

The United Church of Christ, Congregational Burlington, MA

"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."

March 23, 2025

10:30am

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Morning Meditation

*By love He be gotten and holden, but by thought never.
– The Cloud of Unknowing*

Musical Prelude

Come and Be with Christ

Brian Gionet

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed

Opening Prayer

Holy One, draw us into community and connection. Let us receive you and our companions in worship. Keep us open to the unexpected, so that we may perceive your work in the world, and your work in us. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

O Love, How Vast, How Flowing Free

NCH #209

Psalter Reading - Psalm 63:1-8

O God, you are my God; I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.
Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.
So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.
My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips
when I think of you on my bed
and meditate on you in the watches of the night,
for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.

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

Children of God Time

Sharing of Joys, Sorrows, & Concerns

*Devotional Hymn

O God, How We Have Wandered

NCH #202

Reflecting & Praying...

Scripture Readings

Hebrew Bible Reading - Isaiah 55:1-9

Hear, everyone who thirsts;
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread
and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
Now you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Gospel Reading - Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the man working the vineyard, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.' "

Our Sermon

Second Chances and Good Soil

Rev. Andrew Harris

Anthem

Let Patience Take Form - organ solo

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

Come to Tend God's Garden

NCH #586

*Benediction

Postlude

Roseberry by Bruce Neswick

Brian Gionet

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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

Chris Cahoon-surgery
Joan Zink and the passing of her daughter Jen
Andrew's grandmother Jan Cooper's passing
Karen Ciardi's dad, Bill Richard's passing
Andrew's friend Lorenzo
Claire Simas
Omobono's friend's new baby
David Leonard
Ally's cousin Lea
Deana Tredeau's brother-in-law Jim Sutton
Bill Hitchcock's girlfriend Denise
Ryan Roitman-Waters and husband
Bill Livezey
Donna DeSimone's Brother-in-law Rick
Anna Karwan's mom Irene and gratitude for her
sister as caretaker
Laura Nowell's brother Nick, cousin Nigel,
friend Mary
Elaine Glancy
Skip Glancy and sister Dorothy
Karen Butler's brother-in-law Lenny
Ted Brierley
Barbara Naddaff's friend Mary
Tonia Egan's Mom and Dad
Shirley Fong's Mom Mary
Kay Shute
Julies Lewis' cousin Alicia
Chris Stahlinski's sister
Brian Gionet's Dad
Roberta Low
Shirley Garside's daughter Lynn
Jessy McNeil's sisters Grace and Joyce
Marilyn Langley's brother Bill
Kelly Sievert
Jan Blandino's grandson Toby, daughter Brenda,
son-in-law Rick
Ginger Mungillo and daughter Cindy, son Jim
Barbara Garland

Victims of the Wildfires and Hurricanes
Mother Earth
Our Country!!

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

3/23 "Seasons of the Spirit" curriculum
3/30 Science Sunday

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.

Marcia Rich donated today's altar flowers in celebration of the life of her mother, Ursula 'Sue' Rich.

WORSHIP PARTICIPATION

MARCH 23 Second Sunday in Lent

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Pastor: | Rev. Andrew Harris |
| Organist: | Brian Gionet |
| Lay Leader: | Marcia Rich |
| Head Usher: | Chris Stahlinski |
| Usher: | Dave Leonard |
| Greeter: | Tonia Egan |
| Flowers: | Marcia Rich |
| Collector: | Lucy Damiani |
| Nursery: | Kate Smith |
| Sunday School: | Auriana Musselman
Donna Ferro |
| Coffee Hosts: | Marge Zamanian
Lucy Damiani |
| Baker: | Marge Zamanian
Lucy Damiani |

BIBLE STUDY

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

If you would like to have a meeting with Pastor Andrew you can contact him at

**An Evening of Dialogue with Rabbi Susan Abramson and Rev. Andrew Harris
Tuesday, March 25 at 6:00pm at UCC Burlington**

Over the past few years, events in our world, our country, and our community have brought strong emotions and difficult conversations to the fore within our faith communities. We are holding this evening of dialogue to try to understand one another better and foster a spirit of compassion and mutual respect. All are welcome to attend. Food and beverages will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

AGING WITH GRACE WORKSHOP

As we enter Lent there will be a workshop each Sunday following coffee hour. Aging with Grace is the topic. Anyone who may be caring for an aging family member, friend or even you may have many questions and concerns about how to handle this facet of life. We will search through poems, stories, passages to help us along the way. All are welcome to join us. Please contact Debbie Claar at deborahsclaar@gmail.com

CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

Join us on Thursday afternoons at 1pm in the conference room. We are in the process of making prayer shawls, prayer squares and blankets for the Linus Project. We also offer a hybrid connection so you can join us on Zoom as well!

WISH PROJECT IN CHELMSFORD

Now that warmer temps will be coming soon, beginning April 1st please only donate ***SPRING/SUMMER clothing*** to the Wish Project. The Wish Project has limited space and cannot store out of season clothing. All donated clothing must be clean, free of holes and stains. There is a bin under the coat rack for your donations. The clothing is taken to the Wish Project twice a month.

**Save the Date!
April 12th**

The Green Team invites you to a day of cutting vines on the church property.
Pizza will be served.
More info to come!

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
March 30th during worship**

OGHS is part of our Church's Wider Mission. UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons and so much more. Please see the envelopes in the pews next Sunday. The Mission Committee thanks you for your donation!

**PALM SUNDAY PROCESSIONAL
April 13 at Noon!**

Join us at St. Mark's Church 4 St. Mark's Road, as we process up Bedford Street to UCC (across from the basketball courts at Simonds Park). This is a .7-mile walk led by a mini-horse donated by Sandy from farmershelpers.com

Not a walker, watch from the top of the hill at UCC. Refreshments to follow. All, welcome!

Burlington Performing Arts Parent Association

In partnership with  **gotsneakers?**
A Sneaker Recycling Organization
BPAPA we are helping to raise money to be used for costs related to performances, travel, scholarships, end of year banquets, equipment, etc. We are looking for pairs, athletic rubber soled shoes in excellent to fair condition.

(SEE THE BIN IN THE HALLWAY)

O Love, How Vast, How Flowing Free

209

Latin, 15th century
 Transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

Matt. 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13; Phil. 2:5-11;
 John 17:1-26; 19:1-3, 16-18

1 O Love, how vast, how flow - ing free, O Love how
 2 Not as an an - gel vis - it - ing, nor form ce -
 3 For us bap - tized, and fast - ing long, for us was
 4 For us was beat - en, whipped, and tried, and tak - en

filled with ec - sta - sy, That God a hu - man
 les - tial or - bit - ing, But born in flesh God
 tempt - ed by the wrong, For us the pangs of
 to be cru - ci - fied, So Love all this for

form should take, and mor - tal be for mor - tals' sake.
 chose to be, robed in our own hu - man - i - ty.
 hun - ger knew; for us the Tempt - er o - ver - threw.
 us en - dured, and dy - ing, life for us pro - cured.

5 A-ris-ing from the dead a-gain,
 our Sov-ereign goes on high to reign;
 And sends the Spir-it to a-bide
 for strength and sol-ace at our side.

6 Then for God's bound-less love
 sing praise
 through end-less a-ges, count-less days;
 By Love we have been rec-on-ciled:
 sal-va-tion gained through
 God's own Child.

Recounting the life of Christ, this hymn comes from an anonymous fifteenth-century Latin hymn of twenty-three stanzas. It has been described as a precursor of Christmas and Epiphany carols.

Tune: DEO GRACIAS L.M.
 "The Agincourt Song," England, c. 1415
 For another harmonization, see 184, 259

O God, How We Have Wandered

202

Kevin Nichols, 1980; alt.

Luke 15:11-32; 2 Cor. 5:16-20

1 O God, how we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
 3 O God of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

In fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
 By faith we are re - turn - ing with hope and trust in you.
 Com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, our peace and hope as - sured.

But how, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we turn with fear and shame,
 In haste you come to meet us, and home re - joic - ing bring,
 Grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.

As dis - tant but com - pell - ing, you call us each by name.
 In glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

The tune for this contemporary text appears five times in J. S. Bach's St. Matthew Passion, and first appeared as a hymn setting in the early 1800s. It has an ecumenical history reaching back many centuries. Originally it was a German love song.

Tune: PASSION CHORALE 7.6.7.6.D.
 (HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN)
 Melody by Hans Leo Hassler, 1601
 Harm. J. S. Bach, 1729
 For another harmonization, see 179

Come to Tend God's Garden

586

John A. Dalles, 1992

Luke 13:6-9; Gal. 5:22-26

1 Come to tend God's gar - den, seeds of hope to sow, plant-ing fields of
 2 As we tend God's gar - den, from its fur-rows rise stems of fresh be -
 3 May God's gar - den flour - ish, may our toil suc - ceed, may God bless our

*

**Whenever this repeated figure appears in the bass,
 the organist should tie the eighth notes in the bass part.*

jus - tice, watch-ing mer - cy grow! In an ar - id waste - land,
 gin - nings, stretch-ing toward the skies! Gra-cious-ness, our mead - ow,
 ac - tions, ev - ery word and deed! Serv-ing Christ each sea - son,

spread a ver - dant heath! In a land of tu-mult, cul - ti - vate God's peace!
 joy - ful - ness, our root, u - ni-ty, our fo-liage, righ-teous-ness, our fruit!
 with God's di - a - gram, chart-ed by the Spir-it, for the task at hand!

John Dalles is the author of more than 200 hymn texts. This one was written for the 275th anniversary of the Synod of the Trinity (Pennsylvania), where Dalles has served as a pastor at Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh.

Tune: KING'S WESTON 6.5.6.5.D.
 Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1925
 For another setting see 255