

# The Congregational Church of Rupert 1786

March 20, 2022



*An Open and Affirming Church*

## 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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<https://rupertchurch.org>

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

*Prelude*

*Kevin Bishop, Organist*

*Welcome and Announcements: Ecclesiastical Council for the Rev. James Mills See NEWS*

*Call to Worship*

God of the covenant,  
in the glory of the cross  
your Son embraced the power of death  
and broke its hold over your people.  
In this time of repentance,  
draw all people to yourself,  
that we who confess Jesus as Lord  
may put aside the deeds of death  
and accept the life of your kingdom. Amen.

**\*Hymn # 66 (NCH/Black) O God of Radiant Gladness**

**Psalm 63:1-8 (Responsively)**

63:1 O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

**63:2 So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.**

63:4 So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

**63:5 My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips, when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.**

63:8 My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

Silence

Time with Children

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

To God who welcomes all in love, let us pray for the good of the church and the concerns of the world and those in need.

The Lord Be with you,

**And also with you.**

Let us Pray

**Please keep the following in prayer (In your mercy. Lord, hear our prayer):**

Ellen, Dodi, Elizabeth, Jack, Kinsley, John, Clary, Dan H., Loretta R., Nicole & Ethan Croff, Axel & Donna, Marietta, Jeff & Jennie Gould, Chuck Gaiotti, Harry Tveter, Eva Marchand, Joe & Norma Will, Lu F., Clark, Gwen, Rod & Sue, Evan L., Diane L., Cheri, Don Lewis, Rhonda, Jessi Webb & Glenn LaPlante, Jack Westrate, the Family of Barbara Trafford, the Family of Bob Burgess, Willie Steel, John & Jane LoBrutto, Dave Andersen, Brian, Elizabeth L., Sam & Changwa Koo, Bob Ebling, those traveling. The people of Ukraine. We pray for the end of the war.

**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

### Hebrew Scripture

#### Isaiah 55:1-9

**55:1** Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

**55:2** Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

**55:3** Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David

**55:4** See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples

**55:5** See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you

**55:6** Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;

**55:7** let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

**55:8** For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

**55:9** For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**\*Hymn #586 (NCH/Black) Come to Tend God's Garden**

### Gospel

#### Luke 13:1-9

13:1 At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

13:2 He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?"

13:3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.

13:4 Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?"

13:5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

13:6 Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none.

13:7 So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?'

13:8 He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it

13:9 If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

**Message God's Thoughts and Time/ Our Thoughts and Time** Rev. Dr. Steve Berry

**\*Hymn: # 23 (NCH) There's a Wideness in God's Mercy**

*Benediction*

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

*Kevin Bishop*



The Congregational Church of Rupert's faith and covenant is expressed as follows:  
"Surrounded as we are by field and forest, our faith and covenantal mission is a call to care for our earthly home, to honor our habitat and all our relations. We remain open to the ways God imparts insight through the Bible; God's blessed Word of Truth, through ancient wisdom, scientific insight, the natural world and religious experience. This we do *pro gloria Deo* (for the glory of God), for our spiritual and personal growth; and increase in all graces. We seek to live a nonviolent life and work toward justice in the spirit of Jesus within the context of community. We believe that each member shall have the undisturbed right to follow the Word of God according to the dictates of his or her own conscience under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit. We accept our personal responsibility to nurture our individual faith as well as the call to share such faith insights humbly and lovingly with others in community. We are prompted to move forward into a time of greater inclusivity and love as we seek to welcome people of other traditions and faith experiences. So, that in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, we may "raise up the foundations of many generations" (Isaiah 58:12) and that we may, as a people, grasp Jesus' words "that we may all be one." (John 17:21)

## News

◀ *Please bring nonperishable food to church to be donated to the Rupert Food Pantry* ▶

Didn't hear the sermon? **What?** Did you hear the sermon? **No!** Well, thanks to modern technology and the talents of Craig Rose, you CAN now hear the sermon on our webpage! They can be found at <https://www.rupertchurch.org/sermons/>

## **For a safer and healthier New Year you might consider the protocols below.**

As COVID-19 remains an ongoing health concern there are steps that can be taken to help us fortify our immune system. For example by taking supplements of certain vitamins and minerals. Talk to your doctors. They can determine whether you are deficient in any vital nutrients. Deficiencies can make us more vulnerable to infection.

### Our Congressional Delegates:

### Vermont State Delegates:

Sen. Patrick Leahy	202-224-4242		Sen. Brian Campion	802 828-2228
Sen. Bernie Sanders	202-224-5141		Sen. Richard Sears	802 828-2228
Rep. Peter Welch	202-225-4115			

\*\*\*\* Like Something? **Let them know!** Don't like something? **Let them know!** \*\*\*\*



## Southwest Association within the Vermont Conference



### ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL FOR REV. JAMES MILLS, PASTOR FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF FAIR HAVEN

"The Southwest Association Church and Ministry Committee of the Vermont Conference invites pastors and delegates from all of the churches of the Association to come to an Ecclesiastical Council for Rev. James Mills, pastor of our Fair Haven church on **Sunday, Mar. 20th at 2PM on Zoom.**

The purpose of the Council will be to determine whether James should receive standing in the United Church of Christ, as he currently holds standing in The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries. James will be sending out a paper to all of us spelling out his reasons for wanting to have standing in the UCC, and his passion for ministry.

We will all have the opportunity to ask him questions about his paper and his ministry at the Council, and then all delegates will vote on whether to grant James standing in the United Church of Christ. We will need at least 10 churches to send a pastor and delegates, which represents a quorum in the Southwest Association."

**Topic: SWA ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL FOR REV. JAMES MILLS**

**Time: Mar 20, 2022 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3076312024?pwd=YVBhRnNVQzdBY1pVbUN6bHVlcFZYdz09>**

**Meeting ID: 307 631 2024**

**Passcode: dorset**

## Calendar

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Every Thursday at 7pm

## March

20 **Third Sunday of Lent**

Spring arrives 11:33 AM

27 **Fourth Sunday of Lent**



## April

03 **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

10 **Palm/Passion of Jesus Sunday**

14 **Maundy Thursday**

15 **Good Friday**

17 **Easter**