

**Welcome to the United Church of Craftsbury.**

If you're visiting or new to our congregation, please sign our guest book. The greeters can supply a hearing device or magnifier to assist you during our service. *We would love to keep in touch; please leave us your contact on a form in the pew rack.*

**Participants today:**

Rev. Alan Parker, Pastor; Sandalyn Chadwick, Accompanist Paula Massé, liturgist.

**For Next Sunday:**

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17; Psalm 127; 1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44.

**If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary**

in memory of a family member or loved one, contact Roberta Alexander (586-7730).

**Bulletin news due at church** via e-mail, phone message, or note by Friday morning. You may also contact Michelle Warren at 586-9632 or email [unitedchurchcraftsbury@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchcraftsbury@gmail.com).

Mon. 11/2	Tues. 11/3	Wed. 11/4	Thurs. 11/5	Fri. 11/6	Sat. 11/7	Sunday 11/8
Zumba: 6 PM	AA: 6 PM		Capoeira: 4:30-5:30 PM Al-Anon: 6 PM	Rachel's Aerobics: 6:30 PM	Pack Basket Making: 1:45 PM	Sunday Service: 10 AM Rachel's Aerobics: 6:30 PM

**Committee Contacts:**

- **Church Clerk:** Anne Wilson (586-2825)
- **Church Council:** Andy Moffatt (586-2248)
- **Community Supper:** Barb Strong (586-2516)
- **Deacons:** Jen LaPoint (586-2883)
- **Horse & Buggy Club:** Paula Massé (586-2857)
- **Ladies Union:** Lois Charron (586-9674)
- **Memorial Committee:** Diane Sanville (586-9642)
- **Prayer Circle:** Norma Waterhouse (586-2285)
- **Religious Education:** Barb Strong (586-2516)
- **Trustees:** Bruce Sweeny (802) 525-4245

**United Church of Craftsbury**

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Website & Online Calendar: [www.unitedchurchofcraftsbury.com](http://www.unitedchurchofcraftsbury.com)

Pastor Rev. Alan Parker · Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Arnold Brown · Ministers: The Entire Congregation



**United Church of Craftsbury**

**November 1, 2015**

**Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B**

WE GATHER TO BE PRESENT WITH GOD

**PRELUDE**

**GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*(The first spoken words of our worship time are*

*“The peace of Christ be with you.”*

*The congregation is invited to respond, saying, “And also with you.”)*

**INTROIT**

**GATHERING MUSIC, PRAYER, INVOCATION & MEDITATION**

**HYMN # 84**

This Is the Day

*(Alternating with reading from Psalm 146)*

**CALL TO PRAYER OF CONFESSION, HEALING AND FORGIVENESS**

**UNISON PRAYER FOR HEALING OF BROKENNESS**

Holy and healing God, we cry the tears of others. We know that we build ourselves up at the expense of your Kin-dom. Smugly satisfied with our own virtue, we dismiss the holiness of the other, the foreigner, the poor, the

different, and the broken. It is our brokenness that fixates on the brokenness of the other. We want this to be different; so we pray for a new way of being. The old, self-focused way doesn't work; the new way heals and unites your Creation...

### **SILENT PRAYER**

### **RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: It is in forgiving that we are forgiven. It is in welcoming that we are welcomed.

**All: In forgiveness and welcoming of self and the other, we are refreshed and renewed by the grace of God. We accept anew, and with joy, God's call to be instruments of God's ever-open embrace. Thanks be to God. AMEN**

### **CHORUS OF ASSURANCE**

(SING) It is well with my soul. It is well with my soul.

It is well; it is well with my soul.

WE LISTEN TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

### **TIME FOR THE YOUNG & YOUNG AT HEART**

### **A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)**

O God, may our reading, hearing, and understanding of your Word, and our own words spoken, sung, and prayed, be acceptable in your sight. For you are our rock and our redeemer. AMEN

### **THE WORD OF GOD IN SCRIPTURE**

- Ruth 1:1-18
- Mark 12:28-34

*(At the conclusion of Gospel reading, the congregation responds, saying,  
"Thanks be to God, who brings light and truth.")*

### **REFLECTION**

"Not Far From the Kingdom"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S HOLY INVITATION

### **\*HYMN # 456**

More Love to You, O Christ

### **JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER, PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION, & 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

### **CHORAL RESPONSE TO PRAYER**

(SING) *Hear our prayer, O God; hear our prayer, O God.  
Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.*

WE OFFER GIFTS OF OURSELVES AND DEPART IN PEACE

### **CALL TO GIVING AND RECEIPT OF OFFERING**

#### **\*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.*

#### **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

### **\*CLOSING HYMN # 237**

In the Garden

*(By special request of A. Robert Twiss)*

### **\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE # 590 Threefold Amen**

### **POSTLUDE**

**\* We rise, either in body or in spirit**

## **CALL TO PRAYER OF CONFESSION, HEALING, AND FORGIVENESS**

Slowly, ever so slowly, we learn that confession is not punishment. It is not an act of self-hatred; it is an act of hope. It is a sacred ceremony of turning back toward God, who always welcomes us with joy and delight.

## Scripture for November 1, 2015

### Ruth 1:1-18

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die — there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!"

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

### Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,' — this is much

**more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.**

**End of reading: *"This is the Word of God, the story of Jesus Christ, who brings light and truth to the world."***

**Opening Reading, November 1, 2015**

**Psalm 146**

**SING**

**Praise be to God!**

**Praise God, O my soul!**

**I will praise God**

**as long as I live;**

**I will sing praises to my God**

**all my life long.**

**Do not put your trust in nobles, in mortals,**

**in whom there is no help.**

**When their breath departs,**

**they return to the earth;**

**on that very day their plans shall perish.**

**SING**

**Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,**

**whose hope is in the Sovereign their God,**

**who made heaven and earth, the sea,**

**and all that is in them;**

**who keeps faith forever;**

**who executes justice for the oppressed;**

**who gives food to the hungry.**

**God sets the prisoners free;**

**God opens the eyes of those**

**who cannot see.**

**God lifts up those who are bowed down;**

**God loves those who are righteous.**

**The Sovereign will reign forever,**

**your God, O Zion, for all generations.**

**Praise be to God!**

**SING**