

**The Congregational Church of Rupert  
1786 Meeting House  
March 8, 2026**



***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

*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 Lord's name be praised

**\*Hymn #12 (New Century Hymnal – Black) I Sing the Mighty Power of God**

**Responsive Psalm 95 (New King James Version) A Call to Worship and Obedience**  
95 Oh come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.

**Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.**

For the Lord *is* the great God, And the great King above all gods.

**In His hand *are* the deep places of the earth; The heights of the hills *are* His also.**

The sea *is* His, for He made it; And His hands formed the dry *land*.

**Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

For He *is* our God, And we *are* the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will hear His voice:

**“Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, As *in* the day of trial in the wilderness, When your fathers tested Me; They tried Me, though they saw My work. For forty years I was grieved with *that* generation, And said, ‘It is a people who go astray in their hearts, And they do not know My ways.’ So I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest.’ ”**

**Amen**

### **Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

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

*Please keep the following in Prayer: Please keep the following in Prayer: Prayer: Val, Elizabeth, John, Carolyn B., Diane L., Ed B., Tracy & family, Don L., Chris Steel, Jack Westrate, Jessica, Oliver, John Jahanian, Alex & Setsu Carter, Andy and Ginny, Yacov Afiley, Sam and Changwa Koo, Jeanne DeYcaza, Kim Lockwood Schaniel, Meghan Bailey. Those suffering with cancer and other diseases. Those who have lost loved ones in 2025 and 2026. 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*

**Exodus 17:1-7 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)**

**Water from the Rock**

**17** From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup> The people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” <sup>3</sup> But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” <sup>4</sup> So

Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup> The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. <sup>6</sup> I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup> He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

## **Romans 5:1-11 (NRSVUE)**

### **Results of Justification**

**5** Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

### **Hymn # 63 (NCH Black) Holy Spirit, Truth Divine**

## **John 4:5-42 (NRSVUE)**

So Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

**Homily**      Spiritual Awakening

Rev. Dr. Steve Berry

**Hymn # 489 (NCH Black) I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say**      (Tune Kingsfold)

*Benediction*

*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

### Upcoming Meetinghouse Events 2026

All are Welcome

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

#### Alcoholics Anonymous Every Thursday 7pm

(On hiatus until April 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 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: Yoder Family Farm, Shed Light Farm, Larson Family Farm, Someday Farm, Earth-Sky-Time Farm, and other local farms.

*Check out - Things Hidden: The Life and Legacy of René Girard*

*[www.youtube.com@thingshiddenmovie](http://www.youtube.com@thingshiddenmovie). Steve Berry, Associate Producer. There is also a conversation with director Sam Sorich, Steve Berry and host Jamie Gage produced at GNAT Early last year.*

## Calendar

### March

10 Second Tuesday Lunch and Food Pantry 11:00 – 1:00

14 π Pi Day – Eat some pie!

15 Beware!

17 St. Patrick's Day "Faith an' Begorra!" ❁

20 SPRING ARRIVES!! 🌸

29 Palm Sunday Hosannah!

### April

..2 Maundy Thursday

3 Good Friday

5 EASTER

## **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 21st 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)**