

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

"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."

April 19, 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 - Based on Psalm 116

One: I love the LORD because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

All: I will call on him as long as I live.

One: What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?

All: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

One: O LORD, I am your servant;

All: You have loosed my bonds.

One: I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD.

All: I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

*Opening Hymn Just a Closer Walk with Thee

I am weak, but Thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

Refrain:

Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Through this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.

Refrain

When my feeble life is o'er,
Time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore.

Refrain

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Passing the Peace

*Devotional Hymn - Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

Reflecting...

Scripture Readings

Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one

of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread

Our Sermon

Eye Opening

Rev. Andrew Harris

Anthem

Open the Eyes of My Heart

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 Traveling Mercies (written by Bryan Sirchio)

Chorus:

Traveling mercies
Love the journey
God is with us on every road
Traveling mercies
Love the journey
God is with us all the way home

A simple blessing that's often spoken
When it is time to take to the road
A benediction to send us forward
Trusting the Spirit will lead us home

Chorus

Sometimes our feet take two good steps forward
Only to fall back ten steps behind
God's walking with us, we're being guided
Grace often writes straight with crooked lines

Chorus

***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

Passing of Ally Mazzarella's grandmother
Skip Glancy
Conrad Fong
Tom Killilea
Tonia Egan, her mom and dad
Joe Stoddard's relative Jada
Cindy Phillip's friend's husband
pancreatic cancer
Prayers Laura Nowell's friend Mary
Bev Maher's daughter Kim
Barbara Naddaff's grandson and friend Mary
Sally Willard's sister Vicky
Anna Karwan's sister-in-law for being a wonderful caregiver for mom
Rev. Cheryl Kerr's son Gabe
Joyce Carpenter, nieces Breanna, MaryJane and brother-in-law Ken
Auri Musselman's sister-in-law's family
Woody Knowles
Donna DeSiome's sister Brenda and brother-in-law Rick
Deana Tredeau's great niece Katie
Bill Livezey
Kay Shute
Roberta Low
Debbie Claar's dear friends Victor and Bob
Jan Blandino, her grandson Toby
David Knowles
Ted Brierley
Andrew's friend Lorenzo
Bill Hitchcock
Karen Butler's brother-in-law Lenny
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

Middle East
Our Country
The World
Mother Earth

DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE DURING WORSHIP ON MOTHER'S DAY?



For Mother's Day this year, we are recruiting members of our church to share a short story about moms and faith. Do you have a story about your mother to share? Do you have a story about being a mother? Do you have a story about being a mother figure? Or perhaps about someone who showed you a mother's love, whether they were your biological mother or not?

If you think you might have a brief story to share about the way God's love is revealed to us through motherhood, please let Andrew know! We'd love for you to share your story during worship. Call the church or email [**andrew@uccburlington.org**](mailto:andrew@uccburlington.org)

Worship Participation

April 19, 2026

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Aline Beck
Lay Leader: Sally Willard
Head Usher: Dave McNeil
Usher: Carol Downing
Greeter: Carol Downing
Collector: Marge Zamanian
Flowers:
Nursery: Kritika Agarwala
Sunday School: Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro
Coffee Host:
Bakers: Donna Flecchia
Deana Tredeau

Worship Participation

April 26, 2026 Red Wagon

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

**WISH PROJECT -
CHELMSFORD**

The Wish Project is looking ahead and wants only spring and summer clothing now. The bin will be back under the hall coat rack this week.

**GREEN TEAM
NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

For the past two years the Green Team has been trying to schedule a time to cut the invasive vines that are choking the trees between the church parking lot and parsonage. We have decided to "take action," and cut the vines after worship on April 19 and 26. If you can help us on any of the dates it would be greatly appreciated. Please dress appropriately and if you have clippers or a small power saw, please bring it. We do have extras.

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!