

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

HONORING MEMORIAL 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 25, 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

Voluntaries – Elgar

Aline Beck

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

Halle Halle Hallelujah

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

Praising & Learning...

***Call to Worship**

One: In a world filled with violence and war,

All: we gather together to celebrate the promise of peace.

One: In a world filled with tyranny and oppression,

All: we gather together to celebrate the promise of justice for all.

One: In a world filled with hunger and greed,

All: we gather together to celebrate the promise of plenty for all.

One: Our hope is in the name of the Almighty God,

All: the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of heaven and earth.

***Opening Hymn**

Enter, Rejoice and Come In

NCH #73

***Opening Prayer**

God of peace, we pray for the power to be gentle, the strength to be forgiving, and the patience to be understanding. May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil and the power of love to overcome hatred. We pray for the faith to believe in a world emancipated from violence. Open our hearts and eyes so that we might see the face of our adversary, and recognize, as you do, that they are our sister, our brother. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who said "my peace I give to you." Amen.

Children of God Time and Red Wagon (Pantry Donations)

Sharing of Joys, Sorrows, & Concerns

Memorial Day Blessing

Holy God, your love is stronger than death,
and your life-giving power has no end.

We commend to your eternal care
all who have died in the service of others,
even as we lament the violence of war.

Bring justice, freedom, and dignity to all people
and bring an end to war throughout the earth
so that all may know your promised peace.

Comfort and sustain all those who mourn.

Heal the wounded body, mind, and spirit.

We pray for families and friends and all who grieve for
loved ones lost in war.

Meet them in the valley of death's shadow.

Embrace them in the healing warmth of
your comfort, grace, and love.

Grant them and all of us the assurance

that nothing in life or in death

can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord,

in whose name we pray.

Amen.

***Devotional Hymn**

Peace, I Leave with You My Friends

NCH #249

Reflecting & Praying...

Scripture Readings

Acts 16:9-15

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

We therefore set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

John 14:23-29

Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words, and the word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me.

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur you may believe.

Our Sermon

Peace

Rev. Andrew Harris

Anthem

El Shaddai by Amy Grant

Sarah Clark, soloist

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Their Ploughshares Are Beat Into Swords by Walter Brueggemann

And now their plowshares are beat into swords—as are ours,
now their pruning hooks are beat into spears—as are ours.
Not only swords and spears,
but bullets, and bombs, and missiles,
of steel on flesh,
of power against bodies ...
And you, in your indignation sound your mantra,
"Blessed are the peacemakers."

We dare to believe they are the aggressor,
and we are the peacemaker.
Yet in sober night dream, we glance otherwise
and think we may be aggressor,

as we vision rubble homes,
murdered civilians, and charred babies.
And you, in our sadness, sound your mantra,
"Blessed are the peacemakers."

We do not love war,
we yearn for peace,
but we have lost much will for peace
even while we dream of order.
And you, in your hope, sound your mantra,
"Blessed are the peacemakers."

Deliver us from excessive certitude about ourselves.
Hold us in the deep ambiguity where we find ourselves,
Show us yet again the gaping space
between your will and our feeble imagination.
Sound your mantra with more authority,
with more indignation,
through sadness,
in hope ... "Blessed be the peacemakers."

Only peacemakers are blessed.
We find ourselves well short of blessed.
Give us freedom for your deep otherwise,
finally to be blessed,
in the name of the Peacemaker
who gave and did not take. Amen.

Committing...

Stewardship Invitation

Offertory

Gavotte – Wesley

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**

Part In Peace

NCH #78

***Benediction**

Postlude

Unity and Brotherhood-Chesterton

Aline Beck

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Rev. Andrew Harris, Pastor

Aline Beck, Organist

Deb Raymond, Director of Christian Education

Bobbie Killilea, Administrative Assistant

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Joys and Concerns

Jan McSheffrey and husband Al
Roberta Low
Lee Tirrell
Jan Blandino, her grandson Toby, daughter Brenda,
son-in-law Rick
David Knowles
David Leonard
Dick Butler
Elaine Glancy
Susan Damiani's friend Linda
Ted Brierley
Karen Ciardi's mom Dottie
Andrew's friend Lorenzo
Claire Simas
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

*Bobbie Killilea donated today's altar flowers
in celebration of the life of Jane Raymond.*

WORSHIP PARTICIPATION

May 25 Worship – Red Wagon

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Pastor: | Rev. Andrew Harris |
| Organist: | Aline Beck |
| Lay Leader: | Marcia Rich |
| Head Usher: | Dave McNeil |
| Usher: | |
| Greeter: | |
| Flowers: | Bobbie Killilea |
| Collector: | Marcia Rich |
| Nursery: | Kate Smith |
| Sunday School: | Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro |
| Coffee Host: | Deana Tredeau
Chris Stahlinski |
| Bakers: | Deana Tredeau
Chris Stahlinski |

June 1 Communion Worship-Confirmation

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|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Communion Prep: | Chris Stahlinski |
| Pastor: | Rev. Andrew Harris |
| Organist: | Aline Beck |
| Lay Leader: | |
| Head Usher: | Dave McNeil |
| Usher: | |
| Greeter: | Carol Downing |
| Flowers: | |
| Collector: | Deb Raymond |
| Nursery: | Kate Smith |
| Sunday School: | Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro |
| Coffee Host: | |
| Bakers: | Marcia Rich
Cake from CE |

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.

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 28 - Parable of the Great Dinner
(Luke 14:15-34)

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

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

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 a Church Yard Sale 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!