

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

EIGHTEENTH 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 27, 2026

10:30am

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Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water
EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

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

The Algonquin Water Song

-sung by Debbie Claar, Sarah Clark, Donna DeSimone and Deana Tredeau

Nibi-waabo
Endayan
Aki miskwi
Nibi-waabo
Hey ya hey ya hey ya hey
Hey ya hey ya hey ya ho

Translation:

"Water is the lifeblood of our Mother Earth. Water is the lifeblood of our own bodies."

It is sung 4 times to honor each cardinal direction and to ask the Great Spirit for help in nourishing and replenishing the earth.

*Morning Psalm - Adapted from Psalm 42

One: As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

All: My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

One: These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I went with the people and led them in procession to the house of God,

All: With glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,

One: Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?

All: Hope in God, for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

***Opening Hymn** To You, O God All Creatures Sing NCH #17 (verses 1-5)

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Passing the Peace and Red Wagon

***Devotional Hymn** Touch the Earth Lightly NCH #569

Reflecting...

Scripture Readings

Ezekiel 47:1-12

Then he brought me back to the entrance of the temple; there water was flowing from below the entryway of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east), and the water was flowing down from below the south side of the temple, south of the altar. Then he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces toward the east, and the water was trickling out on the south side.

Going on eastward with a cord in his hand, the man measured one thousand cubits and then led me through the water, and it was ankle-deep. Again he measured one thousand and led me through the water, and it was knee-deep. Again he measured one thousand and led me through the water, and it was up to the waist. Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross, for the water had risen; it was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be crossed. He said to me, "Mortal, have you seen this?"

Then he led me back along the bank of the river. As I came back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on the one side and on the other. He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh. Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish once these waters reach there. It will become fresh, and everything will live where the river goes. People will stand fishing beside the sea from En-gedi to En-eghlaim; it will be a place for the spreading of nets; its fish will be of a great many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt. On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing."

John 7:37-38

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."

Chris Stahlinski

Anthem I've Got Peace Like a River - Traditional, arr. by J. Coates Jr. Our Choir

Praying...

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Offering...

Invitation of Offering

Offertory "Rock Me on the Water" by Jackson Browne
- performed by members of the worship band

***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** Let Justice Flow Like Streams NCH #588

*Benediction

Postlude

* * * * *

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

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.

Shirley Fong and Family donated today's flowers in loving memory of husband, Conrad.

September 27 Red Wagon 10:30am

Pastor:	Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist:	Sarah Del Dotto
Lay Leader:	Chris Stahlinski
Head Usher:	Dick Butler
Usher:	Karen Butler
Greeter:	
Flowers:	Shirley Fong
Collector:	Lucy Damiani
Nursery:	Kanika Agarwala Jessy McNeil
Sunday School:	Deb Raymond Carol Downing
Coffee Host:	Marge Zamanian
Baker/Snack:	Marcia Rich

October 4 Communion 10:30am

Communion Prep:	
Pastor:	Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist:	Sarah Del Dotto
Lay Leader:	
Head Usher:	
Usher:	
Greeter:	
Flowers:	
Collector:	Marge Zamanian
Nursery:	Kanika Agarwala
Sunday School:	Deb Raymond Donna Ferro
Coffee Host:	
Baker/Snack:	

YOUTH GROUP

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.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Thomas Omobono
Keri Beyer
Passing of Kari Lynch's brother-in-law
Tom
Passing of Anna Karwan's Mother Irena
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
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

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 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)

**OCTOBER 17 from 7-9:30pm
COFFEEHOUSE EVENT**



**Tickets: \$20 in advance / \$30 at the door (\$20 Seniors)
See Deana at coffee hour or call the church office**



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!

**COMMUNITY DINNER AT THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
335 CAMBRIDGE STREET, BURLINGTON
SEPTEMBER 30 AT 5:30PM
FREE TO ALL!**

Touch the Earth Lightly

Shirley Erena Murray, 1992

Unison
Brightly

1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,
 * 2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,
 3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,
 4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,

*The second verse only may be sung in A minor, omitting the sharps except where indicated in parentheses.

nour-ish the life of the world in our care:
 a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,
 wa - ter that bless - es, and air that is sweet,
 God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,

Gift of great won - der, ours to sur - ren - der,
 We who would fos - ter clouds of dis - as - ter—
 Health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,
 Teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,

trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.
 God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!
 re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.
 us - ing us gent - ly, and mak - ing us one.

Shirley Erena Murray's notes on this hymn state that the title line is borrowed from an Australian Aboriginal saying. The "clouds of disaster" mentioned in stanza 2 refer to nuclear testing by France, which New Zealand has protested at the United Nations many times.

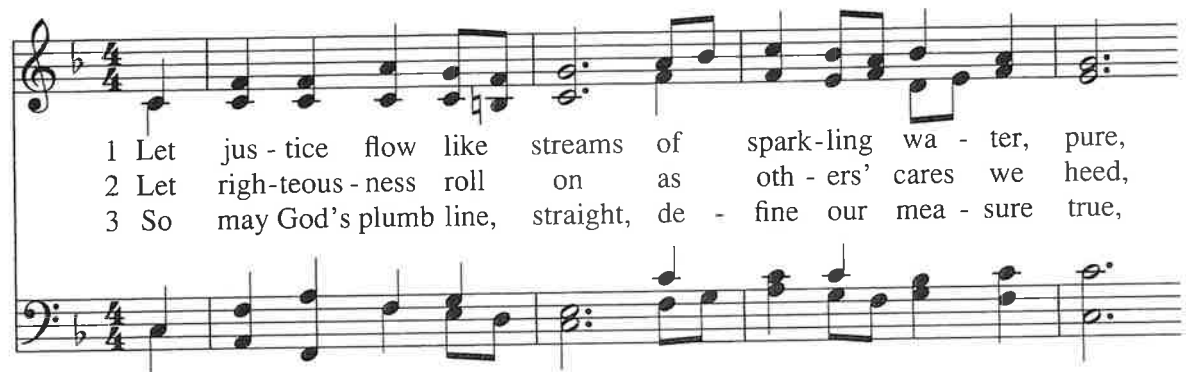
Tune: TENDERNESS 5.5.10.D.
 Colin Gibson, 1992

Let Justice Flow like Streams

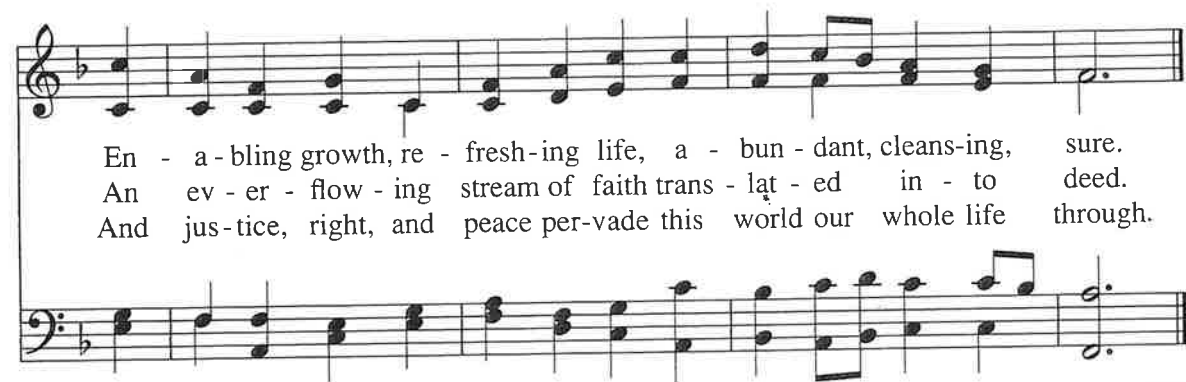
588

Jane Parker Huber, 1984

Amos 5:14-15, 24; 7:7-8



1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spark-ling wa - ter, pure,
 2 Let righ-teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
 3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,



En - a - bling growth, re - fresh-ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans-ing, sure.
 An ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.
 And jus-tice, right, and peace per-vade this world our whole life through.

This is one of two hymns Jane Parker Huber wrote for special events emphasizing economic justice for women at the time of the reunification of two Presbyterian denominations in 1983. The text's brevity underscores the urgency of Amos' pronouncements against injustice.

Tune: ST. THOMAS S.M.
 Aaron Williams' New Universal Psalmist, 1770

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing

Ps. 148

St. Francis of Assisi, 1225

Adapt. Miriam Therese Winter, 1993

Descant

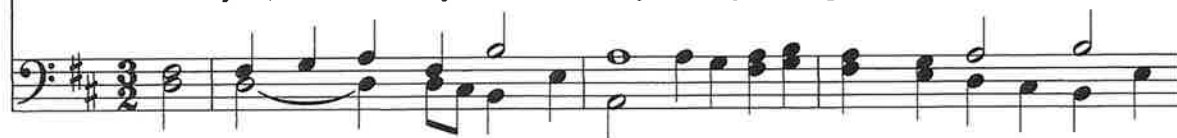


4 To you, God, day af-ter day, earth in

Unison



1 To you, O God, all crea-tures sing, and all cre - a - tion, ev - ery -
 2 Your wind that blows the tem-pest by, your clouds that sail a - cross the
 3 Your flow-ing wa - ters, crys - tal clear, make mel - o - dies for you to
 4 To you, O God, day af - ter day, your plan - et earth in ev - ery




ev-ery way sings your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! As fruit, fra - grant

(Harmony)



(Unison)

thing sings your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your burn-ing sun with gold-en
 sky sing your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your morn-ing ris - es with a
 hear, sing your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your fire, . . . boun-ti - ful and
 way, sings your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia, As sa - vory fruit and fra-grant



Miriam Therese Winter described her thoughts about adapting this text: "As I entered into communion with the word and spirit of the hymn, I felt called to enable that unknown-to-me poet's wisdom to live on into the future, a moving commission, and also felt a bond with the one who had gone before."

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN
 8.8.4.4.8.8. with alleluias
 Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Cologne, 1623
 Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
 Descant, The New Century Hymnal, 1993

flower show forth glo - ry and power, sing - ing prais - es, al - le -

(Harmony)

beam, your sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam sing your prais-es,
 song, and lights of eve - ning sing a - long, sing your prais-es, al - le -
 bright, re - mem - bering your warmth and light, sings your prais-es,
 flower show forth your glo - ry and your power, sing - ing prais-es,

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

(Unison)

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

5 Now we who are of ten - der heart,
 for - giv - ing oth - ers, take our part,
 sing your prais - es, al - le - lu - ia!
 To you we lift our pain and care,
 re - ceive the bur - dens that we bear,
 sing - ing prais - es, al - le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

6 In you, a kind and gen - tle death
 pre - pares to hush our fi - nal breath,
 sing - ing prais - es, al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ goes be - fore us to re - new
 the way that leads us home to you.
 Hear our prais - es, al - le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.