

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

SEVENTEENTH 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."

September 20, 2026

10:30am

* + * + * + * + * + *



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 - Adapted from Psalm 105**

One: O give thanks to the Lord; call on his name;

All: make known his deeds among the peoples.

One: Sing to him, sing praises to him;

All: tell of all his wonderful works.

One: Glory in his holy name;

All: let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

One: Seek the Lord and his strength;

All: seek his presence continually.

One: Remember the wonderful works he has done,

All: his miracles and the judgments he has uttered,

One: O offspring of his servant Abraham,

All: children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

***Opening Hymn In Christ There is No East or West NCH #395**

Gratitude and Celebration of the Music Search Committee

All: Good and gracious God, we thank you for guiding us through our search process and for calling us into harmonious ministry with our new Music Director, Sarah. We thank you for these members of our search committee; for their gifts, their time, their energy, and their faithfulness. We thank you for your spirit which moved in them, inspired them, and led us all to this joyful conclusion of our search. With gratitude, we release them from their service on the Music Search Committee. May you continue to bless them and this congregation as we lift our voices together in songs of grateful praise. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Passing the Peace

***Devotional Hymn Draw Us In The Spirit's Tether NCH #337**

Reflecting...

Scripture Readings

Jonah 3:10-4:11

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

Matthew 20:1-16

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around,

and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Our Sermon

Life Together: The Ideal and the Real

Rev. Andrew Harris

Anthem "We Are Singing, for the Lord is Our Light"

Traditional Zulu Song arr. Hal H. Hopson

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**

In the Midst of New Dimensions

NCH # 391

***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.

Marcia Rich donated today's altar flowers in celebration of all the people who worked to make Welcome Sunday so wonderful! These flowers will be donated to Keri Beyer.

Rev. Andrew Harris, Pastor
Sarah Del Dotto, Director of Music Ministries
Deb Raymond, Director of Christian Education
Bobbie Killilea, Administrative Assistant
Uccburlington.org / 781-272-4547

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Thomas Omobono
Keri Beyer
Kari Lynch's brother-in-law Tom
Anna Karwan's brother Steve
Shirley Garside and daughter Lynn
Bobbie Killilea's godson Chris
Dan Shea
Shirley and Geoff Fong, Uncle hospitalized
Nancy Davis
Skip Glancy
Donna DeSiome's sister Brenda, brother-in-law Rick
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's sister-in-law's family
Woody Knowles

Joyce Carpenter
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
Shirley Fong's Mom Mary
Julie Lewis' cousin Alicia
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

Worship Participation

September 20 10:30am

| | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Pastor: | Rev. Andrew Harris |
| Organist: | Sarah Del Dotto |
| Lay Leader: | Lucy Damiani |
| Head Usher: | Dave McNeil |
| Usher: | |
| Greeter: | |
| Flowers: | Marcia Rich |
| Collector | Deb Raymond |
| Nursery: | Kanika Agarwala
Jenn Irving |
| Sunday School: | Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro |
| Coffee Host: | Chris Stahlinski |
| Baker/Snack: | Chris Stahlinski
Marcia Rich |

September 27 10:30am

Red Wagon

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| Pastor: | Rev. Andrew Harris |
| Organist: | Sarah Del Dotto |
| Lay Leader: | Chris Stahlinski |
| Head Usher: | |
| Usher: | |
| Flowers: | Shirley Fong |
| Collector: | Lucy Damiani |
| Nursery: | Kanika Agarwala |
| Sunday School: | Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro |
| Coffee Host: | |
| Baker/Snack: | Marcia Rich |

Christmas Trees Sales & Mistletoe Market Planning Meeting
Join us in the conference room following worship today!

All those interested in helping us plan our Christmas Tree Sale this year;
we need you.

For the Mistletoe Market, **we need event planners to get Vendors and plan the day.**

Please join us and support this wonderful effort of fundraising and fellowship. If you can't make the meeting but want to help, please reach out to Pastor Andrew or Deana Tredeau.

BIBLE STUDY

Every Wednesday 2-3pm in the Conference Room and on Zoom

Women of the Bible

There are so many stories centered on women in the Bible and yet throughout church history they have often been overshadowed and sidelined. In this Bible study session, we will explore these stories and discuss the ways women have always played an essential role in God's creation, in the church, and in the story of our faith. Come join us and learn about Hannah, Tabitha, Rahab, Deborah and more amazing women in God's continuing story.

September 23 - Rahab (Joshua 2:1-21)

September 30 - The Wisdom Woman (Proverbs 8)

October 7 - Mary (Luke 1:26-55)

October 14 - The Hemorrhaging Woman (Mark 5:25-34)

October 21 - The Anointing (Mark 14:3-9)

October 28 - Tabitha (Acts 9:36-43)

SAVE THE DATE
OCTOBER 17 from 7-9:30pm
COFFEEHOUSE EVENT



Tickets will be on sale soon!
(If you would like to perform talk to Debbie Claar)

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Rehearsals will be on **Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m.** and again on **Sunday mornings at 9:30.** Everyone is welcome to join us! Whether you've been a singer in a choir for years, sang when you were younger, or have never sung in a choir before, I'd love to have you be a part of it. There are no auditions-just come as you are! If you're curious but not quite ready to commit, come try a rehearsal and see what you think.

If you have any questions about the choir or music at church, please feel free to contact me at my new email address: [**sdeldotto@uccburlington.org**](mailto:sdeldotto@uccburlington.org). And if you see me after worship, please come and say hello.

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN ED

Youth Group is for ages 6th grade - high school.

This will be held in conjunction with at least 5 other churches from the Northeast region of the UCC. Meeting other youth will be a new fun experience.

September 27. This is our 1st meeting so there will be ice breaker games to open the meeting. Our give back project is packing meal baskets for *My Brothers Table Soup Kitchen* in Lynn. **We will meet at 1 pm at First Congregational Church in Reading, 25 Woburn St. Reading MA.** Carpooling can be discussed.

Questions talk with Deb Raymond



OCTOBER 1, 2026, BURLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS:

Our Beginnings-The Struggle to Become an Independent Community and Meeting House of the Second Parish in Woburn.

Presentation by Mike Tredeau, Local and Church Historian of Burlington, will provide a detailed account of the history of the establishment of Burlington beginning with the first settlers. The struggle to gain approval from the Great and General Courts to obtain land to build a meeting house in the north westly corner of Woburn. As well as the evolution of the church from the raising on July 23, 1732, to current day, touching on its many uses and people.

The meeting will be October 1st in the original sanctuary at the Burlington United Church of Christ, 6 Lexington Street, Burlington at 7:00 pm (doors will be open at 6:30) Please bring your friends!

In Christ There Is No East or West

*1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 2:14-22**John Oxenham, 1908; alt.
St. 3, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1987*

1 In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery-where their high com - mu - nion find;
3 In Christ is nei - ther Jew nor Greek, and nei - ther slave nor free;
4 In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and North;



But one com-mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
God's ser-vice is the gold-en cord close - bind-ing hu - man - kind.
For men and wom-en live in God, and all are kin to me.
One joy-ous, true com - mu - ni - ty through-out the whole wide earth.



Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

337

Percy Dearmer, 1925; alt.

Matt. 18:20

Unison

1 Draw us in the Spir-it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
 2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
 3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -

in your name, two or three are met to - geth - er,
 Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the Giv - er,
 ments of you, that by car - ing, help-ing, giv - ing,

you are in the midst of them; Al-le - lu - ia!
 break the bread and bless the cup, Al-le - lu - ia!
 we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al-le - lu - ia!

Al-le - lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
 Al-le - lu - ia! So now bind our friend - ship up.
 Al-le - lu - ia! We may serve with faith a - new.

British hymnal editor Percy Dearmer originally wrote these stanzas under a pseudonym as part of a postcommunion hymn by George H. Bourne. The tune was adapted from an anthem by Harold Friedell and is named for Union Theological Seminary in New York.

Tune: UNION SEMINARY 8.7.8.7.4.4.7.
 Harold Friedell, 1957
 Adapt. Jet Turner, 1967

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,
 3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with - draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea - gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994