

The United Church of Christ, Congregational
Burlington, MA

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
COMMUNION SUNDAY

"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."

February 2, 2025

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 C Major- J.S. Bach

Brian Gionet

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

O For a Thousand Tongues To Sing

NCH # 42 v1

**O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories ever echoing the triumphs of God's grace!**

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

Praising & Learning...

***Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 71)**

One: In the Holy One, we take refuge; let us never be put to shame. Our praise is continually of you.

All: In your righteousness deliver us and hear our cries for justice and peace.

One: In the Holy One, we draw strength; let us never be put to shame. Our praise is continually of you.

All: Be a rock of refuge for the vulnerable, a strong fortress to save creation, for you are our rock and fortress.

One: In the Holy One, we receive courage; let us never be put to shame. Our praise is continually of you.

All: Rescue us, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel, for you, Holy One, are our hope and trust.

***Opening Hymn**

Abdie With Me

NCH #99 v 1-3

***Opening Prayer**

God Who Knows Us, we pray that you form and shape us anew. Remind us who we are and draw us back to you. Transform us in love, correct us with compassion, and lead us with clarity into the paths of righteousness, truth, and peace. May we be open and receptive to your voice and presence among us. Let your words encourage us to be prophetic, passionate, and public in our ministry as we praise and honor your name. Amen.

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

***Devotional Hymn**

Take my Life, God, Let it Be

NCH #448

Reflecting & Praying...

Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” But the Lord said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy,’
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.
Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the Lord.”

Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me,

“Now I have put my words in your mouth.
See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”

Luke 4:21-30

Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is this not Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months and there was a severe famine over all the land, yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many with a skin disease in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Our Sermon

Being Known

Rev. Andrew Harris

Anthem

Come to The Table by Steve Kupferschmid

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 God's 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

As We Gather at Your Table

NCH #332 v 1 and 2

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**

Forward Through the Ages

NCH # 377 v 1 and 2

***Benediction**

Postlude

Solo on Christ be Our Light

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

Anna Karwan's mom Irene

Elaine Glancy

Lynn Tirrell

Karen Butler's Brother-in-Law Lenny

Barbara Naddaff's friend Mary with Hospice

Ted Brierley

Tonia Egan's Mom and Dad

Claire Simas

Paul Raymond

Shirley Fong's mom Mary

Deana's sister and brother-in-law,

Linda and Jim Sutton

Kay Shute

Julie Lewis's cousin Alicia

David Leonard's sister Lucinda

Nancy Davis son, George

Laura Nowell's cousin Nigel-new treatment

and Friend Mary-new treatment

Molly and her family

Joan Zink's daughter Jen

Tom Killilea's brother Jim

Bobbie Killilea's sister Karla

Carpenter Family

Claire Simas, niece Janice and daughter Marianne

Chris Stahlinski's sisters

Brian Gionet's Dad

Roberta Low

Shirley Garside's daughter Lynn

Jessy McNeil's sisters Grace and Joyce

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

Barbara Garland

California wildfires and those still recovering from
Hurricane Helene and Milton!

Mother Earth!

Our Country and World!

WORSHIP PARTICIPATION

February 2 Communion and Annual Meeting

Communion Prep: Cindy Phillips
Marge Zamanian
Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Brian Gionet
Lay Leader: Chris Stahlinski
Head Usher: Dave McNeil
Usher: Sally Willard
Greeter: Cindy Phillips
Flowers:
Collector: Joan Zink
Nursery: Kate Smith
Sunday School: Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro
Coffee Hosts: Deb Glancy
Jan McSheffrey
Potluck Luncheon: The Congregation

February 9 Worship – Love Offering

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Brian Gionet
Lay Leader: Andie Joseph
Head Usher: Deb Glancy
Usher: Carol Downing
Greeter: Jan McSheffrey
Flowers:
Collector: Dick Butler
Nursery: Kate Smith
Sunday School: Band Sunday
Coffee Hosts: Marge Zamanian
Bakers: Deana Tredeau

BIBLE STUDY

Join Pastor Andrew on Wednesdays, 2-3pm
in the conference room and on Zoom livestream.
All welcome!

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

Feb 2 Head to Sunday School at 10:30. Come up
to the sanctuary for Communion. Chinese
New Year.

Feb 9 All Church Worship-Band Sunday

Feb 16 UCC 2025 Climate Hope Art Contest –
"Planting Seeds of Hope."

Feb 23 Science Sunday

POOL PARTY FOR ALL AGES!



FELLOWSHIP NIGHT
FEBRUARY 15, AT 6PM
POTLUCK DINNER AND KARAOKE



All are welcome to join us for a night of fellowship and song. Come and sing or just enjoy the entertainment. Invite your family and friends. We will have folks from the Presbyterian Church and Temple joining us. There will be a signup sheet at coffee hour for food donations. This is a free event and should be a lot of fun. Questions, speak with Kari Lynch or any Deacon. Come one and all!

UPDATE: March 16th 2-3pm

We will head over to the Boys and Girls Club for a swim! More info in the February Hilltop Herald! Please contact Deb for a headcount. We need to know how many lifeguards we need that day.

See signup sheet at coffee hour!

ANNUAL MEETING/LUNCHEON
FEBRUARY 2, 2024



Join us for our 292nd Annual Meeting. After worship we will have a light lunch in Sewall Hall and then return to the sanctuary for the meeting which will also be on Zoom. Come and vote on many articles for our church.

Luke 24:29; 1 Cor. 15:55

Henry F. Lyte, 1847; alt.

1 A - bide with me; fast falls the e - ven - tide;
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3 I need your pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;
 4 I fear no foe, with you at hand to bless;
 5 Hold now your cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

The shad - ows deep - en, Lord, with me a - bide;
 Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 I need your grace to foil the tempt - er's power;
 Ills have no weight and tears no bit - ter - ness;
 Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail, and com - forts flee,
 Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Give me your love my guide and stay to be.
 Where is death's sting? where, grave, your vic - to - ry?
 Heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 O Christ who chang - es not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still if you a - bide with me.
 In life, in death, O Christ, a - bide with me.

Following the final sermon of his career, Henry F. Lyte handed a copy of this recently written hymn to a relative. He died two months later. The tune by W. H. Monk has contributed greatly to the popularity of the hymn.

Tune: EVENTIDE 10.10.10.
 William H. Monk, 1861

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

Frances R. Havergal, 1874; alt.

Rom. 12:1

1 Take my life, God, let it be con - se - crat - ed faith - ful - ly.
 2 Take my spir - it, let it move at the im - pulse of your love.
 3 Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
 4 Take my love and help it grow; let my lov - ing ov - er - flow.

Take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.
 Take my in - tel - lect and use all its pow - ers as you choose.
 Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwell - ing place.
 Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's com - mu - ni - ty.

Frances R. Havergal wrote her hymn following a visit to Areley House in Worcestershire, England. Among the ten persons at the house were "some unconverted . . . some converted but not rejoicing." Before she left, "everyone had got a blessing."

Tune: VIENNA 7.7.7.7.
 Justin H. Knecht, 1797
 Alternate tune: HENDON

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

Forward through the Ages

Heb. 11; 1 Cor. 12

Frederick Lucian Hosmer, 1908; alt.

1 For - ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,
 2 Wide grows God's do - min - ion, reign of love and peace;
 3 Not a - lone we con - quer, not a - lone we fall;

move the faith - ful spir - its, at the call di - vine;
 for it we must la - bor, till all striv - ings cease.
 in each loss or tri - umph, lose or tri - umph all.

Gifts in dif - fering mea - sure, hearts of one ac - cord,
 Proph - ets have pro - claimed it, teach - ers tes - ti - fied,
 Bound by God's far pur - pose in one liv - ing whole,

man - i - fold in ser - vice, one the sure re - ward.
 po - ets sung its glo - ry, mar - tyrs for it died.
 move we on to - geth - er to the shin - ing goal.

Frederick Hosmer, educated at Harvard and ordained to the Unitarian ministry, served Congregational and Unitarian churches throughout the country. He was known for his concern for social issues, his service book for Sunday schools, and his lectures on hymnology.

Tune: ST. GERTRUDE 6.5.6.5.D. with refrain
 Arthur S. Sullivan, 1871

COMMUNION OF SAINTS

Refrain

For - ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,

Move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine.