

**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.

**For Next Sunday:**

\*Acts 9:1-6, (7-20); Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19.

**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.<br>04/04                                | Tues.<br>04/05 | Wed.<br>04/06           | Thurs.<br>04/07                                | Fri.<br>04/08 | Sat.<br>04/09             | Sunday<br>04/10                                |
|--|----------------|-------------------------|--|---------------|---------------------------|--|
| Mahjongg:<br>Noon-4 PM<br><br>Zumba:<br>6 PM | AA:<br>6 PM    | Coyote Kids:<br>1:45 PM | Mahjongg:<br>Noon-4 PM<br><br>Al-Anon:<br>6 PM |               | Horse &<br>Buggy:<br>Noon | Sunday Service<br>& Sunday<br>School:<br>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](http://www.unitedchurchofcraftsbury.com)

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

*United Church of Craftsbury*



**April 3, 2016**

**Second Sunday of Easter – Year C**

WE GATHER TO BE PRESENT WITH GOD

**PRELUDE**

**GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**INTROIT**

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

**HYMN # 459 (Black)**

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

*(Alternating with Reading from Psalm 150)*

**CALL TO PRAYER FOR HEALING AND FORGIVENESS**

**UNISON PRAYER FOR HEALING OF BROKENNESS**

Gracious and surprising God, we confess that your Easter gift and promises are yet neither how we live, nor who we are. We want to believe that you have resurrected, reconciled, and restored. But the holy mystery of Easter slips away from us. We fall back to resignation, hopelessness, and self-focus. Instead of wrestling honestly and hopefully with our doubts, we fall back and let them rule our lives. All of your Creation suffers for our brokenness and sin.

**SILENT PRAYER**

## RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: It has been said that the believer is happy and the doubter wise.

**All: In the restoring comfort of God's forgiveness, we know anew that God offers both wisdom and the belief of loving, as we understand that both come only from our Holy Creator. Praise God; we are forgiven and restored. 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 AT HEART

## THE WORD OF GOD IN SCRIPTURE

- Acts 5:27-32
- John 20:19-31

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

## REFLECTION

"Oh, Thomas, We Know Thee"

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS AND OUR GIFTS

## 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.*

## 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

WE SHARE CHRIST'S TABLE AND GO OUT IN PEACE

**COMMUNION HYMN # 287, V. 1-3 (Red)** Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*We will serve the elements at the front of the sanctuary. Please come forward, accept a piece of bread, and dip it in the cup. If you prefer not to come forward, the Deacons and pastor will come to serve you.*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy God, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, and these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us to live as changed people; we have shared this living bread and cup, and we cannot remain the same. Ask much of us; expect much from us; enable new things by us; encourage many through us. Send us out, Dear God, with gentle hearts to touch an ordinary, everyday world with the promise and joy of your holiness. AMEN

### \*CLOSING HYMN # 352 (Black)

My God, Accept My Heart This Day

### \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE # 590

*Threefold Amen*

## POSTLUDE

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

## **CALL TO PRAYER FOR HEALING AND FORGIVENESS**

The stunning gift of the Easter resurrection invites us to change how we see the world, how we live, and how we imagine our redemption. We have trouble doing this, for that which is familiar is comfortable, even if unsatisfying. And so we pray for the cleansing that comes from confession of brokenness, resignation, and sin, from all that separates us from the God who always seeks us.

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**Opening Reading, April 3, 2016**

**Psalm 150**

**SING**

Praise be to God!

Praise God in God's own sanctuary;  
praise God in the mighty firmament!

Praise God for God's mighty deeds;  
praise God according to God's surpassing greatness!

Praise God with trumpet sound;  
praise God with lute and harp!

**SING**

Praise God with tambourine and dance;  
praise God with strings and pipe!

Praise God with clanging cymbals;  
praise God with loud clashing cymbals!

Let everything that breathes praise God!  
Praise be to God!

**SING**

## Scripture for April 3, 2016

### Acts 5:27-32

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

### John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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