

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

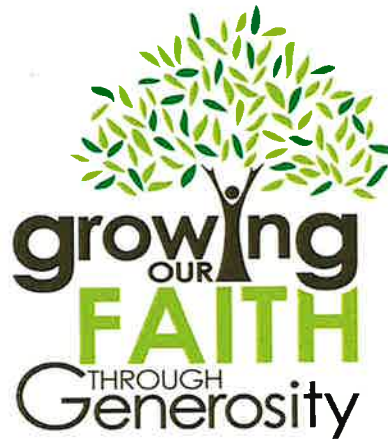
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

"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."

October 11, 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** Adapted from Nan C. Merrill's adaptation of Psalm 106

One: Giver of Life, we praise you!

All: Your steadfast love endures forever!

One: Who can speak of the great things the LORD has done?

All: Who can tell of your generosity in all generations?

One: Blessed are they who recognize the gift, and who follow the precepts of your life.

All: Blessed are they who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.

One: Remember us, O Beloved, as we journey through life.

All: Help us to live the mystery,

One: That we may fulfill our divine destiny.

All: That we may co-create with you

One: Giver of Life, we praise you!

All: Your steadfast love endures forever!

***Opening Hymn**

For the Healing of the Nations

NCH #576

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Passing the Peace

***Devotional Hymn**

We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

NCH #563

Reflecting...

Scripture Readings

Exodus 32:1-14

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters and bring them to me." So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron. He took these from them, formed them in a mold, and cast an

image of a calf, and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it, and Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD." They rose early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being, and the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to revel.

The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Matthew 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy.

Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Our Sermon

"Gold"

Rev. Andrew Harris

Anthem

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**

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

NCH #400

***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.

***The Fong Family donated today's altar flowers in honor of
Raymond & Mary Liu, Shirley's parents.***

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
Shirley Garside and daughter Lynn
Bobbie Killilea's godson Chris
Dan Shea
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

Worship Participation

October 11, 2026 Love Offering

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| Pastor: | Rev. Andrew Harris |
| Organist: | Sarah Del Dotto |
| Lay Leader: | Lucy Damiani |
| Head Usher: | Dave McNeil |
| Usher: | Carol Downing |
| Greeter: | Chris Stahlinski |
| Flowers: | Fong Family |
| Collector | Marge Zamanian |
| Nursery: | Kanika Agarwala |
| Sunday School: | Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro |
| Coffee Host: | |
| Bakers: | Jan McSheffrey |

Worship Participation

October 18, 2026 Baptism

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Pastor: | Rev. Andrew Harris |
| Organist: | Sarah Del Dotto |
| Lay Leader: | Chris Stahlinski |
| Head Usher: | |
| Usher: | Carol Downing |
| Greeter: | |
| Flowers: | Kari Lynch |
| Collector | Lucy Damiani |
| Nursery: | Kathy Hill
Brenda McCuskey |
| Sunday School: | Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro |
| Coffee Host: | |
| Bakers: | |

**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
You can also purchase tickets on our website: uccburlington.org**

BIBLE STUDY

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.

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

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

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

November 4 - Woman at the Well (John 4:1-42)

November 11 - Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42)

November 18 - Anna (Luke 2:25-40)

Zoom link: [**https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89076641525**](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89076641525)

SUNDAY OCTOBER 18, SUNDAY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE.

Come down to the Sunday School right after church to see what we have been up to!

JOIN THE CHOIR!

Choir season has officially started, and all are welcome to join! Whether you are a seasoned vocalist or have never sung in a choir before, we would love to have you.

Rehearsal Schedule:

- **Wednesdays:** 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM
- **Sundays:** 9:30 AM (on performance Sundays)

Special Music Opportunities We are also looking for singers and instrumentalists to share their talents during the Anthem and Offertory. If you'd like to participate, please reach out via email or stop by to chat after church.

If you have any questions about the choir or our church music program, feel free to contact me at my new email address: [**sdeldotto@uccburlington.org**](mailto:sdeldotto@uccburlington.org).

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

Sunday October 11th starts our Stewardship Campaign. It is at this time where we send out our annual pledge letter, form and Time & Talent sheet. Please return this information to the office or you can email your pledge information directly to [**financialsecretary@uccburlington.org**](mailto:financialsecretary@uccburlington.org). The sooner we get your pledge information the sooner we can start working on the budget for 2027. You may also return the Time & Talent form along with your pledge information at worship on November 15th. We appreciate all that everyone does for this church.

COAT BOSTON

In 2025 Coat Boston collected over 2,000 new winter coats which were distributed to Boston's children in need of coats. This year they are hoping to collect 3,000 new coats sized infants to adult 4XL. These will be distributed by 27 schools and organizations in Boston. ***UCC Burlington will be collecting coats through November 8.*** There will be a bin for coats outside the office.

WISH PROJECT CLOTHING NEEDS

As you start to take out your winter clothing, please remember Wish Project in Chelmsford is asking for ***fall and winter*** donations of clothing. All sizes of clothing are needed. All donations need to be free of stains, with no holes, missing buttons or tears. Your donations can be left in one of the bins underneath the hall coat rack.

PUMPKIN PATCH AT ST. MARK'S CHURCH, BURLINGTON

The lawn of Saint Marks Church is currently full of Pumpkins ready to be purchased. The Pumpkin Patch is open Monday through Friday noon until 6, and Saturdays and Sundays 11 to 6. We are covering the Patch on Thursday October 15. All the money from the sale of pumpkins goes to support the efforts of the Burlington People Helping People pantry to supply their clients with food for Thanksgiving dinner.

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE "WISH TREE"

The People Helping People Holiday Program was established to help Burlington families in need during the holiday season. One part of this project is the Wish Tree Program which provides clothing and gifts requested by a child of pantry clients. The Wish Tree has a table located on the second floor of the mall. People stop by, obtain a wish, buy the gift from wherever they want and bring the item back to the Wish Tree table. UCC will be at the Wish Tree table handing out the special wishes on December 1 and 7 from noon until 7PM. There is a sign-up sheet outside the church office.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN) - October 18th during worship!

Fall is the busiest time of the year for your Mission's committee. We pledge to support 5 special projects of the UCC. This lets us support the UCC missions of peace and justice on a larger scale. This year on October 18 there will be a special offering for Neighbors in Need.

"The Neighbors in Need" offering on October 18th supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries."

Special Neighbors in Need envelopes will be in the pews by October 3 and outside the Church office. You may also donate online.



Wednesday 10/28/26 UCC will host the October dinner at the Presbyterian Church.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

-Volunteers for the meal

Making Halloween themed Shepherd's Pie. Recipes will be available.

We will need a few volunteers to make Shepherd's pie and to make desserts.

-Volunteers to set up at 4:30pm

-Volunteers to clean up until 7:30pm

There will be signup sheets at coffee hour - Please text or call Deb Raymond 857-373-9156.

For the Healing of the Nations

Fred Kaan, 1965

1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, God, we pray with
 2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
 3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
 4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
 earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of
 all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
 dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
 bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.
 care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.
 quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.
 sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

Fred Kaan's most widely published text was first sung at Pilgrim Church in Plymouth, England, at a service of worship marking Human Rights Day in 1965. It has been used for many subsequent occasions, including the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY 8.7.8.7.8.7.

Henry Purcell, c. 1680

Arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1842

We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

*John 10:10**Ruth Duck, 1984; rev. 1989*

1 We can - not own the sun - lit sky, the moon, the wild - flowers
 2 When bod - ies shiv - er in the night and, wea - ry, wait for
 3 God calls hu - man - i - ty to join as part - ners in cre -

grow - ing, for we are part of all that is with -
 morn - ing, when chil - dren have no bread but tears, and
 a - ting a fu - ture free from want or fear, life's

in life's riv - er flow - ing. With o - pen hands re -
 war - horns sound their warn - ing, God calls hu - man - i -
 good - ness cel - e - brat - ing. That new world beck - ons

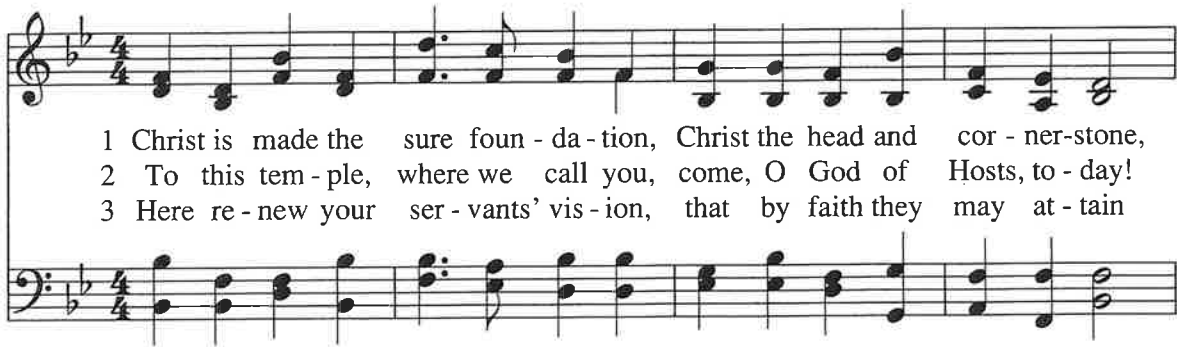
ceive and share the gifts of God's cre - a - tion, that
 ty to wake, to join in com - mon la - bor, that
 from a - far, in - vites our shared en - deav - or, that

all may have a - bun - dant life in ev - ery earth - ly na - tion.
 all may have a - bun - dant life in one - ness with their neigh - bor.
 all may have a - bun - dant life and peace en - dure for - ev - er.

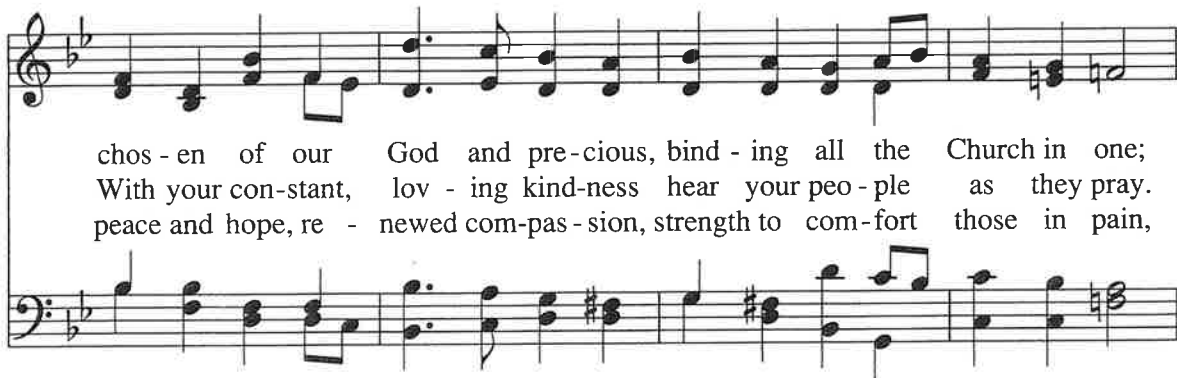
Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Eph. 2:20–22; 1 Pet. 2:4–7

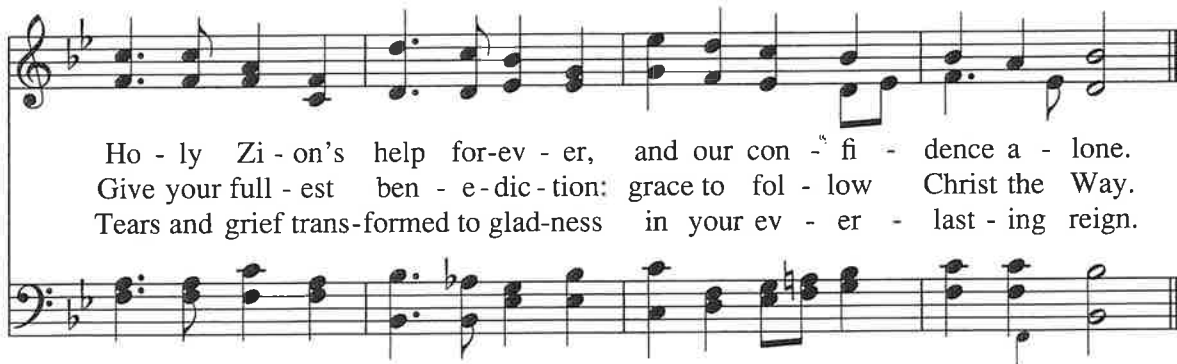
Latin, 6th–8th century
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.
St. 3 adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1992



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and cor - ner-stone,
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O God of Hosts, to - day!
 3 Here re - new your ser - vants' vis - ion, that by faith they may at - tain



chos - en of our God and pre - cious, bind - ing all the Church in one;
 With your con - stant, lov - ing kind - ness hear your peo - ple as they pray.
 peace and hope, re - newed com - pas - sion, strength to com - fort those in pain,



Ho - ly Zi - on's help for - ev - er, and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 Give your full - est ben - e - dic - tion: grace to fol - low Christ the Way.
 Tears and grief trans - formed to glad - ness in your ev - er - last - ing reign.

The hymn has its origins in an early Latin poem, Urbs beata Jerusalem, based on passages from Ephesians, 1 Peter, and Revelation. "Holy Zion" refers to the church transcendent, built of "living stones"—the saints of God.

Tune: REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.
 Henry T. Smart, 1867
 Alternate tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY