

**The Congregational Church of Rupert**  
**1786 Meeting House**  
**April 5, 2026**  
**RESURRECTION DAY CELEBRATION**



*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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Pastor and Teacher  
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Jeff Linebeck

Organist

Polly Lathrop, R.N. BSN

Parish Nurse

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

Prelude

Jeff Linebeck

**Introit**

"Alleluia!"

Easter Choir

**Call to Worship**

Lord Jesus, we lift our voices in praise for Your victory over death. Your resurrection brings hope where there was despair and life where there was darkness. May our hearts overflow with worship, acknowledging Your majesty and power. Let every word we speak honor Your name and glorify Your presence among us. Help us to rejoice today with genuine awe for the miracle of the empty tomb. Amen.

**\*Hymn # 182 ( Pilgrim Hymnal/ Blue/Red) Christ the Lord is Risen**

**Today**

(Pastor) Together with the whole church across time and place, we confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

**(Pastor & Congregation) We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the + resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Easter Choir Anthem      Low in the Grave He Lay (He Arose!)**

Welcome and Announcements

*Welcome to the Historic 1786 Rupert Meeting House*

**Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.                    **C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give our thanks and praise**

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

*Please keep the following in Prayer: Prayer: Val, Elizabeth, John, Carolyn B., Diane L., Ed B., Tracy & family, Don L., Chris Steel and the Steel family, Jack Westrate, Jessica, Jamie, Oliver, John Jahanian, Alex & Setsu Carter, Andy and Ginny, Yacov Afiley, Sam and Changwa Koo, Jeanne DeYcaza, Kim Lockwood Schaniel, Meghan Bailey, Hayden, Polly, Paul, Araya, Dan Harvey, Bob Cowles, Gail Ebling, and those others suffering loss and hardship that we know personally. We thank God for hearing our prayers and for granting us and those for whom we pray peace. Amen*

*Resurrecting God, shower us and those for whom we pray with the power of the Holy Spirit. Raise us with Christ to new life. Transform us so that we may be instruments of your peace in the name of the Prince of Peace who taught us to pray.*

**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)

**Responsive Dedication**

*(Pastor) We lift our voices, we lift our hands, We lift our lives up to you, Lord: we are an offering.*

**(Congregation) Lord, use our voices, Lord use our hands, Lord use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering.**

(Pastor) All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.

**(ALL) We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: We are an offering, we are an offering.**

### **Scripture**

*Psalm 118:1-2, 22-24*

*Give thanks to the Lord because God is good, because God's faithful love lasts forever. The stone rejected by the builders is now the main foundation stone! This has happened because of the Lord; it is astounding in our sight! This is the day the Lord acted; we will rejoice and celebrate in it!*

### **Acts 10:34-43** Common English Bible

<sup>34</sup> Peter said, "I really am learning that God doesn't show partiality to one group of people over another. <sup>35</sup> Rather, in every nation, whoever worships him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> This is the message of peace he sent to the Israelites by proclaiming the good news through Jesus Christ: He is Lord of all!<sup>37</sup> You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism John preached. <sup>38</sup> You know about Jesus of Nazareth, whom God anointed with the Holy Spirit and endowed with power. Jesus traveled around doing good and healing everyone oppressed by the devil because God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses of everything he did, both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him up on the third day and allowed him to be seen, <sup>41</sup> not by everyone but by us. We are witnesses whom God chose beforehand, who ate and drank with him after God raised him from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed 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."

### **John 20:1-18** Empty tomb

20 Early in the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> She ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they've put him." <sup>3</sup> Peter and the other disciple left to go to the tomb. <sup>4</sup> They were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and was the first to arrive at the tomb. <sup>5</sup> Bending down to take a look, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he didn't go in. <sup>6</sup> Following him, Simon Peter entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. <sup>7</sup> He also saw the face cloth that had been on Jesus' head. It wasn't with the other clothes but was folded up in its own place. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, the one who arrived at the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. <sup>9</sup> They didn't yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying.

### **Jesus appears to Mary**

<sup>11</sup> Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying. As she cried, she bent down to look into the tomb. <sup>12</sup> She saw two angels dressed in white, seated where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the foot. <sup>13</sup> The angels asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" She replied, "They have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they've put him." <sup>14</sup> As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabbouni" (which means *Teacher*). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, "Don't hold on to me, for I haven't yet gone up to my Father. Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them, 'I'm going up to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

<sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene left and announced to the disciples, “I’ve seen the Lord.” Then she told them what he said to her.

### **Matthew 28:1-10    Resurrection**

**28** After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the tomb. <sup>2</sup> Look, there was a great earthquake, for an angel from the Lord came down from heaven. Coming to the stone, he rolled it away and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> Now his face was like lightning and his clothes as white as snow. <sup>4</sup> The guards were so terrified of him that they shook with fear and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, “Don’t be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He isn’t here, because he’s been raised from the dead, just as he said. Come, see the place where they laid him. <sup>7</sup> Now hurry, go and tell his disciples, ‘He’s been raised from the dead. He’s going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.’ I’ve given the message to you.”

<sup>8</sup> With great fear and excitement, they hurried away from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> But Jesus met them and greeted them. They came and grabbed his feet and worshipped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Go and tell my brothers that I am going into Galilee. They will see me there.” Amen

Resurrecting God, you conquered death and opened the gates of life everlasting. In the power of the Holy Spirit, raise us with Christ that we, too, may proclaim healing and peace. Amen

**Hymn # 185 Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain (PH/ Blue/Red)**

**Homily    The Necessity of the Resurrection    Rev. Dr. Steve Berry**

**\*Hymn # 192 (PH/Blue/Red) The Day of Resurrection**

*Benediction*

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Resurrection hope, bless you now and always. Go in peace. Serve the Risen One. And share Christ with the community.

*Postlude:*

*Jeff Linebeck*

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



**News/Calendar**

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

**News**

The Lilies and flowers today are given in loving memory:

Sandy Carey by her grandson Michael Finnegan,

Wanda Lourie Putnam Almosnino, Ellen and Bill Lourie, Willard and Mary Lourie, Harold and Vera Gould by Val Almosnino.

Edward and Muriel Berry, Charles and Eva Marchand, Bill and Carol Kester, Marietta Gianella Berry, Franz Tartarotti, Fr. Bill Corr, Catherine Marchand, the Marian and Bill Sparks & Family by Carol and Steve Berry

**Upcoming Meetinghouse Events 2026**

**All are Welcome**

◆ ◆ Check [rupertchurch.org](http://rupertchurch.org) for dates/times ◆ ◆

**Alcoholics Anonymous Every Thursday 7pm**

(On hiatus until May 2026)

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 Meeting-house – 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.

*Check out - Things Hidden: The Life and Legacy of Rene Girard*  
[www.youtube.com@thingshiddenmovie](http://www.youtube.com@thingshiddenmovie). *thingshidden.movie* Rev. Dr. Steve Berry is the Associate Producer. There is also a conversation with director Sam Sorich, Steve Berry and host Jamie Gage produced at GNAT early last year that is also on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

## **April**

**7** Tuesday 11-1pm Abundant Harvest Free Lunch and Sharing Shelf with Polly, Pete and Steve at the Meetinghouse ( Every Second Tuesday)

**9** Thursday 10-2pm SWA Clergy Group

**10** Rev. Donna Jackson meeting on Film and EdensBay/Global Meetinghouse

**12** Rev Berry Preaching

**19** Jeff Linebeck leading worship ( Rev. Berry away)

**25** Saturday, 9-12 The Invisible Powers that Determine Human Existence

This program is a follow up on the program offered on Healing Ancestral Curses with Louise Schneider. The interest in “The Powers and Principalities” will be explored as a preliminary discussion to get into the topic of spiritual influences as understood in Biblical Times and ours.

**26** Rev. Berry Preaching on the Invisible Powers/Cultural Facilities Grant due

**May** On Saturday, May 9 we are beginning a new Abundant Harvest Program. The CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF RUPERT, VT in partnership with Vermont Natural Ag Products, (Global Meetinghouse and EdensBay) Presents the **GROW YOUR OWN Buy One, Get One- Plant Two, Give One Program.** **If you donate ten dollars for one bag of Moo Doo Composted Cow Manure** CCR will provide an additional bag of Moo Doo free of charge plus two veggie plants. The idea is to get everyone gardening this year. You tend your own plants. When the plants mature we invite you to give away a portion of your harvest to our Abundant Harvest Sharing Shelf at CCR. We will then supplement our CSA purchases (that we offer the community free of charge until the produce runs out) and will disperse, free of charge, to whoever needs some healthy, homegrown produce. Everyone wins through sharing, caring and cooperating.