

The United Church of Christ, Congregational  
Burlington, MA

**LENT**

*"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 1, 2026**

**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**

**Welcome & Announcements**

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

## *Praising & Learning...*

### **Morning Psalm - Psalm 121**

One: I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?

**All: My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.**

One: He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.

**All: He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

One: The Lord is your keeper;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

**All: The sun shall not strike you by day  
nor the moon by night.**

One: The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.

**All: The Lord will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and forevermore.**

### **Sharing Joys and Concerns**

### **Passing the Peace**

**\*Opening Hymn**

Unto the Hills We Lift Our Longing Eyes

NCH #466

## *Reflecting & Praying...*

### **Scripture Readings**

John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus

answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

**Sermon**

The Sound of the Wind

Rev. Andrew Harris

**Anthem**

I Can't Stand Up Alone - Martha Carson

Debbie Claar, solo

**Offering...**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offertory**

Gavotte with Variations by Dupuis

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.**

**Blessing**

## Communion...

### Invitation to the Table

One: We gather now at the table of Christ, seeking mercy, forgiveness, joy and peace. 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 or ability. Come not because you must, but because you may.

**All: We come because this is God's table and God bids us come.**

### Communion Hymn

As We Gather at Your Table

NCH #332

### Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, too often we treat your Word like a radio station—something we can tune in and out of when it's convenient. Our minds are full of ads, emails, news updates, and notifications. In the midst of this clutter, we tend to gravitate toward the voices that think like us—easily ignoring the voices being silenced, easily ignoring your voice. Forgive us for failing to listen. Forgive us for getting caught in distractions. Forgive us for forgetting what your voice sounds like. Drain the distractions from our minds and help us turn once again toward you. With earnest hearts we pray, amen.**

### Words of Forgiveness

Friends, even when we tune God out,  
even when we prioritize other voices,  
even when we do all the talking and fail to listen,  
we are *still* held by God.

Our sins are forgiven. Nothing could ever separate us from God's love.  
So with joy in our hearts, please repeat after me:

I am loved!

**I am loved!**

I am held in grace!

**I am held in grace!**

I belong to God.

**I belong to God.**

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

## Affirmation of Faith

In a world full of noise,  
**we believe that God is speaking.**  
In a world full of chaos,  
**we believe that God is singing.**  
In a world full of temptation,  
**we believe that God is healing.**  
Church, who will you listen to?  
**We will listen to God—our Creator, Friend, and Guide.**  
Church, what will you listen for?  
**We will listen for water in the desert,  
for the wind of the Spirit,  
for the laughter of children,  
for the sound of open doors,  
and for God's voice, who calls us beloved.  
Amen.**

Going...

**\*Closing Hymn**

O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns

NCH #212

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

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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  
Aline Beck, Organist  
Deb Raymond, Director of Christian Education  
Bobbie Killilea, Administrative Assistant  
Uccburlington.org  
781-272-4547

## **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

Bev Maher's daughter Kim  
Barbara Naddaff's grandson  
Sally Willard's sister Vicky  
Congrats on Anna Karwan's mom  
celebrating her 89th birthday and to  
Anna's sister for being a wonderful  
caregiver  
Liz Silva's friend has a son overseas  
with health issues  
Christa and Elliot Brown in the  
passing of their daughter  
Tonia Egan's Mom and Dad  
Rev. Cheryl Kerr's son Gabe  
Joyce Carpenter nieces Breanna,  
MaryJane and brother-in-law Ken  
Bobbie Killilea  
Tom Killilea and the passing of  
his brother Rick  
Auri Musselman's sister-in-law's family  
Laura Nowell's friend Mary  
Sally Willard's sister  
Woody Knowles  
Donna DeSome's sister Brenda  
and brother-in-law Rick  
Deana Tredeau's great niece  
Katie Wise  
Conrad Fong  
Bill Livezey  
Kay Shute  
Roberta Low  
Debbie Claar's dear friends Victor  
and Bob  
Jan Blandino, her grandson Toby  
David Knowles  
Elaine Glancy  
Ted Brierley  
Andrew's friend Lorenzo  
Bill Hitchcock

Skip Glancy and sister Dorothy  
Karen Butler's brother-in-law Lenny  
Barbara Naddaff's friend Mary  
Shirley Fong's Mom Mary  
Julie Lewis' cousin Alicia  
Shirley Garside's daughter Lynn  
Jessy McNeil's sisters Grace and Joyce  
Kelly Sievert  
Ginger Mungillo, daughter Cindy,  
son Jim  
Barbara Garland

Fishing boat Lily Jean lost  
crew members  
California avalanches lost souls  
Our Country  
The World  
Mother Earth

## **Worship Participation March 1** **LENT-Communion Sunday**

Communion Prep: Chris Stahlinski  
Marge Zamanian  
Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris  
Organist: Aline Beck  
Lay Leader: Sarah Clark  
Head Usher: Dave McNeil  
Usher: Sally Willard  
Greeter:  
Collector: Dick Butler  
Flowers: Bobbie Killilea  
Nursery: Kritika Agarwala  
Sunday School: Deb Raymond  
Donna Ferro  
Coffee Host: Deb Glancy  
Bakers: Deb Glancy

## **NAME TAGS**

To help create a welcoming atmosphere, we ask that you wear your name tag. If you don't have one, please let Bobbie know.

## **Bible Study - Every Wednesday, 2-3pm**

We will start a Lenten Bible Study  
Join us in the conference room on  
Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89076641525>

## **EASTER FLOWERS**

**If you would like to purchase flowers for our Easter Service, the forms are located at coffee hour. Deadline is March 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

## **SOCK DRIVE CHALLENGE FOR LENT**

Can we, as a congregation, fill a bin with socks for the homeless in 40 days?

During Lent we ask you to keep the homeless in your thoughts by donating a pair of adult socks. Socks are one of the ongoing needs of the homeless. These people have no way to get their socks quickly washed and dried when they get their shoes wet. Both new and used adult socks are needed. Used ones need to be clean, free of holes and folded together as a pair. There is a bin outside the office labeled socks for your donations.

## **THE LILY JEAN out of GLOUCESTER MA**

Missions has received questions about a Mission's donation to help the families of the fishermen lost when the Lily Jean sank recently off Gloucester. At the present time we are not currently thinking about collecting an offering which would go to the funds for these families. Listed below is information about the funds that have been set up for these families. You might like to donate individually to these funds.

A new fund has been created specifically for and will be split equally between the families of victims of the Lily Jean sinking. Which is The Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund that will be Cape Ann Savings Bank. This fund is designed to distribute the proceeds in equal amounts to the families of the seven crew members who perished. Cape Ann Savings Bank will help make sure every dollar goes to the families.

Another way folks can help is [by donating to the long-established Fishing Partnership Support Services](#), a nonprofit by fishermen for fishermen.



## **CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE**

We are busy making prayer shawls and prayers squares. Weather permitting, we will meet every Thursday at 1PM in the conference room. All are welcome!



### **Sunday 3/15/26 2-3pm Pool Party at the Billerica Boys & Girls Club**

The heated pool invites you to: have fun playing pool volleyball, swim short laps or just hang out in the warm water. All participants must sign up on the signup sheet at coffee hour or contact Deb at 857-373-9156.

If more than 20 people attend, we need to give the pool a week's notice to provide a 2<sup>nd</sup> lifeguard.

**Signup no later than 3/8/26!** There are changing rooms but no towels. Please bring your own towels. Boys & Girls Club at 19 Campbell Rd. Billerica.

## Unto the Hills We Lift Our Longing Eyes

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*John Campbell, Duke of Argyll, 1877; alt.*

Ps. 121

1 Un - to the hills we lift our long - ing eyes with yearn - ing sighs.  
 2 God will not let our ser - vant feet be moved; safe we will be.  
 3 God is our keep - er, change - less through the years, a shel - ter strong.  
 4 From ev - ery e - vil, God will keep our lives, from ev - ery sin.

Who will pro - vide the help we sore - ly need? Who hears our cries?  
 God will sup - ply, for all our nights and days, se - cu - ri - ty.  
 God is our shade, pro - tect - ing ev - ery hand, through a - ges long.  
 God will pre - serve and guard our go - ing out, our com - ing in.

From our Cre - a - tor comes our cer - tain aid.  
 God does not sleep when we are tak - ing rest.  
 Sun will not strike or harm through - out the day,  
 Ev - er a - round, with - in, we will a - dore

Our help is from our God, who all things made.  
 God's cov - e - nant en - dures through ev - ery test.  
 Nor moon by night, those liv - ing by God's way.  
 our God who holds and guides for - ev - er - more.

*John Campbell's paraphrase of Psalm 121 was a favorite with Canadian soldiers during World War II. Campbell, a member of Parliament, was married to Queen Victoria's daughter, Princess Louise. For six years he was governor-general of Canada.*

Tune: SANDON 10.4.10.4.10.10.  
 Charles Henry Purday, 1860  
 For another harmonization, see 366

# 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

LENT

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# O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns

Matt. 23:37-39; Luke 13:34-35

Bradford Gray Webster, 1954; alt.

1 O Je-sus Christ, may grate-ful hymns be ris-ing, in ev-ery  
2 Grant us new cour-age, nev-er proud, but hum-ble, strong in your  
3 Show us your Spir-it, brood-ing o'er each cit-y, as you once

cit-y for your love and care; In-spire our wor-ship, grant the  
strength to ven-ture and to dare; To lift the fall-en, guide the  
wept a-bove Je-ru-sa-lem, Seek-ing to gath-er all in

glad sur-pris-ing that your blessed Spir-it rous-es ev-ery-where.  
ones who stum-ble, seek out the lone-ly and God's mer-cy share.  
love and pit-y, and heal-ing those who touch your gar-ment's hem.

The musical score consists of three systems. Each system includes a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (grand staff with treble and bass clefs). The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

*This text, written for a Convocation of Urban Life in America, was chosen by The Hymn Society for publication in Five New Hymns on the City. Bradford Webster, a Methodist minister, served churches in his native New York state for forty years.*

Tune: CHARTERHOUSE 11.10.11.10.  
David Evans, 1927