

United Church of Craftsbury

The pansies on the altar are in celebration of Rob and Barb Strong's 21st wedding anniversary and their daughter's, Anna, 18th birthday

Participants today:

Rev. Alan Parker, Pastor; Sandalyn Chadwick, Accompanist; Joan Simmons, Liturgist.

For Next Sunday:

Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9.

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

Mon. 04/25	Tues. 04/26	Wed. 04/27	Thurs. 04/28	Fri. 04/29	Sat. 04/30	Sunday 05/01
Mahjongg: Noon-4 PM Zumba: 6 PM	AA: 6 PM		Mahjongg: Noon-4 PM Al-Anon: 6 PM		Kerrin McCaddin (poet) AH: 4-8 PM	Sunday Service & Sunday School: 10 AM

Committee Contacts:

- **Church Clerk:** Anne Wilson (586-2825)
- **Church Council:** Andy Moffatt (586-2248)
- **Community Supper:** Barb Strong (586-2516)
- **Deacons:** Andy Moffatt (586-2248)
- **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:** Richard Bailey (586-9675) and Clyde Simmons (586-2854)

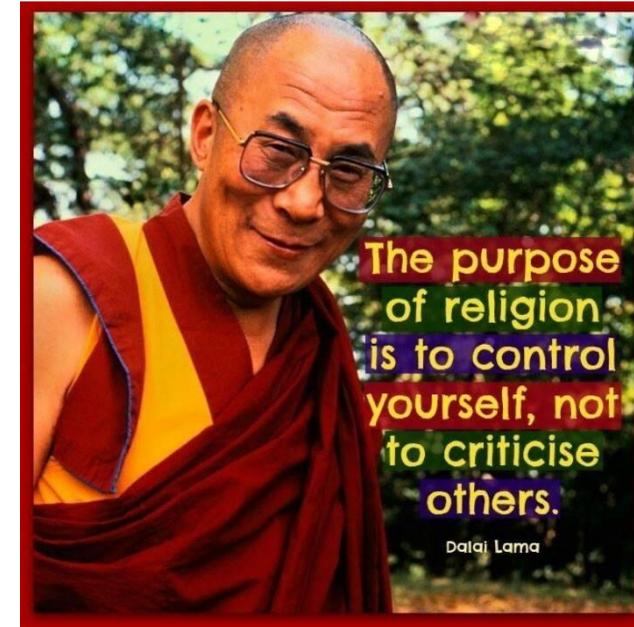
United Church of Craftsbury

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Website & Online Calendar: www.unitedchurchofcraftsbury.com

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



April 24, 2016

Fifth Sunday of Eastertide – Year C

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 # 148 (Black)

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing

(Alternating with reading from Psalm 148)

CALL TO PRAYER FOR HEALING AND FORGIVENESS

UNISON PRAYER FOR HEALING OF BROKENNESS

Gracious God, how often we live for and praise ourselves, forgetting the miracles of your creation, hidden from our self-focused view. We forget the labors of the anonymous, the lost and lonely; we ignore, or even curse them for their brokenness and invisibility. We turn an unseeing eye to the holiness of the small, the weak, and those denied the comfortable gifts of this world. We consume and then cast aside your gifts, looking for something new to please ourselves. Forgive us; we want to be your holy children, to tend your sacred blessings that wait to blossom...

SILENT PRAYER

RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God has chosen to give the world to us and us to the world. God has made us free to choose as well, and to learn from what we choose.

All: God has already forgiven our broken, sinful choices, and invites us to know anew the blessed gift of a life of praise. Thanks be to God; all is well with our forgiven souls. 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

TIME FOR THE YOUNG & YOUNG AT HEART

THE WORD OF GOD IN SCRIPTURE

- Acts 11:1-18
- Revelation 21:1-6
- John 13:31-35

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

REFLECTION

"God Among Mortals"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S HOLY INVITATION

*HYMN # 283 (Black)

Spirit of the Living God

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 # 436 - V. 1-3, 5 (Black)

God of Grace and God of Glory

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE # 590

Threefold Amen

POSTLUDE

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

We gather to praise God's holy love and presence, but we often arrive caught up in busy-ness, struggle, worry, and self-focus. When this happens, we tend to forget God's presence, the source of all that is good. Acknowledging this failure and sin, we confess our apartness from God, that we might find anew the words and acts of praise.

Scripture for April 24, 2016

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."

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."

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."

(At close of reading: "This is the Word of God, the story of Jesus Christ, who brings light and truth to the world.")

Opening Reading, April 24, 2016

Psalm 148

Praise God! Praise God from the heavens;
praise God in the heights!

Praise God, all you angels of God;
praise God all you host of heaven!

Praise God, sun and moon;
praise God, all you shining stars!

Praise God, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of God,
for God commanded and they were created.

God established them forever and ever;
God fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise God from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling God's command!

Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
Beast of the forest and all cattle,
crawling things and flying birds!

Rulers of the earth and all peoples,
nobles and all leaders of the earth!

Young men and women alike,
old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Sovereign,
whose name alone is exalted;
whose glory is above earth and heaven.

God has raised up a horn for the people,
and praise for all the faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to God.
Praise be to God!

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