

The United Church of Christ, Congregational
Burlington, MA

Fifteenth 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."

September 1, 2024

10:30am

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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

Prelude in G Minor by J.S. Bach

Brian Gionet

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

I woke up this Morning

NCH #85

**I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus
Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus,
Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus,
Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.**

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

Praising & Learning...

***Call to Worship**

One: God said, "Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

All: But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord."

One: Jesus said, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden,

All: And I will give you rest."

One: We come in the name of the Spirit, resting from our labors,

All: Let us worship God this day!

***Opening Hymn**

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

NCH #12

***Opening Prayer**

Loving God, we rejoice to be with you and with one another. You are the God who makes all things new and who redeems our past. In life, we find the fullness of life—from joy beyond measure to despair that consumes. Your presence sustains us through the depths and the plateaus. We acknowledge your sovereignty and express our bold trust that hope is our portion and assigned position in your everlasting and incomparable realm. Amen.

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

***Devotional Hymn**

Break Now, the Bread of Life

NCH #321

Reflecting & Praying...

Scripture Readings

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

4 "So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. **2**You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

6You must observe them and perform them, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!' **7** For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? **8** And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? **9**"But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children—

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

7 Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, **2**they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. **3**(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders, **4**and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash, and there are also many other traditions that they observe: the washing of cups and pots and bronze kettles and beds.) **5** 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?" **6** He 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; **7**in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' **8**"You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

¹⁴ Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵ there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."

²¹ For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²² adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, debauchery, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

Our Sermon

Were Laws Made to Be Broken?

Rev. Andrew Harris

Musical Offering

Bruyeres by Debussy

Brian Gionet

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

Communion

Invitation to the Table

One: We remember that this is his table, and so we say, come from the north and come from the south, come from the east and come from the west. Come regardless of age or race or sex or creed or orientation or identity.

All: We come not because we must, but because we may. We come seeking mercy, forgiveness, healing, and peace.

One: Come one and all. The table of Christ is prepared for you.

Communion Hymn (seated)

"As We Gather at Your Table", verses 1&2

#332

Prayer of Confession

One: On this Sabbath day of Holy Communion, we open our hearts to God, we lay bare our vulnerabilities, we lift up our penitent confessions, and we seek God's abundant mercy. Holy One, when we forget your presence in our lives,

All: God forgive us.

One: When we serve our own self-interest instead of serving you and your people,

All: God forgive us.

One: When we are overcome with fear, worry, anger, and resentment,

All: God forgive us.

One: When our disappointment clouds our wisdom and confuses our actions,

All: God forgive us.

One: When we are unfaithful to our covenant with you and one another,

All: God forgive us.

One: When we have not loved you with our whole heart,

All: God forgive us.

One: Let us pray...

Assurance of Pardon

All: Forgiving and gracious God, you know me. You know everything about me. You know me better than I know myself. You know all the good deeds and bad deeds I have done. You see me in my brokenness and my weakness. You see me in my strength and beauty. You see me as I am: a beloved child of God.

One: Merciful God, Your grace is sufficient for all our needs, covering all our sins. May we accept in our hearts that there is more forgiveness in You than there is sin in us. In the light of Christ, and in communion with one another, we surrender to your mercy and give thanks for your word of forgiveness. Amen.

Prayer of Consecration

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray, as you gather us all in this place. May the broken bread become our healing and the cup of grace our fullness that we might empty ourselves to become a blessing to those who long for peace and reconciliation in their lives.

All: Come, Holy Spirit Come, be with us in all of our eating and drinking together. Amen

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Going...

*Closing Hymn

Faith of the Martyrs

NCH #381

*Benediction

Postlude "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" Melody from Dives and Lazarus by Ralph Vaughn Williams
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

Christa Brown
Joe Stoddard
Bobbie Killilea's friend Kat-Breast Cancer
Mark Omobono's friend Dave
Mark Flecchia's friend Mike
Joyce Carpenter
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
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!

TRUE NORTH PASTOR HOURS

You can join Pastor Andrew at
True North Coffee Shop, 204 Cambridge St,
Burlington on Thursdays from 9-11am.
All welcome to come and have a chat.

WORSHIP PARTICIPATION

September 1 Communion 10:30am

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Brian Gionet
Communion Prep: Marge Zamanian
Lay Leader:
Head Usher: Dave McNeil
Usher: Chris Stahlinski
Greeter: Carol Downing
Flowers:
Collector: Dick Butler
Coffee Host:
Baker: Marge Zamanian
Barbara Leonard

September 8 Welcome Sunday 10:30am

Love Offering-Band Sunday

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist:
Lay Leader: Chris Stahlinski
Head Usher:
Usher:
Greeter:
Flowers: Sue Wisniewski
Collector: Marge Zamanian
Nursery:
Sunday School: Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro
Brunch: Deacons/CE/Moderator

WELCOME SUNDAY AND BRUNCH

Join us on September 8th at 10:30am for our
Welcome Worship. Following worship, we will
enjoy a wonderful Welcome Brunch. All are
welcome!

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

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!

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!

CONFIRMATION CLASS STARTING IN SEPTEMBER 2024

Do you have someone in your household that will be entering 8th grade or any year in high school in September? If your child will attend, please be sure to get in touch with Rev. Harris or CE Director Deb Raymond before September 7th to confirm.

This will be a dynamic class, with lots of questioning, open discussions and field trips. The classes will be approximately twice a month from September – May. The participants at the end will decide if they would like to become members of the church. Really looking forward to working with you all in September!

Call or text:
Rev Andrew Harris: C: 978-219-2715
Deb Raymond C: 857-373-9156

NEWS FROM THE GREEN TEAM!

SAVE THE DATE:

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29th

Please join the Green Team for a light lunch after worship as we welcome guest speaker, Gretchen Carey, who will be speaking to us on recycling with an emphasis on plastics. Gretchen is the sustainability manager for the New England Region for Republic Services. She is also a LEED Green Associate and Zero Waste TRUE Advisor. Look for the sign-up sheet at coffee hour.

The Green Team is also planning several upcoming events for the fall-stay tuned for details.

UCC COFFEE HOUSE OCTOBER 5TH

Save the Date—October 5, 2024, 7-9:30 pm
for our Annual Coffee House

If you would like to perform, please talk to Debbie Claar, email deborahsclaar@gmail.com

If you would like to volunteer to help us, please contact Deana Tredeau, email deanatredeau@gmail.com

Let's make it a great event this year!!

ON-LINE AUCTION OCTOBER 26-NOVEMBER 2

Start thinking about our On-line Auction. As stated in the August Hilltop Herald Newsletter we are looking for gift cards from local merchants. Do you visit spas, hairdressers, fortunetellers, golf courses, restaurants, florists, fitness centers and more? Also, keep in mind timeshares, vacation homes, pet sitting, crafts, artwork, sports equipment, etc. We will also be looking to collect individual items to make baskets. Read more detailed information printed in your upcoming September Hilltop Newsletter and Weekly Email Blasts. Let's have some fun and share with our community!

Contact Deb Raymond, Julie Lewis, Kari Lynch, Anna Karwan and Joan Zink for questions.

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Ps. 136:5-9; James 1:17

Isaac Watts, 1715; alt.

Descant

3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.

1 I sing the might - y power of God that made the moun - tains rise,
 2 I sing the good - ness of our God that filled the earth with food;
 3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.

The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.

That spread the flow - ing seas a - broad, and built the loft - y skies.
 God formed the crea - tures with a word, and then pro - nounced them good.
 The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.

All life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;

I sing the wis - dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;
 Oh, how your won - ders are dis - played, wher - e'er I turn my eye:
 All life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;

The tune Ellacombe was named for a place in Devonshire, England. It was first published in a collection of tunes used in the private chapel of the Duke of Wirtemberg, and was possibly sung with the text "Ave Maria, klärer."

Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D.
 Gesangbuch der herzoglichen
 Wirtembergischen katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784
 Descant, The New Century Hymnal, 1993

GOD

Wher - ev - er peo - ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres - ent there.

The moon shines full at God's com - mand, and all the stars o - bey.
If I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
Wher - ev - er peo - ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres - ent there.

The musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The middle staff is a piano accompaniment in treble clef, featuring chords and moving lines. The bottom staff is a bass line in bass clef, providing harmonic support with chords and a steady bass line.

Break Now the Bread of Life

Matt. 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44

Mary A. Lathbury, 1877; alt.

1 Break now the bread of life, Sav - ior, to me, as you once
 2 Bless now the truth, dear Christ, to me, to me, as you once

broke the loaves be - side the sea; Be - yond the sa - cred page
 blessed the bread by Gal - i - lee; Then shall all bond-age cease,

I seek you, Lord; my spir-it yearns for you, O Liv - ing Word.
 all shack-les fall, and I shall find my peace, my all in all.

Mary Lathbury, "poet laureate of Chautauqua," wrote her prayer hymn to enrich the lives of those gathered for summer study at the lakeside conferences near Jamestown, New York. The tune was written for it by the chorus director of Chautauqua that same season.

Tune: BREAD OF LIFE 6.4.6.4.D.
 William F. Sherwin, 1877

As We Gather at Your Table

Matt. 22:1-10; Luke 14:16-24

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989

1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.

Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

In this hymn, commissioned by an Episcopal parish in Virginia for the celebration of its tricentennial, Carl P. Daw, Jr., utilized a familiar phrase from Isaac Watts' "Joy to the World," which was the motto for the celebration: "Repeat the sounding joy."

Tune: BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7.D.
 The Sacred Harp, 1844
 Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1992

Faith of the Martyrs

Frederick W. Faber, 1849; alt.

1 Faith of the mar - tyrs, liv - ing still in spite of
 2 Mar - tyrs con - fined in pris - ons bleak were still in
 3 Faith of the mar - tyrs! We will love both friend and
 4 Faith of the mar - tyrs! Faith and prayer shall long out -

dun - geon, fire, and sword; O how our hearts beat high with
 heart and con - science free; and no less blessed will be our
 foe in peace or strife; and sow the seeds of hope and
 live sin's ty - ran - ny; and through the truth that comes from

joy, when we re - call their faith's re - ward:
 fate if we, like them, live faith - ful - ly:
 faith by strength - ening word and fear - less life:
 God all hu - man - kind shall then be free:

Refrain

Faith of the mar - tyrs, liv - ing faith! We would be true in life and death.

The Greek term martures is translated in the New Testament as "witness" and forms the basis for the English word "martyr." The hymn was written as a call for the return of the Church of England to the Roman Catholic church, and "our fathers . . ." in the original text referred to those faithful to Rome who had suffered martyrdom.

Tune: ST. CATHERINE L.M. with refrain
 Henri F. Hemy, 1864
 Adapt. James G. Walton, 1874