

**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 15, 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!

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

Gathering....

Musical Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

***Morning Psalm - Psalm 23**

**The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want;
he makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.**

**Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil;
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff,
they comfort me.**

**Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
thou anointest my head with oil,
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for ever.**

***Opening Hymn** My Shepherd is the Living God NCH #247

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Passing the Peace

***Devotional Hymn** Just As I Am NCH #207

Reflecting...

Scripture Readings

John 9:1-41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

Our Sermon

Why Was This Person Born Blind?

Rev. Andrew Harris

Anthem

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Donna DeSimone, accompanied by Mark Omobono

Praying...

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Offering...

Invitation of Offering

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

Sending...

***Closing Hymn** Hark the Herald Angels Sing! Jesus the Light of the World *NCH #160*

*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

Carol Downing's niece Clara battling cancer
Joe Greco's friend's wife Patty battling cancer
Rebecca's friend Greg and Kevin battling cancer
 Bev Maher's daughter Kim
 Barbara Naddaff's grandson
 Sally Willard's sister Vicky
Gratitude from Anna Karwan to her sister for being a wonderful caregiver
 for their mom
Chris Silva's friend has a son overseas with health issues
 Tonia Egan's Mom and Dad
 Rev. Cheryl Kerr's son Gabe
Joyce Carpenter and nieces Breanna, MaryJane and brother-in-law Ken
 Tom and Bobbie Killilea
 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
 Our Country

Lent March 15, 2026 - Worship

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Aline Beck
Lay Leader: Chris Stahlinski
Head Usher: Deb Glancy
Usher:
Greeter: Anna Karwan
Collector: Lucy Damiani
Flowers: Chris Stahlinski
Nursery: Kritika Agarwala
Sunday School: Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro
Coffee Host:
Bakers: Anna Karwan

Lent March 22, 2026 - Worship

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Aline Beck
Lay Leader: Debbie Claar
Head Usher:
Usher:
Greeter: Chris Stahlinski
Collector: Deb Raymond
Flowers: Marcia Rich
Nursery: Kritika Agarwala
Sunday School: Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro
Coffee Host: Deb Glancy
Bakers: Deb Glancy

EASTER FLOWERS

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

BIBLE STUDY - EVERY WEDNESDAY, 2-3PM

Join us for a Lenten Bible Study in person in the conference room and on Zoom:

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

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.



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!

TODAY 2-3PM POOL PARTY

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB BILLERICA

The heated pool invites you to: have fun playing pool volleyball, swim short laps or just hang out in the warm water. See you there!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

OGHS's mission is to support domestic and international development, fight poverty and its consequences, bring aid and relief to communities torn by war or ravaged by natural disaster, provide advocacy and resettlement assistance for refugees and displaced persons, and combat injustice in its many forms. OGHS provides funding and hands-on assistance in collaboration with local and international partners.

PROCESSIONAL ON PALM SUNDAY

Join us after worship at noon as we'll meet down at St. Mark's Church and proceed up the hill to UCC Burlington. Joining us will be our friends from the Presbyterian Church. Lemonade and cookies to follow.