love in - spires, for a world where none ex - clude,

For the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
 Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
 For a faith that nev - er tires, and for ev - ery heart re - newed,

Refrain

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

Folllott S. Pierpoint, author of numerous hymns, penned these verses near his native city of Bath, England, on a late spring day when flowers were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice.

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7. with refrain
Conrad Kocher, 1838
Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

325

Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1981

1 Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap - tized with the Spir - it's sign;
 2 Child of love, our love's ex - pres-sion, love's cre - a - tion, loved in - deed!
 3 Child of joy, our dear - est trea - sure, God's you are, from God you came.
 4 Child of God your lov - ing Par - ent, learn to know whose child you are.

With this wa - ter God has sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.
 Fresh from God, re - fresh our spir - its, in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.
 Back to God we hum - bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.
 Grow to laugh and sing and wor - ship, trust and love God more than all.

Ronald Cole-Turner, a teacher of theology, is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ. He is an award-winning author on the interface of science and religion.

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.
Attrib. to Christian F. Witt (1660-1716), in Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

There's a Spirit in the Air

John 6:24-35, 51-58; 1 Cor. 2:9-16; 1 John 4

Brian Wren, 1969; rev. 1987

1 There's a spir - it in the air, tell - ing Chris-tians ev - ery-where:
 2 Lose your shy - ness, find your tongue; tell the world what God has done:
 3 When be - liev - ers break the bread, when a hun - gry child is fed:
 4 Still the Spir - it gives us light, see - ing wrong and set - ting right:
 5 When a strang-er's not a - lone, where the home-less find a home:

“Praise the love that Christ re-vealed, liv - ing, work - ing in our world.”
 God in Christ has come to stay. Live to - mor - row's life to - day.
 Praise the love that Christ re-vealed, liv - ing, work - ing in our world.
 God in Christ has come to stay. Live to - mor - row's life to - day.
 Praise the love that Christ re-vealed, liv - ing, work - ing in our world.

6 May the Spir-it fill our praise,
 guide our thoughts and change our ways.
 God in Christ has come to stay.
 Live to-mor-row's life to-day.

7 There's a Spir-it in the air,
 call-ing peo-ple ev-ery-where:
 Praise the love that Christ re-vealed,
 liv-ing, work-ing in our world.

Brian Wren celebrates the Spirit's work in the world in this text written for Pentecost at Hockley, England. In it, Wren borrows a poetic device from the Isaac Watts hymn "Give to Our God Immortal Praise" with the alternating repetition of two choruses.

Tune: ORIENTIS PARTIBUS 7.7.7.7.
 Medieval French melody
 Harm. Richard Redhead, 1853

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

243

*Christopher Wordsworth, 1872; alt.**Matt. 28:5-8; Rom. 5:21; 6:4-11; 1 Cor. 15:20-22*

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heaven and voic - es raise;
 2 Now the i - ron bars are bro - ken, Christ from death to life is born;
 3 Christ is ris - en, we are ris - en; shed up - on us heav - en - ly grace,
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to the God of joy;

Sing to God a hymn of glad - ness, sing to God a hymn of praise.
 Glo - rious life, and life im - mor - tal on this ho - ly Eas - ter morn;
 Rain and dew, and gleams of glo - ry from the bright - ness of your face;
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior who came death's bonds to de - stroy;

Je - sus on the cross as Sav - ior for the world's sal - va - tion bled;
 Christ has tri - umphed, and we con - quer by God's lib - er - at - ing deed;
 That we, with our hearts in heav - en, here on earth may fruit - ful be,
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, Fount of love and sanc - ti - ty;

But the cru - ci - fied Re - deem - er now is ris - en from the dead!
 Now the Christ with us a - bid - ing to e - ter - nal life shall lead.
 And by an - gel hands be gath - ered, and be yours e - ter - nal - ly.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! To the Tri - une Maj - es - ty.

Christopher Wordsworth, gifted nephew of poet William Wordsworth, served the Church of England successively as canon at Westminster, parish priest in Berkshire, and, finally, bishop of Lincoln. This Easter hymn is one of his most enduring.

Tune: WEISSE FLAGGEN 8.7.8.7.D.
 Tochter Sion, Cologne, 1741
 Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL