

**The United Church of Christ, Congregational
Burlington, MA**

EIGHTH 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 21, 2024

9:30am

* + * + * + * + * + *



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

Divenire by L. Einaudi

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.**

***Call to Worship** - Inspired by Psalm 42

One: As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

All: My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

One: May we feel your presence in summer rains, flowing streams, and ocean waves.

All: May the waters of life refresh us and renew our spirits.

One: Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your torrents; all your waves and your billows have gone over me.

All: By day the Lord commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.

***Opening Hymn**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

NCH #1

***Opening Prayer**

God of wonder and glory, you continue to hold this amazing world together, even as we threaten to tear it apart. God of justice and righteousness, to you we turn for truth and wisdom; your light shines before us. God of grace and mercy, your arms are wide open, ready to welcome and restore; to show us more love than we are able to accept. We come to you thirsting for your living water. Guide us to the streams of your wonder and glory, your justice and righteousness, your grace and mercy, that we may drink and be satisfied, renewed for our continuing journey with Jesus. Amen.

Children of God Time

Sharing of Joys, Sorrows, & Concerns

***Devotional Hymn**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

NCH #4

Reflecting & Praying...

Scripture Readings

Our Sermon

Psalm 42

As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.

When shall I come and behold
the face of God?

My tears have been my food
day and night,

while people say to me continually,
"Where is your God?"

These things I remember,
as I pour out my soul:

how I went with the throng
and led them in procession to the house of God,
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,
a multitude keeping festival.

Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?

Hope in God, for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.
My soul is cast down within me;
therefore I remember you
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,
from Mount Mizar.
Deep calls to deep
at the thunder of your torrents;
all your waves and your billows
have gone over me.
By day the Lord commands his steadfast love,
and at night his song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.
I say to God, my rock,
"Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I walk about mournfully
because the enemy oppresses me?"
As with a deadly wound in my body,
my adversaries taunt me,
while they say to me continually,
"Where is your God?"
Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God, for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

Sermon

Deserted Places

Rev. Andrew Harris

Musical Response

As Pants the Hart for Cooling Streams

-Debbie Claar, Julie Lewis, Mark Omobono

Pastoral Prayer

Committing...

Stewardship Invitation

Offertory

*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

God be With You

NCH #81

*Benediction

Postlude

On Eagle's Wings

Brian Gionet

* * * * *

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
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
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!

WORSHIP PARTICIPATION

July 21 Worship 9:30am

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

July 28 Worship-Red Wagon 9:30am

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Brian Gionet
Lay Leader: Jan Costa
Head Usher: Dave McNeil
Usher:
Greeter:
Flowers: Nancy Davis
Collector: Deb Raymond
Nursery:
Coffee Host: Chris Stahlinski
Bakers:

August 4 Ecumenical Service at the Presbyterian Church, 335 Cambridge Street, Burlington. Worship time will be at 10:30am

Lay Leader: Volunteer from UCC
Collector: Marcia Rich

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

**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.

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!

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. Bring to worship next Sunday! 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 also drop items at the Pantry 21 Murray Ave., Burlington. It is open for drop off 7am to 7pm every day!

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - 2-3PM

We will meet for Bible Study in the conference room and on zoom from 2-3pm on Wednesday 7/24. We will continue to look at some of the strangest stories in the Bible -- stories about talking donkeys, hungry bears, and God's glorious "backside." We're going to search for meaning and listen for God's word in a bunch of stories that, at first glance (and maybe second glance), seem completely bizarre. I hope you'll join us!

Here's the Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86101550567>

COMMUNITY DINNER AT THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ON JULY 31ST!

Join us at 5:30pm for a Community Dinner at the Presbyterian Church, 335 Cambridge Street here in Burlington. UCC Christian Education will provide the dinner with a picnic and ice cream for dessert. A great time to catchup with friends and meet new people.

It's free and all are welcome!

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1

Walter C. Smith, 1867; alt.

1 Tim. 1:17; Ps. 36:6

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;
 4 So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;
 in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;
 your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,
 All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.
 your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.
 in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

Walter C. Smith, minister of the Free Church of Scotland and later moderator of the Assembly, wrote poetry as a retreat from work and to say what could not be fully expressed in the pulpit.

Tune: ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.
 Adapt. from a Welsh ballad in John Roberts' Caniadaeth y Cysegr, 1839

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.

Ps. 145:10; Isa. 49:13

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love;
 2 All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re - flect your rays,
 3 You are giv - ing and for-giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blessed,
 4 Mor-tals, join the might-y cho - rus which the morn-ing stars be - gan;

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you, open-ing to the sun a - bove.
 Stars and an - gels sing a - round you, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
 Bound-less love is reign - ing o'er us, re - con - cil - ing race and clan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the storms of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Lov - ing Spir - it, Fa - ther, Moth - er, all who love be - long to you;
 Ev - er sing - ing, move we for - ward, faith - ful in the midst of strife,

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, teach us what our praise should be.
 Teach us how to love each oth - er, by that love our joy re - new.
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us on - ward in the tri - umph song of life.

Henry van Dyke was a noted church leader, U.S. ambassador, Navy chaplain, and prolific writer. Many people associate this hymn with Beethoven's ninth symphony, but few are aware of the original poem by the German classicist F. Schiller (1759-1805) that inspired Beethoven.

Tune: HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D.
 Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824
 Adapt. and harm. Edward Hodges, 1846

God Be with You

81

Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880; alt.

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; By good coun-sel guide, up - hold you,
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; Wings of shel-ter safe - ly hide you,
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; When life's per - ils thick con-found you,
 4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; Keep love's ban - ner float - ing o'er you,

With a shep-herd's care en - fold you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 Dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 Put un - fail - ing arms a - round you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 Smite death's threat - ening wave be - fore you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Refrain

Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;
 till we meet, till we meet a - gain, till we meet,

till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 till we meet, till we meet a - gain,

Written during his last pastorate, at First Congregational Church in Washington, D.C., Jeremiah Rankin's hymn spread quickly throughout America and England by way of Moody and Sankey's revival meetings. Rankin later served as the seventh president of Howard University.

Tune: GOD BE WITH YOU 9.8.8.9. with refrain
 William G. Tomer, 1880