

**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 8, 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

O God, Thou Faithful God - Brahms

Aline Beck

Welcome & Announcements

***Morning Psalm** - Inspired by Psalm 95

One: O come, let us sing to the LORD;

All: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

One: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

All: let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

One: For the LORD is a great God and a great King above all gods.

All: In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

One: The sea is his, for he made it,

All: and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

One: O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD,
our Maker!

**All: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and
the sheep of his hand.**

***Opening Hymn**

Again We Keep This Solemn Fast

NCH #187

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Passing the Peace

***Devotional Hymn**

When Like the Woman at the Well

NCH #196

Reflecting...

Scripture Readings

John 4:5-42

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Sending...

***Closing Hymn**

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

NCH #286

***Benediction**

Postlude

Postlude in G – Moir

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.

NAME TAGS

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

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

Passing of Jan Costa's brother Bud Valcourt
Passing of Michael DeLuca's dad, Michael Dominic DeLuca
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 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

The Wisniewski Family donated today's altar flowers in memory of their father's and grandfather's birthdays, Bob Reimer and Fred Wisniewski, Sr.

Lent March 8, 2026

Worship and Love Offering

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Aline Beck
Lay Leader: Sally Willard
Head Usher: Chris Stahlinski
Usher: Deb Glancy
Greeter: Anna Karwan
Collector: Marcia Rich
Flowers: Wisniewski Family
Nursery: Kritika Agarwala
Sunday School: Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro
Coffee Host: Anna Karwan
Bakers: Deana Tredeau

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

EASTER FLOWERS

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



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!

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.

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 sign up 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 2nd 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.

A note from Lynn Tirrell,
Thank you for the many birthday greetings sent my way last week. My church family means so much. Thank you all for the love, support and kindness given to me especially this past year. The bouquet of flowers sent were beautiful and so appreciated. Blessings to you all!

Again We Keep This Solemn Fast

187

"Ex more docti mystico"

Attrib. to Gregory the Great (c. 540–604)

Transl. Peter J. Scagnelli (b. 1949); alt.

Matt. 6:1–6, 16–21

To be sung freely

1 A - gain we keep this sol - emn fast, a gift of faith from a - ges past, This
2 The law and proph - ets from of old in fig - ured ways this Lent fore - told, Which
3 More spar - ing, there - fore, let us make the words we speak, the food we take, Our
4 Let us a - void each harm - ful way that lures the care - less mind a - stray; By
5 We pray, O bless - ed Three - in - One, our God while end - less a - ges run, That

Lent which binds us lov - ing - ly to faith and hope and char - i - ty.
Christ, all a - ges' Sov - ereign Guide, in these last days has sanc - ti - fied.
sleep, our laugh - ter, ev - ery sense, learn peace through ho - ly pen - i - tence.
watch - ful prayer our spir - its free from schem - ing of the En - e - my.
this, our Lent of for - ty days, may bring us growth and give you praise.

Ascribed by some to Gregory the Great, this Latin hymn, "Ex more docti mystico," has been found in several manuscripts, the earliest dating from the tenth century.

Tune: ERHALT UNS, HERR L.M.
Adapt. from "Jesu, dulce cordium" in
Klug's Geistliche Lieder, 1543
Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1993

When, like the Woman at the Well

196

Edith Sinclair Downing, 1992

John 4:5-42

Unison D F#m FM7 A9

1 When, like the wom-an at the well, I lived with bro-ken dreams,
2 Christ knew my heart, my way-ward ways, yet gave me hope, not fear.
3 I learned I could for-ev-er live and wor-ship God a-right,
4 Each day I lift my cup a-bove, and I a-gain re-ceive
5 Since now I am in grace im-mersed, set free, for-giv-en, whole,

D F#m FM7 A9 D

Christ came to me, good news to tell, of ev-er-liv-ing streams.
The God I once thought far a-way, I could ap-proach, draw near.
Could trust the power the Spir-it gives to guide me in truth's light.
The liv-ing wa-ter of God's love, re-vealed for my be-lief.
I share with those who are a-thirst the well-springs of my soul!

Edith Sinclair Downing began writing hymn texts in 1989, when she and her husband were Associates in Ministry with a pilot project of The Presbyterian Church (USA). Composer Celene Welch named her tune in honor of professor Toni Craven of Texas Christian University.

Tune: CRAVEN C.M.
Celene Welch, 1992

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Unison, brightly
Refrain

James K. Manley, 1978; alt.

D G A Dsus4 D

Spir - it, spir - it of gen - tle-ness, blow through the

Bm E7 Asus7 A7

wil - der-ness, call - ing and free,

D G A Dsus4 D

Spir - it, spir - it of rest - less-ness, stir me from

Bm G A7 D G *Last time, end*

plac - id-ness, wind, wind on the sea.

D G A G

1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the
 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the
 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a
 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient

**Reduced-size notes may be played with organ pedals in lieu of or in combination with the other notes.*

HYMNS OF THE SPIRIT

D A7 D Bm

deep, then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the
 sand, and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a
 hill, then you whis - pered in si - lence when the
 schemes, from the bond - age of sor - row the

E7 Asus7 A7 D G A

val - leys of sleep; And o - ver the e - ons you
 law and a land; When they were con - found - ed by their
 whole world was still; And down in the cit - y you
 cap - tives dream dreams; Our wom - en see vi - sions, our

G D A7 D Bm

called to each thing, "A - wake from your slum -
 i - dols and lies, then you spoke through your proph -
 called once a - gain, when you blew through your peo -
 men clear their eyes. With bold new de - ci -

G A7 D G D A7 to Refrain

bers and rise on your wings."
 ets to o - pen their eyes.
 ple on the rush of the wind.
 sions your peo - ple a - rise.

This popular hymn by songwriter James K. Manley grew out of a sabbatical leave at the School of Theology at Claremont, California. It was first sung at Waikeola Congregational Church in Honolulu, after which Manley added the fourth stanza at the suggestion of a church member.

Tune: SPIRIT Irr.
 James K. Manley, 1978
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1993