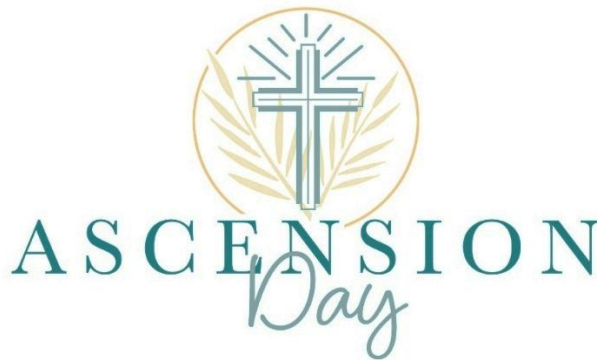


First Congregational Church of Berlin
Berlin Corners, Vermont
An inclusive, open & affirming church

Rev. Marjorie MacNeill, Guest Pastor
Christopher McWilliams, Music Director

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

June 1, 2025
Ascension Sunday / Communion Sunday



WE GATHER TOGETHER

*Indicates that you may stand

RINGING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

PRELUDE *Andante espressivo* from *Trio in G Major*, by Claude Debussy
Kailea Silvers, cello and Lotta Suter, violin

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT *O Lamb of God* **FCCB Choir**

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)
(Call to Worship for Ascension Sunday from the United Church of Canada)

L: We shout for joy, to God who rides upon the clouds!

P: We sing praises to our awe-inspiring God,

L: before whom the earth quakes,

P: and whose abundant blessings provide for all in need!

L: God is Sovereign over the earth,
Defender of the defenseless, and Parent to orphans;

P: God creates families for those who are alone,
Leads captives to freedom and breaks the yoke of oppression.

L: God goes forth before the people, bringing forth restoration and justice.

P: Sing praise to God, Rider of the ancient skies, who dwells in holiness.

L: Proclaim the power of God!

P: O God, how awesome you are in your sanctuary!

L: You give power and strength to your people.

P: Let us worship God! Amen

***HYMN** *Jesus Shall Reign* **TWC #745**

1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom spread from shore to
shore, till moons shall wax and wane
no more.

2 To him shall endless prayer be
made, and endless praises crown his
head; his name like sweet perfume
shall rise with every morning
sacrifice.

3 People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,

and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.

4 Blessings abound where'er he
reigns; the prisoners leap to lose their
chains, the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blessed.

5 Let all the people rise and bring
their special honors to our King;
angels descend with songs again
and earth repeat the loud Amen.

INVOCATION (unison)

(traditional prayer for Ascension Sunday from the Anglican Church of Canada)

**Almighty God, whose only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into
heaven: May our hearts and minds also there ascend, and with him continually
dwell; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and
ever. Amen.**

ANTHEM *Muusika*, by Pärt Uusberg **FCCB Choir**

Lyrics translation from Estonian:

Somewhere the original harmony must exist, hidden somewhere in the vast wilds.
In Earth's mighty firmament, in the far reaches of swirling galaxies,
in sunshine, in a little flower, in the song of a forest,
in the music of a mother's voice, or in teardrops—
somewhere, immortality endures, and the original harmony will be found.
How else could it have formed in human hearts—music?

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 1:1-11

Pew Bible p. 884

Luke 24: 44-53

Pew Bible p. 861

***HYMN** *Jesus, High-Ascended* TWC #734

**1 Christ high-ascended, now in glory
seated, throned and exalted, victory
completed, death's dread dominion
finally defeated, we are his witnesses.**

**2 Christ from the Father every power
possessing, who on his chosen lifted
hands in blessing, sends forth his
servants, still in faith confessing,
we are his witnesses.**

**3 Christ, who in dying won for us
salvation, lives now the firstborn of**

**the new creation; to win disciples out
of every nation, we are his witnesses.**

**4 Christ in his splendor, all dominion
gaining, Christ with his people
evermore remaining, Christ to all
ages gloriously reigning, we are his
witnesses.**

**5 As at his parting, joy shall banish
grieving, faith in his presence
strengthen our believing; filled with
his Spirit, love and power receiving,
we are his witnesses.**

MESSAGE *"You Will Be My Witnesses"* **Rev. Marjorie MacNeill**

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

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, Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *I Lift Mine Eyes*, from *Elijah*, by Felix Mendelssohn

Jeanine Kelley, soprano, Rosie Badeau, soprano, and Ellen Moody, alto

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

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS

PREPARING AND SHARING THE MEAL

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WE DEPART TO SERVE AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*HYMN *Lead On, O King Eternal* TWC #747

1 Lead on, O King eternal, the day of march has come; henceforth in fields of conquest your tents shall be our home. Through days of preparation your grace has made us strong, and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.

2 Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease, and holiness shall whisper the sweet Amen of peace; for not with swords loud

clashing, nor roll of stirring drums; with deeds of love and mercy the heavenly kingdom comes.

3 Lead on, O King eternal, we follow, not with fears; for gladness breaks like morning where'er your face appears; your cross is lifted o'er us; we journey in its light; the crown awaits the conquest: lead on, O God of might.

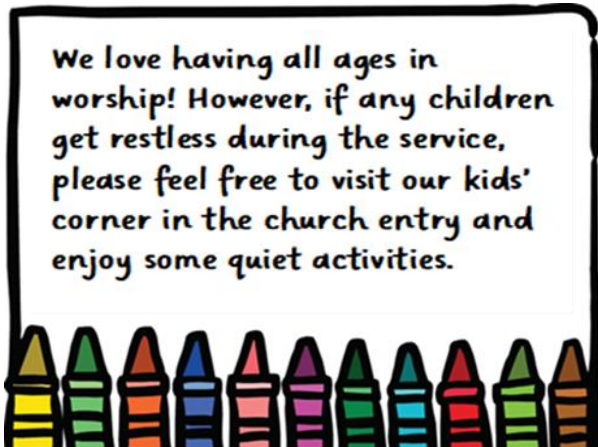
BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *At the Fountain*, traditional French, arr. Christopher McWilliams
FCCB chime ringers

*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 in person or on Zoom.
- The Bible Study Group will lead worship on June 8.



The collection for **June** is hygiene items: lotions, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, hair brush, combs, hair accessories, deodorant and loofahs. Needed for all ages any gender. No travel size or dental items please.

Please leave donations in designated basket in the Narthex.

Thank you!

Sunday, June 22 at 4 pm

Christopher McWilliams, the FCCB choir and friends present
"A Summer Solstice"

Join us for a concert that includes both secular works and music presented by the FCCB choir in past Sunday services.



Blanket Sunday & Tools of Hope



Mother's Day (May 11) to
Father's Day (June 15)

See details on table in entry.

