

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

**SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*"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."*

**July 12, 2026**

**10:30am**

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**Summer Worship Series  
Drawn In: Living Out the Creative Life with God  
Week Two: HOVER**

Hovering is the creative posture of taking a moment to see the "big picture." In a world of quick fixes and instant gratification, we sometimes want to skip the step of paying quiet attention to this question: "what one thing do we need to focus on now?" Clearing the decks in order to give ourselves space and time to think, to ruminate, to consider what is necessary, feels like a luxury but in fact both creativity experts and Jesus point to the importance of taking reflective time. The "project" of our lives and work in the world as Christians depends upon this as well. If you didn't feel that you have to do or fix *EVERYTHING*, what *ONE* thing would you work on at this point in your life? What do you feel drawn to?

**Gathering....**

**Prelude**

**Words of Welcome**

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

## \*Opening Prayer

**Hovering God, you are as close as the air we walk through and breathe. Open us to stop and feel your presence this day so that we might learn what you would have us do in the midst of so much to do. Draw us into your quiet patience. Give us the courage to wait. Amen.**

## \*Opening Hymn

**I sing the Mighty Power of God**

**NCH #12**

## **ORDER FOR THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

**for**

**Corinna Bell Ciccone**

**Born April 28, 2025**

**Daughter of Jamie and Emily Ciccone**

**Sister of Ella Marie Ciccone**

**Goddaughter of Patrick Ciccone and Gillian Murray**

## **Presentation of the Water for Baptism**

One: Brothers, sisters, and siblings in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

**All: There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God, Creator of us all.**

One: Baptism is the sacrament through which we are united with Jesus Christ, and given part in Christ's ministry of reconciliation. In baptism God works in us the power of forgiveness and the renewal of the Spirit, and the knowledge of the call to be Christ's disciples always.

**All: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.**

## **Responsive Scripture Reading - Mark 10:13-16**

One: People were bringing children to Jesus so that he would bless them. But the disciples scolded them. When Jesus saw this, he grew angry and said to them:

**All: "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it."**

One: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

## **Invitation to the Family**

### **Questions and Affirmations**

Pastor: Jamie and Emily, do you desire to live and grow with Corinna in the covenant community of Jesus Christ?

**Parents: We do.**

Pastor: Will you strive to learn from the wisdom of the prophets; doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with your God, helping Corinna to do the same?

**Parents: We will, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Will you seek an appreciation for the life and teachings of Jesus, in concert with an appreciation for diverse religious traditions, helping Corinna to do the same?

**Parents: We will, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Will you honor the faith questions that arise throughout life, and will you help Corinna do the same?

**Parents: We will, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Will you remember and help Corinna to learn that faith is a journey and that God's love is available to you each day?

**Parents: We will, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Patrick and Gillian, will you guide and encourage Corinna, by counsel and example, in prayer and with love, to follow the way of Jesus Christ?

**Godparents: We will, with the help of God.**

### **Congregational Assent**

One: Jesus calls us to make disciples of others, and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. On behalf of the Christian church in every place, do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to Corinna as she lives and grows in Christ?

**People: We promise our love, support and care.**

## **Prayer of Baptism**

One: We give you thanks, O Holy One, mother and father of all the faithful for this your child and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit.

**All: Gracious and loving God, we pray that you bless Corinna with strength for life's journey, courage in the face of injustice, compassion at the sight of oppression, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.**

## **Baptism of Corinna Bell Ciccone**

### **Passing the Peace**

### **Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

**\*Devotional Hymn    I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry                    NCH #351**

## **An Imaginative Word**

"Bedspread Forts" by SARK, Inspiration Sandwich

"Remember the safety of a good fort? Bedspreads draped across chairs, weighted down by giant books, with a tunnel leading under the card table. Maybe there was a hole in one of the bedspreads, put there so you could peer out, unseen. You might pass a stack of comic books and a row of cookies into your fort, and stay there all day in the dull glow of bedspread light. The fort was your refuge, your secret spot. The interior untouched by adult hands or eyes. It was a world you built for yourself."

What if we could remember to build a world of forts made with blankets? Where we each had time to focus, to hover, in the quiet, dull glow of bedspread light?

## Reflecting...

### **Scripture Readings**

Luke 4:1-13

"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone.'" Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you," and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time."

**Our Sermon**

Soul Searching

Rev. Andrew Harris

**Anthem**

Sarah Del Dotto

## Praying...

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Lord's Prayer**

## Offering...

**Invitation of Offering and Love Offering (to help with the victims of Venezuela)**

**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**

**O Love, How Vast, How Flowing Free**

**NCH #209 Verses 1-3, 6**

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

**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.

*Chris Stahlinski donated today's altar flowers in memory of her father, Archie Lynch.*

Rev. Andrew Harris, Pastor  
Rev. Trina Portillo, Pastor, The Presbyterian Church  
Sarah Del Dotto, Organist  
Deb Raymond, Director of Christian Education  
Bobbie Killilea, Administrative Assistant  
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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!***

### **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

Joan Ross, passing of her son Brian  
Colleen Goodsell, brother's passing  
Pastor Trina's daughter traveling to Mexico, mother-in-law Myrna  
Marylou Lynn traveling/pneumonia  
Anna Karwan's brother Steve upcoming procedure  
Bobbie Killilea's godson Chris  
Dan Shea  
Shirley and Geoff Fong  
Nancy Davis  
Skip Glancy  
Nancy Davis's son Ross's wife Jackie  
Donna DeSiome's sister Brenda, brother-in-law Rick  
Bobbie and Tom Killilea  
Tonia Egan, her mom and dad  
Joe Stoddard's family member Jada  
Cindy Phillip's friend's husband pancreatic cancer  
Barbara Naddaff's grandson and friend Mary  
Sally Willard's sister Vicky

Anna Karwan's sister as caregiver for mom  
Rev. Cheryl Kerr's son Gabe  
Auri Musselman and her sister-in-law's family  
Woody Knowles  
Joyce Carpenter  
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

Our Country-The World-Mother Earth

## Worship Participation

### Love Offering

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris  
Rev. Trina Portillo  
Organist: Sarah Del Dotto  
Lay Leader: Marcia Rich  
Deacon: Donna Flecchia  
Head Usher: Chris Stahlinski  
Usher:  
Greeter:  
Collector: Deb Raymond  
Flowers: Chris Stahlinski  
Nursery: Volunteer  
Coffee Host: Deana Tredeau  
Bakers/Snacks: Deana Tredeau  
Donna Flecchia

### Worship-July 19

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris  
Rev. Trina Portillo  
Organist: Sarah Del Dotto  
Lay Leader: Chris Stahlinski  
Head Usher: Dave McNeil  
Usher: Carol Downing  
Greeter: Andie Joseph  
Flowers: Fong Family  
Collector: Lucy Damiani  
Nursery: Volunteer  
Coffee Host:  
Baker/Snacks: Deana Tredeau

This Ole Meeting House is 294 years old. It was raised on July 23, 1732. Yes, that is the same year George Washington was born; in case you ever wondered.

Our church, the UCC Congregational, Burlington, has gone through many changes in the last 294 years, beginning as The Meeting House of the Second Parish in Woburn. It has served the Burlington Community well and we want to celebrate it.

***On July 19<sup>th</sup>, we are having a "Potluck" Picnic*** on the front lawn, immediately following our 10:30 worship service and all are invited. Please bring a dish or other food to share. We will provide beverages and paper goods. You are welcome and encouraged to bring your own reusable plates from home. There is a signup sheet at Coffee Hour or in the church office. Any questions may be directed to a member of the Board of Deacons.

**Bring a Friend! - We hope to see you there!!**

## **A message from the Deacons - Support for Venezuela**

The Love Offering is a fund which helps those who may be struggling financially, both within our community and beyond. After two major earthquakes in June and continuing aftershocks, the people of Venezuela are certainly struggling.

The following special appeal is an excerpt from the UCC Director of Philanthropy:

*"In response, the United Church of Christ is launching an urgent appeal to support both immediate life-saving aid and long-term recovery. Working through our trusted partners on the ground like Global Ministries and ACT Alliance, we are delivering emergency relief to displaced families, distributing food and water, and offering pastoral care to those facing profound loss and trauma.*

*Please consider making a gift today. Be a source of hope in the midst of crisis and help rebuild communities for the long term. Your support is essential. Together, we can provide hope, healing and love to our neighbors in Venezuela.*

*We also ask you and your families to pray for everyone affected. Your generosity is a witness of compassion in action. We deeply appreciate your consideration."*

The **Deacons** have decided to donate the July Love Offering collection to this cause. And **Missions** has offered to add to the monies collected in today's Love Offering.

**There are "Love Offering" envelopes in the pews** for your use and on the table outside Bobbie's Office. Or you can give online or mail your check to the church (subject: Love Offering). Thank you.

# I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

John Ylvisaker, 1985; alt

*Unison*

D7 G D G D G D

1 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be  
 2 When you found the won - der of the Word, I was  
 3 In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too  
 4 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be

G D G D7 G D

there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you  
 there to cheer you on; You were raised to praise the  
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you  
 there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you

G D G C D7 G

were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.  
 liv - ing God, to whom you now be - long.  
 through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.  
 were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold. *St. 4, end*

G/B C G

I was there when you were but a child, with a  
 Should you find some-one to share your time and you  
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you

*John Ylvisaker is the composer of a number of collections of music in the "contemporary" or "folk" idiom, as well as soundtracks for various media productions. This is perhaps his best-known song.*

Tune: BORNING CRY 9.7.9.6.D.  
 John Ylvisaker, 1985

CONFIRMATION

Am D G G/B C

faith to suit you well; I'll be there in case you  
join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your  
shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have

G A7 D *to beginning*

wan - der off and find where de - mons dwell.  
vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.  
al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.

## I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Ps. 136:5-9; James 1:17

Isaac Watts, 1715; alt.

*Descant*

3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.

1 I sing the might - y power of God that made the moun - tains rise,  
 2 I sing the good - ness of our God that filled the earth with food;  
 3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.

The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.

That spread the flow - ing seas a - broad, and built the loft - y skies.  
 God formed the crea - tures with a word, and then pro - nounced them good.  
 The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.

All life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;

I sing the wis - dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;  
 Oh, how your won - ders are dis - played, wher - e'er I turn my eye;  
 All life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;

*The tune Ellacombe was named for a place in Devonshire, England. It was first published in a collection of tunes used in the private chapel of the Duke of Wirtemberg, and was possibly sung with the text "Ave Maria, klärer."*

Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D.  
 Gesangbuch der herzoglichen  
 Wirtembergischen katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784  
 Descant, The New Century Hymnal, 1993

GOD

Wher - ev - er peo - ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres - ent there.

The moon shines full at God's com - mand, and all the stars o - bey.  
If I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!  
Wher - ev - er peo - ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres - ent there.

The musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics. The middle staff is a piano accompaniment in treble clef. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The key signature is D major (two sharps) and the time signature is 4/4. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

## O Love, How Vast, How Flowing Free

209

*Latin, 15th century**Transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1994**Matt. 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13; Phil. 2:5-11;**John 17:1-26; 19:1-3, 16-18*

1 O Love, how vast, how flow - ing free, O Love how  
 2 Not as an an - gel vis - it - ing, nor form ce -  
 3 For us bap - tized, and fast - ing long, for us was  
 4 For us was beat - en, whipped, and tried, and tak - en

filled with ec - sta - sy, That God a hu - man  
 les - tial or - bit - ing, But born in flesh God  
 tempt - ed by the wrong, For us the pangs of  
 to be cru - ci - fied, So Love all this for

form should take, and mor - tal be for mor - tals' sake.  
 chose to be, robbed in our own hu - man - i - ty.  
 hun - ger knew; for us the Tempt - er o - ver - threw.  
 us en - dured, and dy - ing, life for us pro - cured.

5 A - ris - ing from the dead a - gain,  
 our Sov - ereign goes on high to reign;  
 And sends the Spir - it to a - bide  
 for strength and sol - ace at our side.

6 Then for God's bound - less love  
 sing praise  
 through end - less a - ges, count - less days;  
 By Love we have been rec - on - ciled:  
 sal - va - tion gained through  
 God's own Child.

*Recounting the life of Christ, this hymn comes from an anonymous fifteenth-century Latin hymn of twenty-three stanzas. It has been described as a precursor of Christmas and Epiphany carols.*

Tune: DEO GRACIAS L.M.  
 "The Agincourt Song," England, c. 1415  
 For another harmonization, see 184, 259