

# The Congregational Church of Rupert 1786 Meeting House



*Everyone is Welcome Here*

## Mission of the Congregational Church of Rupert

The mission of CCR is to seek to follow Jesus' teachings in his Sermon on the Mount, and to practice the words of Micah by living justly, by being kind and compassionate while walking with God in all humility.

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Organist

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*\*signifies you should stand if you are able, **bold** signifies congregation speaks in unison.*

Prelude

Jeff Linebeck

*Welcome to the Historic 1786 Rupert Meeting House*

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

**Praise the Lord**

The Lords name be praised!

**\*Hymn #35 (Pilgrim Hymnal)** When Morning Gilds the Skies

**Responsive Reading: Psalm 29** New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

*The Voice of God in a Great Storm*

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.<sup>2</sup>Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.

**<sup>3</sup>The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters. <sup>4</sup>The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.<sup>6</sup>He makes Lebanon skip like a calf and Sirion like a young wild ox.

**<sup>7</sup>The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire. <sup>8</sup>The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup>The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl and strips the forest bare, and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

**<sup>10</sup>The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.**

<sup>11</sup>May the Lord give strength to his people!  
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

## **Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

*Pastoral Prayer (In your mercy. **Lord, hear our prayer**)*

*Please keep the following in Prayer: Wanda, Elizabeth, John, Carolyn B., Loretta R., Diane L., Tracy and family, Don L., Chris Steel, Jack Westrate, Jessica, Jamie, Oliver, John Jahanian, Ed B., Alex and Setsu Carter, Andy and Ginny, Yacov Afiley, Jeanne DeYcaza. Those suffering with cancer and other diseases. Those who have lost loved ones in 2025. Those who are traveling. We thank God for hearing our prayers and for granting us and those for whom we pray peace. Amen*

**Lord's Prayer: Our Father, who 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen.**

## *Offertory*

**Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below, Praise God above, Ye Heavenly Host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen**

*(Tune: Old Hundredth from "Genevan Psalter", 1551)*

## *Dedication*

## *Scripture*

**Isaiah 42:1-9 (NRSVUE) The Servant, a Light to the Nations**

**4**Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

**2**He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street;

**3**a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. **4**He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching. **5**Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it,

who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:

<sup>6</sup>I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people,<sup>[a]</sup>

a light to the nations,<sup>7</sup>to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

<sup>8</sup>I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other,

nor my praise to idols. <sup>9</sup>See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them

### **Acts 10:34-43 (NRSVUE) Gentiles Hear the Good News**

<sup>34</sup>Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality,<sup>35</sup>but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him,<sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree,<sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,<sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

### **Matthew 3:13-17 (NRSVUE) The Baptism of Jesus**

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

### **Hymn #104 (New Century Hymnal – Black) We Hail You God’s Anointed**

Homily

Story to Tell

Rev. Rev. Dr. Steven Berry

### **Hymn We’ve a Story to Tell**

1 We've a story to tell to the nations  
that shall turn their hearts to the right,  
a story of truth and mercy,  
a story of peace and light,  
a story of peace and light.

Refrain:  
For the darkness shall turn to dawning,  
and the dawning to noonday bright,  
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on  
earth—the kingdom of love and light.

2 We've a song to be sung to the nations,  
that shall lift their hearts to the Lord,  
a song that shall conquer evil  
and shatter the spear and sword,  
and shatter the spear and sword.  
[Refrain]

3 We've a message to give to the  
nations—  
that the Lord who reigneth above

*Benediction*

*Postlude: (It is our custom to remain seated during the Postlude)*

*Jeff Linebeck*

hath sent us His Son to save us  
and show us that God is love,  
and show us that God is love. [Refrain]

4 We've a Savior to show to the nations  
who the path of sorrow hath trod,  
that all of the world's great peoples  
might come to the truth of God,  
might come to the truth of God. [Refrain]



## News/Calendar

◀ Please bring nonperishable food to church to be donated to the CCR Sharing Shelf ▶

### Upcoming Meetinghouse Events 2025

*All are Welcome*

- ◆ Check [rupertchurch.org](http://rupertchurch.org) for dates/times of upcoming events ◆
- ◆ including farm events, educational and music programs ◆

Alcoholics Anonymous Every Thursday 7pm  
(On hiatus until April)

## News

In 2026 the Congregational Church of Rupert will be celebrating its 240<sup>th</sup> year of existence. For some years we have been working to revitalize this historic 1786 Rupert Meetinghouse – which is the oldest meetinghouse in Vermont in continuous operation. We are raising funds to redo our kitchen and to make our restrooms ADA compliant. Our mission is to be a healthy place for all people in our community and surrounding area. We are deeply grateful to all of you who have contributed to help us keep our doors open. We gladly accept donations for our Abundant Harvest Sharing Shelf Program of healthy food distribution, our Warming Fund to keep people warm for the winter and our CSA that supports our community with healthy produce from the Yoder Family Farm, Shed Light Farm, The Larson Family Farm, Someday Farm, Earth-Sky-Time Farm, and other local farms.

## Calendar

### January

13 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Lunch & Abundant Harvest Sharing Shelf 11:00 am -1:00 pm  
19 Martin Luther King, Jr Day

### February

2 Groundhog Day

Tu B'shvat

10 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Lunch & Abundant Harvest Sharing Shelf 11:00 am -1:00 pm

14 Valentines' Day

16 Presidents' Day

21 Southwest Association Meeting – see info below



# SAVE THE DATE!

## SOUTHWEST ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

# A WINTER GATHERING OF OUR CHURCHES

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026

9:00 AM—2:00 PM

AT THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MANCHESTER

THEME:

“The Being and Doing of Church for Troubled Times”

The newly formed Church subcommittee of SWACOM is sponsoring this year's winter meeting with a focus on ways the churches of the association can better serve and resource each other.

Lunch will be provided

Would you like to make a gift to the 1786 Meeting House?

Scan the QR Code or enter the website address below to be taken to a website where you can make a donation to help keep Vermont's oldest continuously operating Congregational Church in going into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and/or help us meet our renovation goals. Thank you!



[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=YLMN3FCHGXP2Y&source=qr](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=YLMN3FCHGXP2Y&source=qr)