

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:

Alan Parker, Pastor; Sandalyn Chadwick.

For Next Sunday:

Joshua 3:7-17 with Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37 or Micah 3:5-12 with Psalm 43;
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12.

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.

Upcoming Weekly Church Calendar:						
Sun. 10/26	Mon. 10/27	Tues. 10/28	Wed. 10/29	Thurs. 10/30	Fri. 10/31	Sat. 11/01
Service: 10 AM	Zumba: 6 PM	Yoga: 4:30 & 6 PM AA: 6 PM		Zumba: 4:30 PM Al-Anon: 6 PM		

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:** Mary Ann Merrill (730-4754)
- **Prayer Circle:** Fay Waterhouse (586-2520)
- **Religious Education:** Barb Strong (586-2516)
- **Trustees:** Cheryl Bailey (586-9675)

United Church of Craftsbury

PO Box 46, Craftsbury Common, VT 05827

Phone: (802) 586-8028 · Email: unitedchurchcraftsbury@gmail.com

Website & Online Calendar: www.unitedchurchofcraftsbury.com

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

United Church of Craftsbury



October 26, 2014

Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year A

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 (Insert)

Sweet Hour of Prayer

(Alternating with Readings from Psalm 1)

CALL TO PRAYER OF CONFESSION, HEALING AND FORGIVENESS

UNISON PRAYER FOR HEALING OF BROKENNESS

Gracious God, you have invited me, through your life-giving son Jesus, to come to you and with you; to see where your path takes us. Sometimes I do so, but often I turn my eyes. I'm too busy, too angry, too broken, too self-satisfied, or too embarrassed to cast my lot with you. Call me back to you. Here, I ask you to call me back. I want to come with you, but sometimes I simply don't dare to take the chance. Now, my ears and my heart are open to your blessed, life-giving call. See me; love me in my brokenness; make me whole.

SILENT PRAYER

RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Creation's sweetest music is always a song that calls us to be fully alive with God. It calls us to new and grace-filled life. It calls us to beauty, gratitude, and new hopefulness.

All: God never stops loving; God never stops calling. We answer anew, knowing that our "Yes," and only our "Yes," makes all well with our forever-souls.

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 spoken words, be acceptable in your sight. For you are our rock and our redeemer. AMEN

SCRIPTURE

- Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18
- 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
- Matthew 22:34-46

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

REFLECTION

"Any More Questions?"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S HOLY INVITATION

*HYMN # 353

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

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

*HYMN # 97

God of Our Life, Through All the Circling Years

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE # 590

Threefold Amen

POSTLUDE

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

CALL TO PRAYER OF CONFESSION, HEALING AND FORGIVENESS

Confession of sin and brokenness is well thought to be a gift, not a punishment. Confession is about being whole, not about being broken. We confess because doing so frees us to live anew - if we allow it to. We break down the walls that separate us from God, for closeness to God is the heart and soul of a good life. We confess together, with trust in God and in each other...

Sweet Hour of Prayer

William Walford, 1845; alt.

1 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a world of care,
 2 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! the joys I feel, the bliss I share
 3 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! whose wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear

and bids me at my Ma-ker's throne let all my needs and wants be known.
 of those whose anx-ious spir-its burn with strong de-sires for your re-turn!
 to One whose truth and faith-ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless.

In sea-sons of dis-tress and grief, my soul has of - ten found re - lief,
 With them I has-ten to the place where I would know my Sav-ior's face,
 And since I'm bid to seek God's face, be - lieve God's word, and trust God's grace,

and oft es-caped the tempt-er's snare by your re - turn, sweet hour of prayer!
 And glad - ly take my sta - tion there, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!
 I'll cast a - way my ev - ery care, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!

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Scripture for October 26, 2014

Leviticus 2: 1-2; 15-18

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice, you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully maltreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Matthew 22:34-46

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You

shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'?"

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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

Opening Reading, October 26, 2014

Psalm 1

Happy are those

who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;
but their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees

planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so,

but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.