

The Congregational Church of Rupert 1786

May 15, 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.

Rev. Dr. Steven Berry
drsteveberry@icloud.com

802-733-6522 Mobile/Cell

<https://rupertchurch.org>

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

Thoughts for Meditation

More and more I have come to admire resilience. Not the simple resistance of a pillow, whose foam returns over and over to the same shape, but the sinuous tenacity of a tree: finding the light newly blocked on one side, it turns in another. A blind intelligence, true. But out of such persistence arose turtles, rivers, mitochondria, figs — all this resinous, unretractable earth.

~ Jane Hirshfield from "Optimism" in GIVEN SUGAR, GIVEN SALT: POEMS

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! Let us Praise God's Holy Name.

***Hymn (Pilgrim Hymnal Blue/Red) All Creatures of Our God and King**

Psalm 148 (In Unison)

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host! Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created. He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed. Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command! Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together! Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

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, Ed B., Jessi Webb & Glenn LaPlante, Willie Steel, Jane & John LoBrutto, Brian, Elizabeth L., Changwa & Sam Koo, Bob Ebling, Karen & Jim E., Kelly & 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 11: 1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.

At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.'

And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Gospel

John 13:31-35

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him.

If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Revelation 21:1-6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

***HYMN #267 (Pilgrim Hymnal) Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken**

Message The Good News for All People 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* ▶

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.

Please keep in prayer those on the above prayer list.

You can now hear the sermon on our webpage!

They can be found at: <https://www.rupertchurch.org/sermons/>

Send website update info to Val: vajewa@myfairpoint.net or (802) 394-7719

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

15 Fourth Sunday after Easter

19 Lag b'Omer (minor holiday commemorating the end of a plague. A day of joy in a period of semi-mourning)

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 Shavuot – Receiving of the Torah at Mount Sinai

05 **Pentecost**

12 Trinity Sunday

19 Juneteenth