

First Congregational Church of Fair Haven, UCC  
~ ALL ARE WELCOME HERE! ~  
~ MARCH 23, 2025



**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY** *“The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.”* Pablo Picasso

~ MARCH 23, 2025 ~ THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

**PRELUDE** *It Is Well*

Joanie Brown

**WELCOME**

Pastor Jane

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES AND RINGING OF THE BELL**

Deb and Lynn

**One:** What is our church's mission?

**Many:** To embody **God's powerful love...**

- **welcoming all people, with a vision and message of hope,**
- **weaving deep relationships with Jesus and each other,**
- **working, praising and playing in our towns and world.**

**OPENING HYMN** *Chalice # 73 vs.1 & 2 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

*There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice,  
which is more than liberty.*

*There is welcome for the sinner,  
and more graces for the good!  
There is mercy with the Savior;  
there is healing in his blood.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**LEADER:** You who are thirsty,

**PEOPLE:** *Come to receive living water.*

**LEADER:** You who are hungry,

**PEOPLE:** *Taste the bread that satisfies.*

**LEADER:** You who long for connection,

**PEOPLE:** *Receive the fellowship of this community and the Holy Spirit.*

**LEADER:** You who search for love,

**PEOPLE:** *Experience the love of Jesus expressed in music, prayer, community, word and action.*

**LEADER:** May this time of worship fill and refresh you, Come, let us begin.

**INVOCATION**

Debbie Pratt

**PRAISE AND WORSHIP VIDEO** *Hungry***UNISON PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

*ALL: Gracious God, sometimes we are disappointed by other people, too ready to dismiss or discard them. Help us to see in others what you see in them: their growth, the fruits that they offer. Forgive us when we too quickly judge others. Forgive us also, when we doubt that we can be worthy followers of you. May we be inspired to nurture your people and ourselves. Amen.*

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND GRACE**

**Pastor:** God's ways are not our ways. Where we would condemn ourselves or others, God forgives. In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

*ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen.*

**THE 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. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.*

**GLORIA PATRI**

*Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.*

**TIME WITH THE YOUNG—A MESSAGE OF GOD'S LOVE****SCRIPTURE LESSON****HEBREW READING****ISAIAH 55:1-9**

Lisa Fenwick

**RESPONSORIAL READING OF PSALM 63:1-8**

**LEADER:** O God, you are my God, and I long for you.

**PEOPLE:** *My whole being desires you; like a dry, worn-out, and waterless land, my soul is thirsty for you.*

**LEADER:** Let me see you in the sanctuary; let me see how mighty and glorious you are.

**PEOPLE:** *Your constant love is better than life itself, and so I will praise you.*

**LEADER:** I will give you thanks as long as I live; I will raise my hands to you in prayer.

**PEOPLE:** *My soul will feast and be satisfied, and I will sing glad songs of praise to you.*

**LEADER:** As I lie in bed, I remember you; all night long I think of you, because you have always been my help.

**PEOPLE:** *In the shadow of your wings I sing for joy*

**LEADER:** I cling to you, and your hand keeps me safe

**GOSPEL READING LUKE 13:1-9**

**SERMONIC HYMN** (*Chalice*) # 558 vs.1 & 2 *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

*Savior, like a shepherd lead us,  
much we need thy tender care;  
in thy pleasant pastures feed us,  
for our use thy folds prepare.*

*Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
thou hast bought us, thine we are;  
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
thou hast bought us, thine we are.*

*We are thine, do thou befriend us,  
be the guardian of our way;  
keep thy flock, from sin defend us,  
seek us when we go astray:*

*Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
hear, O hear us when we pray;  
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
hear, O hear us when we pray.*

**SERMON** A Fig Tree

Pastor Jane

**OFFERING**

**DOXOLOGY** *Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him, all creatures here below  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Please use  
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to make a



**DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**CLOSING HYMN** *Chalice # 546 Amazing Grace*

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace first taught my heart to fear  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed.*

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.*

**BENEDICTION AND PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST OUT INTO THE WORLD**

**POSTLUDE** *To God Be The Glory*

Joanie Brown

*Our thanks to everyone who helped with the worship this morning*

***Please join us for Coffee and Fellowship following the service***

**DEACON OF THE MONTH OF MARCH IS LISA FENWICK.** Lisa may be reached at [joligolfshoes@gmail.com](mailto:joligolfshoes@gmail.com)

**PRAYER LIST** Our prayer list is a network of love and faith in the power of prayer. We receive these names from members and friends of our church who hold these individuals up in their own prayer life for God's healing and strength upon them.

**IMMEDIATE NEEDS:** Pam Berryhill, Jeff Buxton, Chelsea, C.J. Dave Mallory, Connie Manukka, Judy Sheldon, Carlene Kasuba, Alan Wolmuth, Phil Stack, Bryce James

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LENTEN BOOK STUDY** will meet this morning after worship for discussion and light lunch.

**HEALING SERVICE** Our Lenten healing service will be held during our regular worship service on **Sunday, March 30th**. We hope everyone will join us for laying on of hands to share our love and healing powers with our church family. Come and show we care!

**WATCH CHOSEN TOGETHER DURING LENT.** The Methodist Church in Poultney has invited us to join them on Friday evenings, at 5:00 PM.

**PALM SUNDAY** will be celebrated on Sunday, April 13th at 10 AM

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** On April 17th beginning at 5:00 PM followed by a Tenebrae Service with Communion

**GOOD FRIDAY** Seven Last Words Service on April 18th at 6:00 PM.

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE—APRIL 20TH** The service will begin at 6:00 AM in the park.

**EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST** will follow the Sunrise Service in Reid Chapel. At the end of breakfast we will draw the winner of our Quilt. We hope everyone will come and join us.

**EASTER SERVICE** will be at 10:00 AM

**EASTER LILIES** will again be available to be purchased for \$15 each. Please fill out the order form with your dedication.



**PLEASE BRING NON-PERISHABLE FOOD TO SHARE  
FOR SLATE VALLEY CARES  
THERE IS A BOX AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE CHURCH**



**TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE QUEEN SIZE QUILT, 85" X 89"**  
 A beautiful quilt made by Clem Levesque, age 91, is hanging in Reed Chapel. Clem donated this quilt to help with fund raising for the organ. **Tickets are \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20.** The drawing will be held on Easter Sunday at the church.

## 230th Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference UCC

**Location:** Grace Congregational UCC, 8 Court St, Rutland, VT  
 or meet Virtually

**Date and time:** Fri, May 2, 2025 3:00 PM - Sat, May 3, 2025 5:00 PM

**Organizer:** Vermont Conference, (802) 505-8727,  
[treasurer@vermontucc.org](mailto:treasurer@vermontucc.org)

risen



indeed

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The 230th Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference

May 2-3, 2025

Grace Church, Rutland VT

"Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God."  
*Isaiah 58:1-12*

If you would like to schedule time with Pastor Jane, please call her directly at 802-430-3636 or email her at [janechurchlady@gmail.com](mailto:janechurchlady@gmail.com)

To schedule time with a Deacon either in-person or zoom, please contact Eileen via email to be placed on their calendar. [Eileen@fhucc.org](mailto:Eileen@fhucc.org)

**Prayer Circle:** If you or someone you know is in need of prayer you may call anyone of the following:

Karen Festa	802-683-1896
Maryann Charron	802-468-3207
Karyn Jockell	802-278-8058
Lana Petty	802-353-0485

## WE TRY TO MAKE IT EASIER TO COME AND WORSHIP WITH US

### Trouble with Stairs?

A Handicap RAMP is available on the Caernarvon Street side of Church! You MAY park on the church side of Caernarvon Street during church events.

A handicapped accessible bathroom is available on the main floor of the church.

**Parking.** Please save spaces near the front of the church for those who have difficulty walking. One handicapped space is available on Caernarvan St. near the ramp.

Pastor Jane LoBrutto [janechurchlady@gmail.com](mailto:janechurchlady@gmail.com) 802-430-3636

Church Administrator: Eileen Hurlburt [eileen@fhucc.org](mailto:eileen@fhucc.org)

Debbie Pratt - Lead Deacon

Sharon Pinsonnault & Joan Brown Organist/Pianist

Andrew Donahue and Ron Stack – Social Media

*Thank you for coming to worship with us!*



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