

First Congregational Church of Fair Haven, UCC

~ ALL ARE WELCOME HERE! ~

~ MARCH 9, 2025 ~



First Sunday in Lent



JESUS IN THE WILDERNESS

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY *“Darkness comes. In the middle of it, the future looks blank. The temptation to quit is huge. Don't. You are in good company... You will argue with yourself that there is no way forward. But with God, nothing is impossible. He has more ropes and ladders and tunnels out of pits than you can conceive. Wait. Pray without ceasing. Hope.”* John Piper

~ MARCH 9, 2025 ~ FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

PRELUDE *Lamb of God* Joanie Brown
WELCOME Pastor Jane
ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES AND RINGING OF THE BELL
Steve and Judy

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 # 65 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing;
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us;
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth;
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
His reign endures forever.

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Welcome home, beloved children of God.

PEOPLE: *Gathered in God's arms, we come to worship.*

LEADER: Sheltered in God's love, we come to grow in love.

PEOPLE: *Abiding in God, we seek solace and comfort.*

LEADER: Even as God sends us on wilderness journeys.

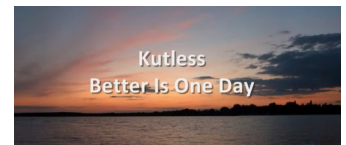
PEOPLE: *We trust that God is with us, guiding us, protecting our days.*

LEADER: Let us worship and praise the God that yearns for us always.

INVOCATION

Ron Stack

PRAISE AND WORSHIP VIDEO *Better Is One Day*



UNISON PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

ALL: *God of weary, lift us up and guide us forward when we are tired beyond words. Pour your grace into our souls, when we give in to temptation and stray where we were never meant to go. Shepherding God, guide us back to you and show us the path home. In hope and with gratitude we pray. Amen.*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND GRACE

Pastor: All who call on God's name are saved. We can rest assured in this promise.

ALL: *Amen and 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 LESSONS

Chris Sheld

HEBREW READING DEUTERONOMY 26:1-11 HARVEST OFFERINGS**RESPONSORIAL READING OF PAUL'S LETTER TO ROMANS 10:8-13**

LEADER: "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is the word of faith we proclaim), because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

PEOPLE: *For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation.*

LEADER: The Scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame."

PEOPLE: *For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.*

LEADER: For "everyone who call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

GOSPEL READING LUKE 4:1-13 THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS**SERMONIC HYMN** *Chalice #480 I Love to Tell the Story*

*I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.*

[Refrain:] *I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

*I love to tell the story 'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy word. [Refrain]*

*I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. [Refrain]*

SERMON Temptation— How Can We Have a Good Lenten Experience

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
this QR code
to make a

**DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING****PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

CLOSING HYMN *Chalice # 589 Lord, I want to Be a Christian*

*Lord I want to be a Christian in my heart in my heart
Lord I want to be a Christian in my heart in my heart
In my heart in my heart*

Lord I want to be a Christian in my heart in my heart

Lord I want to be more loving in my heart in my heart

Lord I want to be more loving in my heart in my heart

In my heart in my heart

Lord I want to be more loving in my heart in my heart

Lord I want to be like Jesus in my heart in my heart

Lord I want to be like Jesus in my heart in my heart

In my heart in my heart

Lord I want to be like Jesus in my heart in my heart

BENEDICTION AND PASSING OF THE PEACE**BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST OUT INTO THE WORLD**

POSTLUDE *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

Joanie Brown

Our thanks to everyone who helped with the worship this morning

Please join us for Coffee and Fellowship following the service

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, Patty Stannard, Chelsea, C.J. Dave Mallory, Connie Manukka, Judy Sheldon, Carlene Kasuba, Alan Wolmuth, Phil Stack

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN BOOK STUDY Let's read, *Give Up Something Bad for Lent* by James W. Moore. We can meet on **Sunday, March 23rd** to have a light lunch and discussion.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT *Vital churches reach new people. Please let me say that again, vital churches have a clear sense of purpose.* I know that I have been guilty of coming to church some days because I need the love and support of our church. And when that is the case, I feel my church family all around me and they may never know how much I need them. Imagine what our church would be like if it was *filled with people* who have needed and felt the love of our congregation. There are so many people who need us, some in small ways and some in life changing ways. Please join me in being the evidence of God's kingdom by reinvigorating our role in our community and neighborhoods.

Let's watch CHOSEN together during Lent. The Methodist Church in Poultney has invited us to join them on Friday evenings, at 6:00 PM beginning March 7th.

SLATE VALLEY CARES

welcomes your contributions or if you want to bring food instead, we need... non-perishable proteins such as dried beans, rice, hearty soups, canned tuna, chicken, chili and canned ham. Thank you very much for your support. Check out:

<https://www.slatevalleycares.org>



LENT

Lent is a perfect time for us to share with our neighbors. Let's try to contribute every week, so our neighbors know we care!



DEACONS MEETING THIS MORNING



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.** (Sorry for the error in ticket price last week) 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

risen



indeed

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

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

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

Karen Festa 802-287-2405
 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 802-430-3636

Church Administrator: Eileen Hurlburt 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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of Fair Haven UCC



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