

First Congregational Church of Berlin
Berlin Corners, Vermont
An inclusive, open & affirming church
Rev. Simon Ruth de Voil, Guest Leader
Christopher McWilliams, Music Director

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

March 9, 2025 First Sunday in Lent

O Lord, do you hear my prayer?

In our confusion, in our anguish, in our need, we cry out. But if our prayers really *are* heard, shouldn't we expect a little more in the way of response? Or could it be that — as it's said by theologian and former monastic James Finley — “God protects us from nothing — but inexplicably sustains us in all things.”

WE GATHER TOGETHER

*Indicates that you may stand

RINGING OF THE BELL
LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

PRELUDE *Song Without Words*, by Catherine Rollin

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT *Glorious God:Kyrie*, words by Amy Jo Schoonover, music by Alice Parker
FCCB Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive) by www.enfleshed.com

One: When the way is difficult and dangerous,

All: let us still choose what is good and just.

One: When evil comes to break us down and break us apart,

All: let us still choose to carry on with each other.

One: When power from on high strikes fear in our hearts,

All: let us still choose the courage to persist.

One: For we know that the love and power of God, which abides in us, will not be overcome.

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING CHANT *I Am Here*, by Deirdre Ni Chinneide

I am here waiting for you (4 times)

I am here listening for you (4 times)

I am here praying for you (4 times)

I am here hoping for you (4 times)

I am here singing for you (4 times)

ANTHEM

Comfort Ye, by Natalie Sleeth

FCCB Choir

***HYMN** *Skye Boat Song (altered)*

**Spirit of God, unseen as the wind, gentle as is the dove,
teach us the truth and help us believe, show us the way of love**

You spoke to us long, long ago
gave us the written word;
we read it still, needing its truth,
through it God's voice is heard.
Spirit of God, unseen ...

Without your help we lose the path,
we cannot find our way;
we need your power,
we need your strength
following love each day.
Spirit of God, unseen ...

WE LISTEN TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:1-13 (Pew Bible p. 835)

MESSAGE

"O Lord, Do You Hear My Prayer?"

Rev. Simon Ruth de Voil

***HYMN** *God Beyond All Names*, by Bernadette Farrell (led by Rev. Simon Ruth)

God beyond all dreams you have stirred in us a mem'ry
You have placed your powerful spirit in the hearts of human kind
**All around us we have known you, all creation lives to hold you.
In our living and our dying, we are bringing you to birth.**

God beyond all names, you have made us in your image
We are like you, we reflect you, we are woman we are man.
All around us ...

God beyond all words, all creation tells your story;
you have shaken with our laughter, you have trembled with our tears.
All around us ...

God beyond all time, you are laboring within us;
We are moving, we are changing in your spirit ever new.
All around us ...

God of tender care, you have cradled us in goodness,
you have mothered us in wholeness, you have loved us into birth.
All around us ...

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 *Sicilienne*, by Gabriel Fauré **Denise Ricker, flute**

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

WE DEPART TO SERVE TOGETHER

***HYMN** *Love Astounding* (from *Voices Found*)

Verse 1

Love astounding, love confounding
limits fearful minds impose.
Love renewing, love pursuing every
heart until it knows
love's transforming, healing goodness,
love's abiding, gentle grace,
love's endurance, love's assurance,
love's consoling, strong embrace.

Verse 2

Love receiving, love believing, we
rejoice with thanks and song,
faith regaining, hope proclaiming; love
has taught us, we belong
safe within love's tender keeping, safe
from fear's persistent call.
Love defending, love unending, love of
God enfolding all.

BENEDICTION sung by Rev. Simon Ruth

POSTLUDE *Prelude in E Major Opus 28 No. 9*, by Frédéric Chopin



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.

Join Us on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89101553827>
Meeting ID: 891 0155 3827 Passcode: 1808 1-646-558-8656

Please join us for coffee time following worship this morning, held in the Parish Hall Community Room.

Announcements

- Choir Rehearsal is Wednesdays 1-2 pm.
- Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm at Ellen's house or on Zoom.
- Next Sunday, March 16, Rev. Laura Cadmus will lead worship



The collection for **March** is socks; any gender and all sizes.

Please leave donations in designated basket in the Narthex.

Thank you!