

First Congregational Church of Berlin
Berlin Corners, Vermont
An inclusive, open & affirming church
Jordan Philip Mensah, Guest Speaker
Christopher McWilliams, Music Director

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

March 30, 2025 Fourth Sunday in Lent



WE GATHER TOGETHER

***RINGING OF THE BELL**

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive) (from Psalm 32, 2 Corinthians 5, Luke 15)

L: Have you looked for flower shoots in the garden or buds on trees?

P: Look around and see the newness!

L: Did you hear this week about love in action?

P: Look around and see the newness!

L: Did someone who was lost find their way home?

P: Look around and see the newness!

L: In Jesus Christ, God is busy making all things new!

P: Be glad in God and rejoice!

***HYMN** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* NCH #1

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes.
Most blessed, most glorious, the
Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious,
your great name we praise.

2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as
light, not wanting, not wasting, but
ruling in might; Your justice like
mountains high soaring above, your
clouds which are fountains of goodness
and love.

3 Your life is life-giving - to both great
and small; in all life you're living, the
true life of all; We blossom and
flourish as leaves and as flowers,
then wither and perish - but naught
dims your powers.

4 So perfect your glory, so brilliant
your light, your angels adore you, all
veiling their sight; All praise we now
render as your angels do: in awe at the
splendor of light hiding you.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison) (from Luke 15)

Loving God, when we wander to distant places, you watch the road to greet us when we finally come home. Whenever we are far from you, remind us that we are your beloved children, the longing of your heart and give us the strength and courage to return to your open arms. When we have sinned against heaven and before you, forgive us, for we are coming home! Amen.

ANTHEM

WE LISTEN TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (Pew Bible p. 940)

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (Pew Bible p. 850)

***HYMN** *Take My Life, God, Let It Be* NCH #448

1 Take my life, God, let it be
consecrated faithfully. Take my
moments and my days, let them flow
in ceaseless praise.

2 Take my spirit, let it move at the
impulse of your love. Take my intellect
and use all its powers as you choose.

3 Take my will; your will be done!
Make your will and mine be one.
Take my heart, and by your grace
make of it your dwelling place.

4 Take my love and help it grow;
let my loving overflow. Take me now,
and help me be part of Christ's
community.

MESSAGE *"Reconciling to God"* Jordan Philip Mensah

WE RESPOND TOGETHER

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER in song

(TWC #632)

Our Father, which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison) (from Luke 15)

Bless these gifts, Generous God, that they may be used to find your children—children who wander in hunger, children who long to come home. Through our gifts, may all who wander set off for home, and may we celebrate and rejoice in their homecoming. Amen.

WE DEPART TO SERVE TOGETHER

***HYMN** *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* **NCH #224**

1 When I survey the wondrous cross,
on which the Christ of glory died, My
richest gain I count but loss, and pour
contempt on all my pride.

2 Forbid it, then, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most
I sacrifice them to Christ's blood.

3 From sacred head, from hands, and
feet, sorrow and love flow mingled
down! Did e'er such love and sorrow
meet, or thorns compose so rich a
crown?

4 Were the whole realm of nature
mine, that were a present far too
small; Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

BENEDICTION (unison) (from Psalm 32, Luke 15)

Go forth in renewed strength, knowing who you are: the sons and daughters of God—celebrated, rejoiced in, welcomed, dearly loved. Wear your robe and ring with joy! Be glad in God and rejoice, O you righteous!

POSTLUDE

The vision of First Congregational Church of Berlin is to be a friendly, inviting spiritual home that practices the deep caring of Jesus within the congregation and in the wider community.

Announcements

- Choir Rehearsal is Wednesdays 1-2 pm.
- Bible Study meets on Thursdays at 6:00 pm at Ellen's house or on Zoom.
- Next Sunday, April 6, Rev. Sami McRae will lead worship and offer communion.
- March 30 to April 13: One Great Hour of Sharing® is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Love of Neighbor.



The collection for **April** is **books**; all ages. Must be NEW, please!

Please leave donations in designated basket in the Narthex.

Thank you!

We love having all ages in worship! However, if any children get restless during the service, please feel free to visit our kids' corner in the church entry and enjoy some quiet activities.



FCCB Care Team

A member of First Congregational Church of Berlin's Pastoral Care Team will be happy to connect with you at any time. Call anyone on the list below and one of us will get to you as soon as possible.

Nancy Fowler- 802-4772715
Ellen Moody 802-522-7728
Rob Griffin. 802- 272-2376
Gary Isham- 802-917-8027
Thanna Adams 802-249-2626
Rick Theken 802-479-9002

"The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth." -Psalm 145:18

