

**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 22, 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 130

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.
Lord, hear my voice!

**All: Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!**

One: If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?

**All: But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.**

One: I wait for the LORD; my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;

**All: my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.**

One: O Israel, hope in the LORD!

**All: For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.**

*Opening Hymn O Love, How Vast, How Flowing Free NCH #209

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Passing the Peace

*Devotional Hymn Let It Breathe On Me NCH #288

Reflecting...

Scripture Readings

John 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

Our Sermon

Do You Believe This?

Rev. Andrew Harris

Anthem

O God Beyond All Praising

sung by the Choir

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

What Wondrous Love is This

NCH #223

*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

Lent March 22, 2026-Worship

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Aline Beck
Lay Leader: Debbie Claar
Head Usher: Dave McNeil
Usher: Dick Butler
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
Marcia Rich

PALM SUNDAY

March 29, 2026-Worship

Red Wagon

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Aline Beck
Lay Leader: Sarah Clark
Head Usher: Deb Glancy
Usher: Sally Willard
Greeter: Marcia Rich
Collector: Joan Zink
PALMS: Deacons
Nursery: Kritika Agarwala
Sunday School: Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro
Coffee Host: Chris Stahlinski
Bakers: Chris Stahlinski

EASTER FLOWERS

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

Today is the last day to order. Please leave the form and payment in the church office.

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 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!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING IS TODAY!

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.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY-March 28th

Worship Service at 10:30 am. Please join us for our Palm Sunday service leading up to Easter Sunday. Come early, pick up your palms at the door, get your name tag and welcome each other.

Palm Sunday procession at Noon Join us for a .7 mile walk from St. Mark's parking lot to the UCC church led by Clyde, our mini horse or a goat if Clyde can't make it. All are invited. Water, Lemonade and cookies will be served outside of the church when finished.

MAUNDY THURSDAY-April 2nd

Worship and Fellowship Service at 6:30 pm in Sewall Hall for soup, bread and worship. This is a solemn service not recommended for young Children.

GOOD FRIDAY-April 3rd

All are invited to join us outside the Burlington ICE Detention Center at 1000 District Ave. on Good Friday, April 3 at 3pm for The Seven Last Words: An Ecumenical Worship Service on Good Friday. We hope you will gather with us to mourn, lament, and hope as we wait for the Good News of Resurrection.

EASTER-April 5th

Sunrise Service 6:30am at the top of the hill at Simonds Park. Perfect way to celebrate the resurrection of Christ as the sun rises.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Join us at 9:45 as all our children will celebrate with a fun egg hunt provided by Christian Education.

EASTER CELEBRATION

Worship Service begins at 10:30am

Join us from 10:15-10:30am as we decorate our beautiful floral cross and listen to music from our guest musicians.