

**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; Maggie Worboys, liturgist.

**For Next Sunday:**

Proverbs 1:20-33, Psalm 19, Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 116:1-9 or Wisdom of Solomon 7:26 - 8:1, James 3:1-12 & Mark 8:27-38

**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).

Sun. 09/06	Mon. 09/07	Tues. 09/8	Wed. 09/09	Thurs. 09/10	Fri. 09/11	Sat. 09/12
<p>Service: 10 AM</p> <p>Addison Merrick Service: 2 PM</p> <p>Rachel's Aerobics: 6:30 PM</p>	<p>Zumba: 6 PM</p>	<p>AA: 6 PM</p> <p>Deacons' Meeting: 7 PM</p>		<p>Ladies' Union: Noon</p> <p>Zumba: 4:30 PM</p> <p>Al-Anon: 6 PM</p>	<p>Rachel's Aerobics: 6:30 PM</p>	<p>Horse &amp; Buggy: Noon</p>

**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**



*September 6, 2015*

**Twenty-third 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 # 397 (PH)**

Lord, Speak to Me

*(Alternating with reading from Psalm 125)*

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

## UNISON PRAYER FOR HEALING OF BROKENNESS

God of wisdom and return, we confess our wanderings from your path. We turn our backs on your outstretched and graceful hands, and we stumble and lose our way. We speak poisonous things of, and even to, others, rather than tell of their glory as your children. We say and do things that pierce the hearts of others, even those we don't know. Forgive us. Give us words and actions that flow like cool water through the world's thirsty spirit; give us silence with which to witness your wonders; give us words to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, who leads us back to life.

## SILENT PRAYER

### RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God knows our darkest corners better than we do, but still God showers love, blessing, and forgiveness on us.

**All: This is a wondrous, miraculous gift; it lives in the heart of faith that survives our doubts and failures. Thanks be to the God of all hopefulness.**

**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

### 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

- Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
- James 2: 14-17
- Mark 7: 24-37

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

## REFLECTION

"He Spoke Plainly"

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S HOLY INVITATION

### \*HYMN # 418 (NCH)

My Faith, It Is an Oaken Staff

### 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 # 410 (NCH)

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

### \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE # 590

*Threefold Amen*

### POSTLUDE

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

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

God knows; we all stumble, willfully or unawares. We stumble and stray on God's path. We hurt others and ourselves, and we hurt God with our words, actions, silence, and inaction. We confess this broken stumbling to God, trusting in God's compassion and patience.

## Scripture for September 6, 2015

### Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,  
and favor is better than silver or gold.

The rich and the poor have this in common:  
the Lord is the maker of them all.

Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,  
and the rod of anger will fail.

Those who are generous are blessed,  
for they share their bread with the poor.

Do not rob the poor because they are poor,  
or crush the afflicted at the gate;  
for the Lord pleads their cause  
and despoils of life those who despoil them.

### James 2: 14-17

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

### Mark 7:24-37

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go - the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

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

**Opening Reading, September 6, 2015**

**Psalm 125**

**SING**

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,  
which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

As the mountains surround Jerusalem,  
so God surrounds the people,  
from this time on and forevermore.

**SING**

For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest  
on the land allotted to the righteous,  
so that the righteous might not  
stretch out their hands to do wrong.

**SING**

Do good, O God, to those who are good,  
and to those who are upright in their hearts.

But those who turn aside to their own crooked ways  
God will lead away with evildoers.  
Peace be upon Israel!

**SING**