

The Congregational Church of Rupert 1786

May 08, 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.*

Thoughts for Meditation

The universe makes a sound — is a sound. In the core of this sound there's a silence, a silence that creates that sound, which is not its opposite, but its inseparable soul... Silence is a flower, it opens up, dilates, extends its texture, can grow, mutate... It can watch other flowers grow and become what they are. ~ *Etel Adnan in SHIFTING THE SILENCE*

Prelude

Kevin Bishop, Organist

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship:

Let us sing to the Creator of the cosmos, to the divine power of love! When we look at the wondrous display of the heavens, at the Earth with its infinite variety of life, Who are we that You love us, that You rejoice in our being; that You trust us to care for creation in all its splendor, inviting us to become co-creators with You?

Let us celebrate the mystery of life! Let us commit our lives to the Divine Plan!

~ *Nan C. Merrill in MEDITATIONS AND MANDALAS*

***Hymn # 6 (NCH/Black) Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good**

Psalm 23 (Unison Reading)

The Lord *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.
² He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.
³ He restores my soul; ¶ He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.
⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; For You *are* with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.
⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

Silence

Time with Children

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

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, Dan H., Loretta R., Nicole & Ethan Croff, Donna & Axel, Marietta, Jennie & Jeff Gould, Chuck Gaiotti, Harry Tveter, Eva Marchand, Lu F., Norma & Joe Will, Gwen, Sue & Rod, Evan L., Diane L., Don Lewis, Rhonda, Jessi Webb & Glenn LaPlante, Willie Steel, Jane & John LoBrutto, Brian, Elizabeth L., Changwa & Sam Koo, Bob Ebling, Karen & Jim E., Kelly and Family, the people of Ukraine. The people of Yemen. We pray for the end of wars.

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

Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Gospel

John 10:22-30

10:22 At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter,

10:23 and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon.

10:24 So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

10:25 Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me;

10:26 but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep.

10:27 My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.

10:28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand.

10:29 What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand.

10:30 The Father and I are one."

***HYMN #80 (Pilgrim Hymnal) The King of Love My Shepherd Is**

Message The "Wow" of the Scripture Rev. Dr. Steve Berry

***Hymn: #12 (NCH/Black) I Sing the Mighty Power of God**

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 21st 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

May

- 08 Third Sunday after Easter
Mothers' Day
- 15 Fourth Sunday after Easter
- 19 Lag b'Omer
- 22 Fifth Sunday after Easter
Southwest Association Annual Meeting & Installation of Rev. Dr. James Mills
- 26 Ascension Day
- 29 Sixth Sunday after Easter

June

- 04 Shavout – Receiving of the Torah
- 05 **Pentecost**
- 12 Trinity Sunday
- 19 Juneteenth