

# The Congregational Church of Rupert 1786

March 27, 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*

### Call to Worship

"The earth is leaning sideways  
And a song is emerging from the floods  
And fires. Urgent tendrils lift toward the sun.  
You must be friends with silence to hear.  
The songs of the guardians of silence are the most powerful-  
They are the most rare. " (Joy Harjo)  
We open now to listen and welcome.  
Come we say, Come.

**\*Hymn # 459 (NCH/Black) Come, O Fount of Every Blessing**

## Contemporary Epistle

If the world is a temple, then our enemies are sacred, too. The ability to respect the outsider is probably the litmus test of true seeing. It doesn't even stop with human beings and enemies of the least of the brothers and sisters. It moves to frogs and pansies and weeds. EVERYTHING becomes enchanting with true sight...All we can do is to participate.  
(Richard Rohr from EVERYTHING BELONGS)

## 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, John, Jack, Kinsley, Clary, Loretta R., Nicole & Ethan Croff, Dan H., Axel & Donna, Marietta, Jeff & Jennie Gould, Chuck Gaiotti, Harry Tveter, Eva Marchand., Norma & Joe Will, Clark, Gwen, Sue and Rod, Evan L., Diane L., Cheri, Don Lewis, Lu F 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., Changwa and Sam 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

Scripture

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

**5:16** From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way.

**5:17** So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!  
**5:18** All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;  
**5:19** that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.  
**5:20** So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.  
**5:21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## **HYMN # 476 (NCH/Black) My Life Flows On in Endless Song**

### **Gospel**

#### **Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

**15:1** Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him.  
**15:2** And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."  
**15:3** So he told them this parable:  
**15:11b** "There was a man who had two sons.  
**15:12** The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them.  
**15:13** A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living.  
**15:14** When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need.  
**15:15** So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs.  
**15:16** He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.  
**15:17** But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger!  
**15:18** I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you;  
**15:19** I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."  
**15:20** So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.  
**15:21** Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'  
**15:22** But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.  
**15:23** And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate;

- 15:24** for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.
- 15:25** "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.
- 15:26** He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on.
- 15:27** He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.'
- 15:28** Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.
- 15:29** But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.
- 15:30** But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!'
- 15:31** Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.
- 15:32** But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

**Message** O God, How We Have Wandered Rev. Dr. Steve Berry  
(See Hymn # 202, O God How We Have Wandered)

**\*Hymn: # 423 (NCH) Great Is Your Faithfulness**

*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!** \*\*\*\*

## Calendar

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Every Thursday at 7pm

### March

27 Fourth Sunday of Lent

### April

03 Fifth Sunday of Lent

10 Palm/Passion of Jesus Sunday

14 Maundy Thursday

15 Good Friday

Passover begins at sundown\*

17 Easter

23 Passover ends at sundown\*

\* Why do Jewish holidays start at **sundown the day before the Holiday**? The answer is in Genesis 1:2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, ... and Genesis 1: 5 God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night."

**And there was evening, and there was morning--the first day.**