

The United Church of Christ, Congregational
Burlington, MA

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

"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."

July 14, 2024

9:30AM

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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

The Girl with Flaxen Hair by Debussy

Brian Gionet

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

The Church's One Foundation
Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war,
We wait the consummation of peace for evermore,
Till with the vision glorious, our longing eyes are blessed,
And the great church victorious shall be the church attest.

NCH #386 v3

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

Praising & Learning...

***Call to Worship**

One: Come, sing and dance before the Lord.

All: Praise God with the sound of music and dancing!

One: Let every soul sing God's praises!

All: Let the mountains tremble and the seas roar!

One: Praise the glorious Creator who guides our lives.

All: Praise our loving God who watches over us. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** What Wondrous Love is This?

NCH #223

***Opening Prayer** - written by Nancy C. Townley

Creator God, in praise and adoration our spirits dance before you today. You have created this wondrous universe and all the magnificent things within it. You have blessed us with so much throughout our lives, even to this day of praise and thanksgiving. Let our spirits soar! Let our hearts sing boldly of your wondrous love. We celebrate your love and presence with us, and it is in the name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, that we offer this prayer. Amen.

Order for the Sacrament of Baptism

ORDER FOR THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
for
Madelyn Hope Lewis
Born December 21st, 2020
Daughter of Michael and Julie Lewis
Sponsored by Mark and Donna Flecchia

Presentation of the Water for Baptism

One: Brothers, sisters, and siblings in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

All: There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God, Creator of us all.

One: Baptism is the sacrament through which we are united with Jesus Christ, and given part in Christ's ministry of reconciliation. In baptism God works in us the power of forgiveness and the renewal of the Spirit, and the knowledge of the call to be Christ's disciples always.

All: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

Responsive Scripture Reading - Mark 10:13-16

One: People were bringing children to Jesus so that he would bless them. But the disciples scolded them. When Jesus saw this, he grew angry and said to them:

All: "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it."

One: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

Invitation to the Family

Questions and Affirmations

Pastor: Michael and Julie, do you desire to live and grow with Maddy in the covenant community of Jesus Christ?

Parents: We do.

Pastor: Will you strive to learn from the wisdom of the prophets; doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with your God, helping Maddy to do the same?

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Will you seek an appreciation for the life and teachings of Jesus, in concert with an appreciation for diverse religious traditions, helping Maddy to do the same?

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Will you honor the faith questions that arise throughout life, and will you help Maddy do the same?

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Will you remember and help Maddy to learn that faith is a journey and that God's love is available to you each day?

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Mark, will you guide and encourage Maddy, by counsel and example, in prayer and with love, to follow the way of Jesus Christ?

Sponsors: We will, with the help of God.

Congregational Assent

One: Jesus calls us to make disciples of others, and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. On behalf of the Christian church in every place, do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to Maddy as she lives and grows in Christ?

People: We promise our love, support and care.

Prayer of Baptism

One: We give you thanks, O Holy One, mother and father of all the faithful for this your child and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit.

All: Gracious and loving God, we pray that you bless Maddy with strength for life's journey, courage in the face of injustice, compassion at the sight of oppression, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

Children of God Time

Sharing of Joys, Sorrows, & Concerns

*Devotional Hymn

Help us Accept Each Other

NCH #388

Reflecting & Praying...

Scripture Readings

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. They carried the ark of God on a new cart and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart with the ark of God, and Ahio went in front of the ark. David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

It was told King David, "The Lord has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing, and when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatted calf. David danced before the Lord with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet.

As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, and she despised him in her heart.

They brought in the ark of the Lord and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the Lord. When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.

Mark 6:14-29

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus's name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead, and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests, and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved, yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

Our Sermon

The Dance

Rev. Andrew Harris

Musical Offering

Butterflies by Amelia Lewis

Pastoral Prayer

Committing...

Stewardship Invitation

Offertory and Love Offering

***Doxology**

Lyrics adapted by William Abernethy; tune *NCH #780*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication & Consecration**

Going...

***Closing Hymn**

Won't you let me Be Your Servant

NCH #539

***Benediction**

Postlude

Here I Am, Lord

Brian Gionet

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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. Andrew Harris, Pastor
Brian Gionet, Director of Music Ministries
Deb Raymond, Director of Christian Education
Bobbie Killilea, Administrative Assistant
Uccburlington.org / 781-272-4547

JOYS AND CONCERNS

The baptism of Maddie Lewis, her parents Michael and Julie, brother Alex, sister Amelia and Godparents Mark and Donna Flecchia
The passing of Phyllis Knopp
Deana Tredeau's niece Amber Wallace
Mark Omobono's friend Dave
Mark Flecchia's friend Mike
Passing of Donna Flecchia's Aunt
Joyce Carpenter-Rehab
Claire Simas, niece Janice and daughter Marianne
Karen Ciardi's parents Dottie and Bill
Billy Martin and friend Barbara
Bill Livezey
Lynn and Lee Tirrell's friend Bob
Bill Beyer's friend Lloyd Rosenberg
Sarah Tredeau's friend Megan
Sally Willard's friends Maureen and Jack
Chris Stahlinski's sister Evelyn
Laura Nowell's cousin Nigel and friend Mary
Brian Gionet's Dad
Roberta Low
Shirley Garside's daughter Lynn
Jessy McNeil's sister Grace
Jim Killilea, Tom's brother
Skip Glancy's sister Dorothy
Marilyn Langley's brother Bill
Kelly Sievert
Bill Hitchcock
Jan Blandino's grandson Toby, her Daughter Brenda and Son-in-law Rick
Ginger Mungillo's daughter Cindy and Ginger's son Jim
Jean Bastos
Barbara Garland

Middle East, Ukraine,
Violent weather!
Mother Earth!

**PLEASE MAKE NOTE WORSHIP TIME
HAS CHANGED TO 9:30AM
THROUGH THE END OF AUGUST!**

WORSHIP PARTICIPATION

July 14 Worship-Love Offering

Baptism 9:30am

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|--------------|--------------------|
| Pastor: | Rev. Andrew Harris |
| Organist: | Brian Gionet |
| Lay Leader: | Chris Stahlinski |
| Deacon Rep: | Deana Tredeau |
| Head Usher: | Dave McNeil |
| Usher: | Andie Joseph |
| Greeter: | Marcia Rich |
| Flowers: | Chris Stahlinski |
| Collector: | Marcia Rich |
| Nursery: | |
| Coffee Host: | Jan Costa |
| Bakers: | Jan McSheffrey |

July 21 Worship 9:30am

| | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Pastor: | Rev. Andrew Harris |
| Organist: | Brian Gionet |
| Lay Leader: | Debbie Claar |
| Head Usher: | |
| Usher: | |
| Greeter: | |
| Flowers: | |
| Collector: | Deb Raymond |
| Nursery: | |
| Coffee Host: | Jan McSheffrey |
| Bakers: | |

TRUE NORTH COFFEE SHOP

PASTOR HOURS

Thursdays from 9-11am
204 Cambridge St, Burlington

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS!

The church office will be open most Tuesdays and Thursdays during the summer months.

You can always leave a message on the church phone. Messages will be checked often.

LOVE OFFERING

Today is our Love Offering. This special offering falls under Deacons and is there to help anyone who may be struggling financially. All requests are confidential. Talk with Pastor Andrew.

GIFT CARD FUNDRAISING UPDATE

To learn more about the Gift Card Program check the Fundraising Bulletin Board. It's an easy what to donate to the church. Gift cards at full value and a percentage comes back to the church. It's a win, win for both!

PUB THEOLOGY - 7/18 AT 6PM AT THE PARSONAGE

Instead of meeting at a pub, this month we'll gather at the parsonage (12 Lexington St. Burlington) for a cookout. We'll have the grill going along with the fire-pit to cook up some s'mores. Bring something to grill and bring your own beverages. If you'd like to bring something to share (salads, sides, dessert,) let Andrew know ASAP so we can keep track of who is bringing what. All are welcome for an evening of fellowship, food, and conversation!

Additionally, if you're a musician, bring your instrument (or just your voice) and we can have a sing-along jam around the fire!

MISSIONS NEWS

The Green team is collecting flowerpots for use next spring at the time of the plant sale. All sizes of plastic or clay non-decorative pots can be used again next spring. You may have purchased these for your garden. If you have any to donate, there will be a marked plastic bin under the coat rack for you to place them. Please make sure they are clean, dirt free. The bin for them will be under the coat rack for part of the summer and again for a few weeks in the fall. They will be stored in cabinets in Skelton Hall so please make sure they are clean. This is a good way to recycle and reuse and will keep this plastic out of the environment.

BURLINGTON PANTRY NEEDS!

In addition to regular needs the Pantry will be supplying items for the summer lunch program. They will help supply lunches for 170 students.

If you can donate any of the following it is greatly appreciated:

- Jelly
- Mayonnaise
- Individually wrapped snacks
- Fruit cups
- Juice boxes

Also there is a need for diapers (all sizes)
Toiletries

You can drop items at the Pantry 21 Murray Ave., Burlington. It is open for drop off 7am to 7pm every day!

What Wondrous Love Is This

John 19:17; Rev. 5:13

19th century, United States; alt.
First published in Mercer's Cluster, 1836

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul! O my soul! What
2 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to
3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is
God and to the Lamb, I will sing; To God and to the
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! And when from death I'm

this! that Christ should come in bliss to bear the heav-y cross for my
Lamb who is the great I Am, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
free, I'll sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the heav-y cross for my soul!
sing, I will sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on!

This anonymous folk hymn, with its modal (dorian) tune, has appeared in many versions. William Walker, compiler of Southern Harmony, one of the most important nineteenth-century tune books in the United States, lived and died in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Tune: WONDROUS LOVE 12.9.12.12.9.
(CHRISTOPHER)
Appendix to Wm. Walker's Southern Harmony, c. 1843
Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1993

Help Us Accept Each Other

388

Fred Kaan, 1974; alt.

John 15:12; 17:20-23; Eph. 4:1-6, 11-16

- 1 Help us ac-cept each oth-er
as Christ ac-cept-ed us;
teach us as sis-ter, broth-er,
each per-son to em-brace.
Be pres-ent, God, a-mong us,
and bring us to be-lieve
we are our-selves ac-cept-ed
and meant to love and live.
- 2 Teach us, O God, your les-sons,
as in our dai-ly life
we strug-gle to be hu-man
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for peo-ple,
for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them,
or as they may be-come.
- 3 Let your ac-cep-tance change us,
so that we may be moved
in liv-ing sit-u-a-tions
to do the truth in love;
To prac-tice your ac-cep-tance,
un-til we know by heart
the ta-ble of for-give-ness
and laugh-ter's heal-ing art.
- 4 God, for to-day's en-coun-ters
with all who are in need,
who hun-ger for ac-cep-tance,
for righ-teous-ness and bread,
Bring us new eyes for see-ing,
new hands for hold-ing on;
re-new us with your Spir-it;
God! Free us, make us one!

Dutch theologian Fred Kaan was ordained in the United Reformed Church in England and Wales and has served as an international church administrator. Author of more than 200 hymns, Kaan frequently has addressed contemporary issues in his texts.

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.
Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

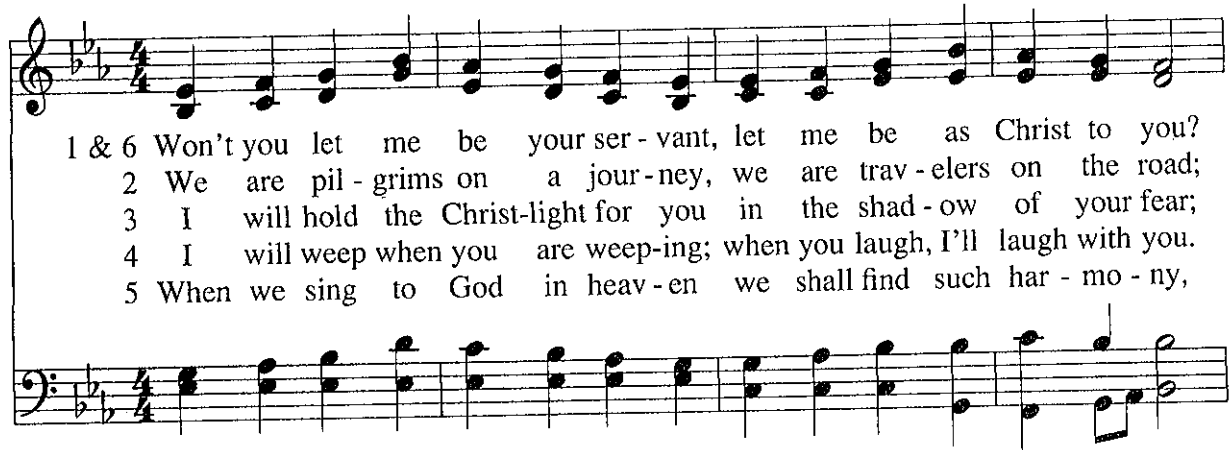
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Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

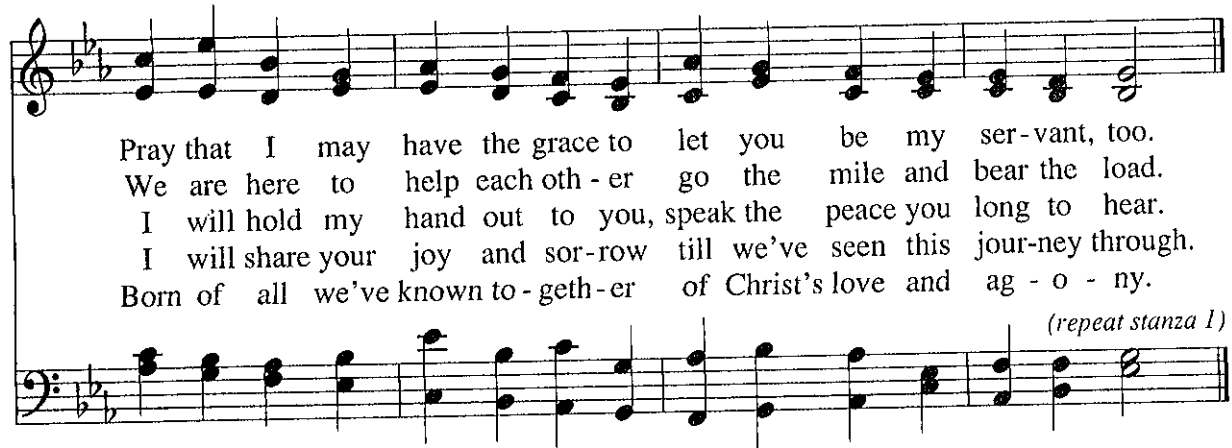
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Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29



1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - elers on the road;
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
5 When we sing to God in heav - en we shall find such har - mo - ny,



Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.
We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
I will share your joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
Born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs in the United States.

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.
Richard Gillard, 1977
Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.