

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

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MOTHER'S DAY!**

"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."

May 11, 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

O Gott, dufrommer Gott-Brahms

Aline Beck

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

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

Praising & Learning...

***Call to Worship**

One: The shepherd calls us.

All: We hear his voice.

One: God awakens us from our sleep.

All: God opens our eyes to heaven and earth.

One: Jesus protects us from danger. He finds us when we are lost.

All: He tends to us in times of fear and anxiety.

One: He leads us and beckons us to follow him.

All: He inspires courage and hope although we walk a difficult path.

One: The shepherd calls us.

All: We hear his voice.

***Opening Hymn**

My Shepherd is the Living God

NCH #247

***Mother's Day Blessing (written by Elizabeth Hagan)**

One: Today we celebrate mothers.

All: Thank God for mothers!

One: For the women who have joined God in heaven and whom we miss dearly here on earth

All: For the mothers of the past, we thank God.

One: For the women who are raising and making sacrifices for their children

All: For the mothers of today, we thank God.

One: For the women who have taken in children through foster care and adoption and who show us that a mother's love extends beyond biological ties

All: For the mothers with big hearts, we thank God

One: For the women who have lost a child to death or want a child they know they can't have

All: For the mothers who are so strong, we thank God.

One: For the women who are "mother hens" in our community and who nurture, support, and guide us

All: For the mothers in spirit, we thank God.

One: For the women who raised us in hurtful ways but whose lives spur us toward healthier paths

All: For the mothers who pushed us on our way, we thank God.

One: For God, whose love remains a constant source of comfort in all of our lives

All: For the comfort of your constant love, God, we thank you.

One: We thank you, God, for your steadfast love and for the women whose love has shaped our lives in so many ways. Help us to honor them in everything we do.

All: Amen.

Children of God Time

Sharing of Joys, Sorrows, & Concerns

***Devotional Hymn**

The Care the Eagle Gives Her Young

NCH #468

Reflecting & Praying...

Scripture Readings

Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them, and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile, he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

John 10:22-30

At that time the Festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me, but you do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, in regard to what he has given me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

Our Sermon

Anthem

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

Zebulon M. Highben

Pastoral Prayer

Committing...

Stewardship Invitation

Offertory

A Rose Breaks Into Bloom-Praetorius

Aline Beck

***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 and Consecration**

Going...

***Closing Hymn**

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

NCH #82

***Benediction**

Postlude

The Glory of God in Nature-Beethoven

Aline Beck

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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

Roberta Low
Lee Tirrell
Jan Blandino, her grandson Toby, daughter Brenda,
son-in-law Rick
David Knowles
David Leonard
Dick Butler
Elaine Glancy
Sean Musselman's friend
 Dan & Jill expecting baby #2
Susan Damiani's friend Linda
Jan McSheffrey and husband Al
Ted Brierley
Karen Ciardi's mom Dottie
Andrew's friend Lorenzo
Claire Simas
Omobono's friend's new baby
Ally's cousin Lia
Marcia's sister-in-law's sister Linda
Tom Killilea
Deana Tredeau's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Hitchcock's girlfriend Denise
Bill Livezey
Donna DeSimone's Brother-in-law Rick
Anna Karwan's mom Irene and gratitude
 for her sister as caretaker
Laura Nowell's Cousin Nigel, friend Mary
Skip Glancy and sister Dorothy
Karen Butler's brother-in-law Lenny
Barbara Naddaff's friend Mary
Tonia Egan's Mom and Dad
Shirley Fong's Mom Mary
Kay Shute
Julie Lewis' cousin Alicia
Brian Gionet's Dad
Shirley Garside's daughter Lynn
Jessy McNeil's sisters Grace and Joyce
Marilyn Langley's brother Bill
Kelly Sievert
Ginger Mungillo and daughter Cindy, son Jim
Barbara Garland

Our Country
Mother Earth

SUNDAY SCHOOL

5/11 Mother's Day. Lesson: Love Leads the Way.
 Gift for Moms
5/18 All Church Worship. The Sunday School will
 be in church for the full service and
 participate in reading scripture, offering and
 pass out friendship

*Dick and Karen Butler donated today's altar flowers
in memory of Dick's parents Ella and Roger Butler.*

WORSHIP PARTICIPATION

Worship-Love Offering-Happy Mother's Day!

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| Pastor: | Rev. Andrew Harris |
| Organist: | Aline Beck |
| Lay Leader: | Chris Stahlinski |
| Head Usher: | Deb Glancy |
| Usher: | Carol Downing |
| Greeter: | |
| Flowers: | Dick & Karen Butler |
| Collector: | Dick Butler |
| Nursery: | Kate Smith |
| Sunday School: | Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro |
| Coffee Host: | Jan McSheffrey |
| Bakers: | |

May 18 Worship

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Pastor: | Rev. Andrew Harris |
| Organist: | Aline Beck |
| Lay Leader: | Lucy Damiani |
| Head Usher: | Dave McNeil |
| Usher: | Carol Downing |
| Greeter: | Chris Stahlinski |
| Flowers: | |
| Collector: | Joan Zink |
| Nursery: | Kate Smith |
| Sunday School: | Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro |
| Coffee Host: | Donna Flecchia
Jan Costa |
| Bakers: | Donna Flecchia
Jan Costa |

Bible Study - Luke's Parables

Wednesdays at 2pm - In person and on Zoom
For the months of May and June, we will explore
Jesus's parables in the Gospel of Luke. As always,
all are welcome and there is no homework or pre-
reading necessary. Just show up with an open
heart, open ears, and an open mind and together
we will discuss God's word for us.

May 14 - Parable of the Good Samaritan
 (Luke 10:25-37)
May 21 - Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-34)
May 28 - Parable of the Great Dinner
 (Luke 14:15-34)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84363847241>

PUB THEOLOGY
May 15 at the Parsonage 8pm

This month Pub Theology turns into Backyard Theology. Weather permitting, we'll gather in the backyard at the parsonage for an evening of discussion around the fire pit. Bring your own beverages and bring a lawn/camp chair (I've got 6 chairs, so if you don't have a chair, I've got one for you).

CELEBRATING PRIDE!

June is Pride Month and Saturday, June 7th, is Pride Day in Burlington. UCC Burlington will honor Pride Day by sponsoring a table on the Common with banners and beautiful new signs, giveaways and crafts for the kids. A brochure will be available to inform folks about our open and affirming church. We need the help of many hands to make this a joyful day for everyone. Please look for sign-up sheets at coffee hour to help with planning, produce bracelets or crafts, knit or crochet, etc, etc!

We will be designing T-shirts for all members volunteering that day, so please let us know you plan to be there!

Susan Eby, Sally Willard, Lucy Damiani

Rainbow Prayer Squares for Pride Day

We are in need of people who knit or crochet to make rainbow themed prayer squares to be handed out on Pride Day, June 7. There is rainbow colored yarn for you to use on the table outside the office. Squares should be 3 to 4 inches on a side. We figure we need 100 or more squares for the Pride Day. Please let Bobbie know when you are going to make prayer squares and contact Susan Eby if you have any questions.

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

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.

CAMBRIDGE STREET CLOSET
CLOTHING NEEDS!

Cambridge Street Closet is a local collection of clothing for school-age children. They are now taking spring and summer clothing only.

Please NO...

- Stains or excessive wear
- Rips or pilling
- Holiday or Family References
- Local Business or Special Events
- Costumes

NEW ONLY of the following...

- Undergarments
- Swimsuit
- Pajamas

Donations may be placed in the bin outside the office area. We do not collect for Wee Care but they do take children's newborn to size 12 and maternity clothing. They are located at 1 St. Mark's Road, here in Burlington.

In Need of a Captain to "Sale" Away

To all church friends, here goes a call.
To lead an event that will benefit all.
Dozens of us have much to spare.
If only someone would be the chair...
A Yard Sale ! What fun ! Items galore !
Household, crafts, electronics, and more.
Books and tools and clothes and toys.
Treasures for adults and girls and boys.
Thousands we'd make, as we have in the past.
Fellowship for all whose help will be cast.
Hundreds will come to our church on the hill.
To add to our income and pay lots of bills.

If this is something you would like to run, pick a date (make sure you check the office calendar), and present it to Parish Council for approval!

My Shepherd Is the Living God

Ps. 23; John 10:11, 27-30

Composite from Thomas Sternhold, 1549, and Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

C G C G7 C F G F C

1 My shep-herd is the liv - ing God, I there-fore noth-ing need;
 2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres-ence is my stay;
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;

Am G C F G Am G7 C G C

In pas - tures fair, near pleas - ant streams you set - tle me to feed.
 A word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
 O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.

C F C Dm G C Am Dm Am FM7

You bring my wan-dering spir - it back when I for-sake your ways,
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
 There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers come and go—

Em C Am Dm Am Em C G7 C

And lead me for your mer - cy's sake in paths of truth and grace.
 My cup with bless-ings o - ver-flows, your oil a - noints my head.
 No more a strang-er or a guest, but like a child at home.

Isaac Watts, London's leading Congregational minister, wrote more than 600 hymns. His paraphrase of Psalm 23 has been altered here by combining a few phrases from Thomas Sternhold, a sixteenth-century English hymnwriter who also wrote metrical psalm texts.

Tune: CONSOLATION C.M.D.
 Southern Harmony, 1835
 Harm. Erik Routley, 1976
 Alternate tune: CRIMOND (Each stanza above becomes two stanzas.)

The Care the Eagle Gives Her Young

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R. Deane Postlethwaite, 1980

Deut. 32:11-12a; Exod. 19:4

1 The care the ea - gle gives her young, safe in her
2 As when the time to ven - ture comes, she stirs them
3 And if we flut - ter help - less - ly, as fledg - ling

loft - y nest, Is like the ten - der
out - to flight, So we are pressed to
ea - gles fall, Be - neath us lift God's

love of God for us made man - i - fest.
bold - ly try, to strive for dar - ing height.
might - y wings to bear us, one and all.

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are arranged in three numbered lines corresponding to the vocal melody.

This text was originally titled "For a Recognition of God's Feminine Attributes." The author explains: "I find a deep meaning and power in the image of a God who, like a mother eagle, pushes me from her nest, but who catches me, bears me up, when I fall."

Tune: CRIMOND C.M.
Jesse Seymour Irvine, 1872
Harm. T. C. L. Pritchard, 1929

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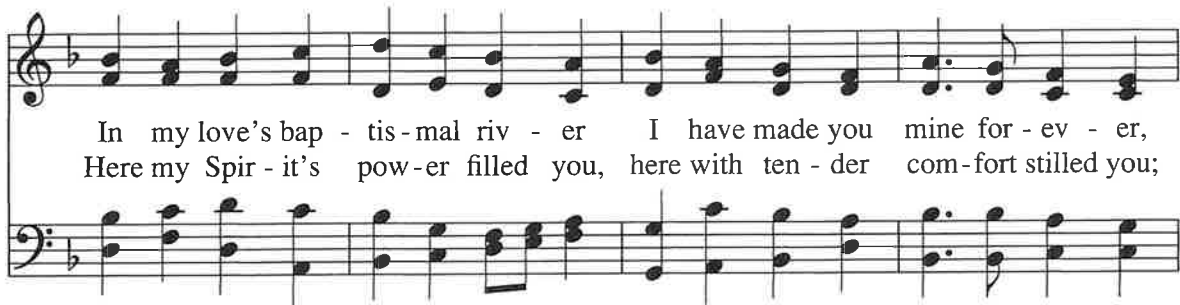
Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983, 1990; alt.


1 Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone;
2 Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me;



Wak - ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own;
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis-mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er,
Here my Spir - it's pow-er filled you, here with ten - der com-fort stilled you;



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own.
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free.

For marriage services, this stanza may be sung between stanzas 1 and 2 above.

In this un-ion I have joined you hus-band and wife,
Now, my chil-dren, live to-geth-er as heirs of life:
Each the oth-er's glad-ness shar-ing,
each the oth-er's bur-dens bear-ing,
Now, my chil-dren, live to-geth-er as heirs of life.

American hymnwriter and translator Jaroslav Vajda crafted this benediction text as though God were "dismissing the congregation after worship, while drawing together a review of the events that transpired during the service." The wedding stanza was a later addition.

Tune: AR HYD Y NOS 8.4.8.4.8.8.4.
Traditional Welsh melody
For another harmonization, see 425