

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

FIFTH 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."

May 3, 2026

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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.**

Coming...

Musical Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Praising & Learning...

***Morning Psalm - Based on Psalm 31**

One: From Genesis One, we read, On day one.

All: God created the firmament.

One: On day four.

All: God created the Sun, the Moon and the stars.

One: On day five.

All: God created the animals and Humankind.

One: On day six.

All: God pronounced all that was created.... good.... very good!

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Passing the Peace

***Opening Hymn**

For the Beauty of the Earth

NCH #28

Reflecting & Praying...

Scripture - Jeremiah 31:35

This is what the Lord says,
God who appoints the sun to shine by day,
who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night,
who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar
— the Lord Almighty is God's name.

Sermon

Rev. Renee Maning

Anthem

For All the Children - David Lohman

Sung by the Choir

***We invite the congregation to sing with us on the final chorus:
O, may our hearts and minds be opened,
Fling the church door open wide.
May there be room enough for everyone inside.**

**For in God there is a welcome,
In God we all belong,
May that welcome be our song.**

Offering...

Invitation to 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.**

Blessing

Communion...

***Invitation to Communion**

One: Jesus said, "Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." So we invite the children to come forward to their place and Christ's table and to assist in the blessing of the elements.

Invite children to gather around the communion table and raise their hands to offer a blessing of the elements.

One: Children of God, we gather now at the table of Christ, seeking mercy, forgiveness, joy and peace. We remember that this is God's 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.

All: We come not because we must, but because we may. We come seeking mercy, forgiveness, healing, and peace.

One: Come one and all. The table of Christ is prepared for you.

Children are invited to return to their families.

***Communion Hymn Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face**

NCH #336 Verses 1-3

***Prayer of Confession**

One: On this Sabbath day of Holy Communion, we open our hearts to God, we lay bare our vulnerabilities, we lift up our penitent confessions, and we seek God's abundant mercy. Holy One, when we forget your presence in our lives,

All: God forgive us.

One: When we serve our own self-interest instead of serving you and your people,

All: God forgive us.

One: When we are overcome with fear, worry, anger, and resentment,

All: God forgive us.

One: When our disappointment clouds our wisdom and confuses our actions,

All: God forgive us.

One: When we are unfaithful to our covenant with you and one another,

All: God forgive us.

One: When we have not loved you with our whole heart,

All: God forgive us.

One: Let us pray...

***Words of Forgiveness**

All: Forgiving and gracious God, you know me. You know everything about me. You know me better than I know myself. You know all the good and bad that I have done. You see me in my brokenness and my weakness. You see me in my strength and beauty. You see me as I am: a beloved child of God.

One: Merciful God, Your grace is sufficient for all our needs, covering all our sins. May we accept in our hearts that there is more forgiveness in You than there is sin in us. In the light of Christ, and in communion with one another, we surrender to your mercy and give thanks for your word of forgiveness. Lord, hear our prayer.

***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

Loving God, having been nourished by the bread and the cup, having received the gift of your love and grace, having been filled with the Spirit and united with all faithful believers in time and beyond time, we offer you our thanks and praise. You have reached out to us in mercy, and offered us a meal. You have seen our need, and offered your salvation. In your all-encompassing love and mercy, O God, we lift to you the joys and concerns named by our congregation along with these silent meditations of our own hearts...

All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying...

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Going...

***Closing Hymn Stars and Planets Flung in Orbit NCH #567 verses 1,4,6**

**Stars and planets flung in orbit, galaxies that swirl through space,
Powers hid within the atom, cells that form an infant's face:
These, O God, in silence praise you; by your wisdom they are made.
Humankind, earth's deepest mystery, born of dust but touched by
grace,
Torn apart by tongue and color, yet a single, striving race:
We, in whom you trace your image, add our words to nature's song.
Christ, the Word before creation as creation's final goal,
Once you came for earth's redemption; by your Spirit make earth
whole.
Then, O God, the new creation will your praise forever sing.**

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

Congratulations to Ally and Andrew on their new baby Joseph Vincent!

Conrad Fong

Skip Glancy

Molly Kyokunda's sister

Tom Killilea

Passing of Karen Butler's sister-in-law

Tonia Egan, her mom and dad

Joe Stoddard's family member Jada

Cindy Phillip's friend's husband
pancreatic cancer

Prayers Laura Nowell's friend Mary

Barbara Naddaff's grandson, friend Mary

Sally Willard's sister Vicky

Anna Karwan's sister as caregiver
for mom

Rev. Cheryl Kerr's son Gabe

Joyce Carpenter, nieces Breanna,

MaryJane and brother-in-law Ken

Auri Musselman, sister-in-law's family

Woody Knowles

Donna DeSiome's sister Brenda and
brother-in-law Rick

Deana Tredeau's great niece Katie Wise

Bill Livezey

Kay Shute

Roberta Low

Debbie Claar's dear friends Victor, Bob

Jan Blandino, her grandson Toby

David Knowles

Ted Brierley

Andrew's friend Lorenzo

Bill Hitchcock

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

*Karen and Dick Butler donated today's
altar flowers in memory of Dick's
parents Roger and Ella Butler*

May 3 Communion Worship

Communion Prep: Marge Zamanian

Guest Preacher: Rev. Renee Manning

Organist: Aline Beck

Lay Leader: Sarah Clark

Head Usher: Deb Glancy

Usher:

Greeter:

Flowers: Karen & Dick Butler

Collector: Deb Raymond

Nursery: Kritika Agarwala

Sunday School: Deb Raymond

Donna Ferro

Coffee Host: Deb Raymond

Bake/Snack: Donna Flecchia

Deb Raymond

May 10 Worship-Love Offering Mother's Day

Guest Preacher:

Organist: Aline Beck

Lay Leader: Lucy Damiani

Head Usher: Dave McNeil

Usher:

Greeter:

Flowers: Nancy Davis

Collector: Marcia Rich

Nursery: Kritika Agarwala

Sunday School: Deb Raymond

Donna Ferro

Coffee Host:

Bake/Snack:

BLANKET AND TOOL SUNDAY

MAY 17

With the help of CWS agricultural programs over 100,000 people receive training, seeds, livestock and tools to help them grow more food. Once they are properly nourished and healthy people can provide for their families and build sustainable futures. CWS will also use our donations to distribute blankets to the homeless, to disaster sites, to refugee camps, and anywhere people need to know they are not alone. These numbers represent real people, real hope, and real transformation. Special envelopes for Blanket and Tool Sunday are in the pews. If you wish to donate by check please note "blanket/tools" on the memo line. You may also donate online. Details are on the church website.

YOUTH GROUP

**MAY 17 4 - 5:30 AT UCC
BURLINGTON**

Along with Hancock Church Youth Group, we will have Backyard Olympics! It will be a competition including Corn Hole, Ladder Golf and Croquet for the grand championship. We will have a cookout with hamburgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers.

This will be the last Youth Group gathering of the year, so come and compete and eat!

CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

Join us every Thursday afternoon from 1-3pm in the conference room as we make prayer squares, shawls, baptism blankets. If you don't knit or crochet, come for the conversation. All are welcome! If you can't join us in person, we try to make Zoom and option.

OUR ANNUAL PLANT/BAKE/CRAFT EVENT

MAY 9 FROM 10-2PM



Spread the word, just in time for Mother's Day!

See the signup sheet at coffee to donate or volunteer your time. We will also have vendors there to sell their items as well as our church table!

If you are donating plants, crafts, baked goods, please be sure to bring these by the hall on Friday May 8th noon-2pm or Saturday morning May 9th. Please have your items priced. Baked goods please label gluten free, etc.

Thanks everyone!

THE NEW ENGLAND TENORS

On May 24th the New England Tenors will be performing A Broadway Tribute in our sanctuary at 3pm. Doors open at 2:30pm Tickets can be purchased by contacting Mike Fay at coachmikefay@gmail.com

For the Beauty of the Earth

*St. 1-3, Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.
St. 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993*

1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,
2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,

For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,
For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

Refrain

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

Folliot S. Pierpoint, author of numerous hymns, penned these verses near his native city of Bath, England, on a late spring day when flowers were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice.

Tune: DIX 7.7.7. with refrain
Conrad Kocher, 1838
Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face

Horatius Bonar, 1855; alt.

1 Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;
 2 Here would I feed up - on the bread of God,
 3 This is the hour of ban - quet and of song;
 4 Too soon we rise; the sym - bols dis - ap - pear;
 5 We have no help but yours, nor do we need

here would I touch and han - dle things un - seen;
 here share the cup, the gra - cious gift of heaven;
 this is the heaven - ly ta - ble spread a - new;
 the meal, but not your love, is past and gone.
 an - oth - er strength than yours to lean up - on.

Here grasp with firm - er hand the e - ter - nal grace,
 Here would I lay a - side each earth - ly load,
 Here let me feast, and, feast - ing, still pro - long
 This joy - ful feast con - firms that you are here,
 It is e - nough, O Lord, e - nough in - deed;

And all my wea - ri - ness up - on you lean.
 here taste a - fresh the calm of sin for - given.
 the brief, bright hour to - geth - er here with you.
 now and for - ev - er, as our shield and sun.
 our faith is in your might, your might a - lone.

Horatius Bonar, a founder of the Free Church of Scotland and author of 600 hymns, wrote this hymn at his brother's request. It was first printed in a leaflet for the author's church, St. Andrew's Free Church in Greenock, Scotland.

Tune: MORECAMBE 10.10.10.10.
Frederick C. Atkinson, 1870
 Alternate tune: LANGRAN