

UNITED CHURCH OF DORSET AND EAST RUPERT, U.C.C.



Candlelight

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Mission Statement

The mission of this open and affirming Church is to instill in its congregation the consciousness of the presence of God in each individual person, to worship God, to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, to celebrate the Sacrament and to teach and encourage the application of Christian values individually and collectively. The Church community strives to exemplify responsible stewardship of God's creation and to render loving service to all humankind in the search for righteousness, justice and peace.

Article 2, Constitution & By-Laws of the United Church of Dorset and East Rupert

REV. DR. JAMES H. GRAY, PASTOR

JANE A. LOBRUTTO, LICENSED MINISTER/ADMINISTRATOR

LESLIE MAZZUCCO, BOOKKEEPER/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

THOMAS SALMON, MUSIC DIRECTOR

143 CHURCH STREET

P.O. BOX 263

DORSET, VT 05251

PH/FX 802-867-2260 E-MAIL: dorsetchurch@gmail.com

Visit our website at www.dorsetchurch.org

~ WORSHIP SERVICE ~ DECEMBER 24, 2022~
~ CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION AND CANDLELIGHT SERVICE ~

SILENT MEDITATION *Every child deserves as "immaculate conception" story. Every child's esteem needs to think they are God's gift to their world. Every child needs to think they were born in holiness and hear told again and again their personal sacred story. Every child's beginning needs to be wrapped in purity, for the years to come will do enough to pollute it. We make Jesus the adult our paradigm for living, why not Jesus the baby?*

GATHERING MUSIC *Seven Carol Settings* by Robert Lau

Tom Salmon

WELCOME AND PASSING OF GOD'S PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AS WE BEGIN OUR WORSHIP, NOW IS OUR TIME TO SPEAK TO GOD

ENTER "THE FLAME" AND "THE WORD" Acolyte; Beadle

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Praise be to God, who spins shining stars across the wondrous heaven.

P: *Who awes the earth with the miracle of birth.*

L: Who gifts each and every person with goodness and talents and energies.

P: *To love and be loved.*

L: As we gather this holy eve to celebrate the birth of Jesus

P: *Enfold us into The Sacred Story.*

L: That Christ will be born in us, and we in Christ. Let us worship God.

***HYMN (CH) # 143 Joy to the World**

Joy to the World, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

***UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

L: The Lord be with you. **P:** *And also with you.* **L:** Let us pray.

ALL: *We praise you, hidden God, that in a newborn child you convey your love and reveal the holiness of human-ness. Help us this Christmas Eve to seek your love and birth your holiness in our world so desperately in need of both. Bow us on bended knee to the miracle of Christmas, that we shall make Christ a present and presence in our lives. 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

Glo - ri - a, Glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!
Glo - ri - a, Glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

CEREMONY OF LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Longacre Family

Introduction and Scripture Reading
Lighting of the Advent Candles
Closing Prayer

PRAYER OF PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Jordan (Skip) Dickinson

Our response: **Shine upon them and give them peace.**

AS WE CONTINUE OUR WORSHIP NOW IS THE TIME TO LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN (CH) # 144 O Little Town of Bethlehem**

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark street shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth.
Your voices raise to God in praise; and peace to all on earth.*

*How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the joys of highest heaven.
No ear may hear Christ coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our God, Emmanuel.*

READING OF THE BIBLICAL CHRISTMAS STORY AS FOUND IN LUKE 2:1-16

MODERN CHRISTMAS STORY *An Exchange of Christmas Miracles by Diane Raynor*

AS WE CONCLUDE OUR WORSHIP NOW IS THE TIME TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING *Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light* J.S. Bach

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*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

***HYMN (CH) #425** *Let Us Break Bread Together*

*Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees) [Refrain:]*

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

WORDS OF INVITATION

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *Most loving God, we confess that we have seen much pain without being moved to compassion. We have begged forgiveness from others, while hoarding our own charity. We have gathered our own tranquility at the expense of peace of others and creation. Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy upon us. Amen.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LITANY OF PREPARATION

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

P: It is right to give God praise and thanks.

L: Therefore, with all the communion of saints we praise,

P: Holy, holy, holy, God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of Your glory.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *(It is our tradition to partake in unison.)*

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** *We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we may experience Christ and receive his gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.*

BENEDICTION AND SHARING OF THE CHRIST-CANDLE FLAME

(Our ushers will bring the Christmas Flame to the first person in each pew, who will then carefully pass the flame to each person holding a candle. Lit candles are kept upright while unlit candles are tilted into the flame.)

***HYMN (CH) # 145 Silent Night (a capella)**

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior is born,
Christ, the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ, the Savior is born,
Christ, the Savior is born



**OUR THANKS TO ALL THAT HAVE PROVIDED
POINSETTIAS THIS SEASON**



Sue and Don Hinkel	Merry Christmas!
The Grapshi Family	In celebration of family!
Nora Larsen	In loving memories of loved ones
Dotty Thompson	In memory of loved ones
Beth Eyre	Merry Christmas!
Linda O'Leary	In memory of Millie & Francis O'Leary & Dotty Streeter
Nancy & Bob Faesy	Giving thanks for our children
Meg Mithoefer	In memory of Mike Seely
Gail & Don Brodie	Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all
Widgie Pierpont	For Mother Earth
Janet & David Chandler	Merry Christmas and Peace to All!
Ann Troumbley	In memory of my loving husband Theron
Lynn & Scott Welsh	Merry Christmas to all!
Rita Hobson	In honor of my sister, Eli-Rigmor Jensen
Caren & Joe McVicker	In honor of the McVicker Family
Caren & Joe McVicker	In memory of Harriet Johnson
Nan Leach	In loving memory of Howard Leach
Nan Leach	In loving memory of Mavis Larsen Gray
Justine, David and Evangeline	For healing prayers filled with love for June Cook
Bruce Welsh & Family	In loving memory of Carol Porter Welsh
Bruce Welsh & Family	Mom and Dad Welsh
Dan Zimmerman	For all God's creatures, big and small

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 PRAYER CONCERNS: Ann Healy; Stephanie & Steven Blake; Gary Wilkins; Sofia; Dan Pinsonault; Sandy Cary; Noemi; Rev. Marian "Pete" McCart; Elizabeth LaBerge; Chase Birkheimer; Jonny D.; Darlene Brown; Karen Statler; Nancy; Tom Brass; Eric Stevenson; Carol and Neil Groty; Cathy Linde; Jim Ameden; Robbie Littlewood; Jack Bertram; Isabella Wassick; Karen De Mascio; Pam LaCoste; Theo Cherry; Carl Hedman; Nicole, Bill McFall; Hazel Mitchell; Cari Komline; Larry Cochran; Janet Michl; Iris Delilah; Candace Parks; Linda and Dick Buswell; The Usuff Family; Wenda Ameer; Father Kariken Kasparian; Dan; and in the Dorset Church, for all that have volunteered during the year to help spread God's love to our community and the world; in the Vermont Conference for the Rupert Community Church; and in the UCC, for all the Conference and National Office clergy and lay workers that help to spread the hope and joy of God's love throughout the year.

LONG-TERM PRAYER CONCERNS: Tom Shanahan; Naweedullah; Mustafa; Desiree Hazelton; Brian, Amanda, Sophie and Benjamin Krauss; Patricia Bono; Dottie Hinkle; Miles, Dan and Leigh Krauss; Martha Bowen; David Parsons; Amber Lundberg; Bob & Joann Jesberg; Linda Webster; Chip Wilson; Joe Crawford; Linda Sargent; Matthew Hill; Bentley Lewis; Richard Krauss; Hazel Prouty; Ronald Lamb; Toni-Ann Pearsall; Deb Sharp; Ken and Carol Shippey; James Jankowski; Mary Abbott Ludki; Tyler Kennedy; McKenzie Cahill; Rand Snyderman; Chris Waker; Pat Oltman; Shelly Krauss and Hershel; Marcus Noble; Ched Evans; Barbara West; Claire; Vern James; Jameson Gray Pelton; Maryann Dellinger; Sarah Quinlan; Ginny & Jim Lucas; Toddy Quinlan; Jennifer H.; Debbie Michota; Kimberly & Michael White; Judy Dunn; Evelyn Tobin; Cassia Duran; Charlie Thompson; Emily Metcalf; Reeve & Essie Cantus; Chris Willis; Julia Pitcher; Calder; Jennifer Cready; Rich; Chris C.; Liz LaVigne; Linda Bushee; Joe V.; Kyle; John Bordner; Mark Miksis; Grace Wise; Shirley Simpson; Fergus Cochran; Monroe Parks; Dody Daly; Amy Dunn; Douglas White; Mary Buchmayer; Doris Chartrand; Sue Bamford; George Smith.

United Church of Dorset & East Rupert

Free

Winter Community Suppers

Menu

Thursday, January 12, 2023 5:30—7:00 PM

Antipasto Platter
Pasta with your choice of:
Meat Sauce or Vegetarian Marinara Sauce
Roasted Italian Sausage
Fresh Mozzarella and Tomato Salad
Green Salad
Broccoli with garlic and olive oil
Garlic Bread
Assorted Desserts



Thursday, February 2, 2023 5:30—7:00 PM

Corn Chowder
Roasted Pork Loin with gravy
Buttered Noodles
Red Cabbage and Apple Sauce
Tiny Spring Green Peas
Tossed Green Salad
Rolls and butter
Assorted Desserts



Thursday March 23, 2023 5:30—7:00 PM

Minestrone Soup
Meatloaf and gravy
Macaroni and cheese
Roasted potatoes
Green beans
Tossed salad
French Baguette
Assorted Desserts



We offer gluten free pasta and desserts

All are welcome for FREE great meals!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS will be held on **Sunday, December 25th at 10:00 AM.**

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023 DUE TO THE HOLIDAY.

HOSPITALITY MEETING for December has been cancelled. The next meeting will be tentatively held on **Monday, January 9th at 10 AM.** Please watch the bulletin for confirmation in the weeks ahead.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE will meet on Wednesday, January 11th at 8:00 AM

BE A COFFEE HOUR HOST! Opportunities are available for all of **2023** See new sign up sheet in the vestry. Thanks, The Hospitality Committee.

USHERS NEEDED FOR 2023 Please see the sign-up sheet in the vestry.

PLEASE HELP US KEEP THE CHURCH BEAUTIFUL The **2023 flower chart** is hanging on the furnace room door. Please sign up to provide flowers for the altar.

FAITH INNSIDE will begin on **Friday, January 13th at 9:30 AM.** Rev. Gray will chose the book soon and we will order copies of the book. Please keep watch for more news!

BIBLE STUDY will once again begin on Wednesday, **January 11, 2023 at 5:00 PM.** All are welcome to join us for a simple supper, prayer and Bible Study.

HIKING CLUB will meet on **Saturday, January 14th at 9:00 AM** in the church parking lot

ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE All board and Committees need to submit their Annual Report to the office for preparation of the church's 2021 Annual Report. The deadline is **Monday, January 16, 2023.**

HOLD THE DATE! THE ANNUAL MEETING will be held on **Sunday, February 12, 2022 at 11:30 AM.**

Mark your Calendars – The Christian Education Committee will be hosting our Annual **Epiphany Lunch Celebration Sunday January 8th following worship** - All are invited for lunch and short program as we celebrate Epiphany with the Wise people in Bethlehem. We are looking for people to donate soup, salad, bread, star cookies, king cake as well as people to bring their favorite nativity scene to share as center pieces. Also, looking for people to share their story of following their epiphany "star" from last year. Or if you would be willing to share a story, tradition, song or poem related to Epiphany we would love to hear it. Sign up during coffee hour in the weeks to come or call 802 362-5548 or email Gretchen Lima at gretchenlima@aol.com confirmation in the weeks ahead.

CHURCH DIRECTORY 2022

PASTOR.....Rev. Dr. James H. Gray*

LICENSED MINISTER/ ADMINISTRATOR.....Jane A. LoBrutto*

PASTORAL ASSISTANTRev. Jordan (Skip) Dickinson

BOOKKEEPER/ADMINISTRATOR'S ASSISTANT Leslie Mazzucco

MUSIC DIRECTORTom Salmon

SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR..... Paula Mann Nassivera

MODERATOR.....Lori Hong*

CLERK..... Linda O'Leary*

TREASURER.....Andrew Longacre*

MEMBER-AT-LARGE..... Al Lindsey*

CHURCH DELEGATES.....Kris Harvey, Joel Ario, Nora Larsen, Holly Ross

MANSE LIAISONGay and Roger Squire

TRUSTEES

Julie Citron, Martha Eyman, Kit Wallace, Patrick McGuire, Steve Holman,
Lori Hong, Sandi Hedman, David Chandler*, Scott Stewart

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Scott Stewart, Trustee Rep.; Steve Holman, Bruce Welsh

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Andrew Longacre, Treasurer; Ellen Maloney, Scott Stewart, Chair, (Trustee Rep.) Phil Peterson

STEWARDSHIP

Karen Allen, Jack Gilbert, Bill Bridges (A), Rev. Jordan (Skip) Dickinson* (A),
Lori Hong, (Trustee Rep.), Jane LoBrutto

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Karen Allen, Staff Rep., Steve Holman, Trustee Rep., Al Lindsay, Henry Chandler

DIACONATE

Robin Chandler, Angie Florence, Ginger Foss, Keith Michl, Shawn Hazelton*, Co-Chair; Stacy Meszaros,
Karl White, Sue Westin, Secretary; Merrick Counsell, Ellen Leeds*, Co-Chair; Dan Zimmerman, Lynne Welsh

CHANCEL COMMITTEE (Ad hoc committee of Deacons)

Robin Chandler, Lindy Bowden and Ginger Foss

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Lee Romano, Peter Davis, Steve Holman, Elizabeth Karet*, Tom Salmon (ex officio)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Paula Nassivera*, Chair (ex officio); Ellen Leeds, Gretchen Lima, Tom Salmon, Youth Leader (ex officio),
Annabelle Liu, Heather McGuire, Kelly Gaiotti

FELLOWSHIP

Derry Dickinson*, Chair; Ginny Longacre, Secretary; Linda O'Leary*, Vice Chair; Betsy Olson, Treasurer

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Nora Larsen*, Chair; Betsy Olson, Judy Dunn, Betty Hazelton, Secretary, Caroline Sargent, Funeral Coordinator;
Dotty Thompson, Candace Parks, Treasurer; Luella Parks; Gail Brodie (A), Linda Drunsic (A), Nan Leach (A)

MISSION COMMITTEE

Janet Chandler, Martha Eyman, Daniela Stewart*, Chair, Cheryl Gasperetti,
Jen Parent (A), Rev. Jordan (Skip) Dickinson (A)

GREEN TEAM COMMITTEE (Ad hoc committee of Mission Committee)

Ellen Maloney, Chair; Nancy Faesy, Bill Bridges, Sandi Hedman, Nan Leach, John Pitcher, Caroline Sargent,
Ginny Longacre, Skip Dickinson, Candace Parks, Tom Salmon, Nora Larsen, Ellen Leeds

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

David Chandler, Trustee Rep.; Merrick Counsell, Deacon Rep.
Al Lindsey, Member-at-Large; Roger Squire and Peter Davis, Pastor Reps.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Linda O'Leary, Betsy Olson, Richard Grip, Alex Gray, Colleen LaChac, and Dick Coss

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Merrick Counsell, Rob Gaiotti, Jane LoBrutto (Admin), Leslie Mazzucco (A), Tom Salmon (A) Sue Westin

SEXTON.....Lynn and Pete Jennings

*Member of the Cabinet (A) Appointed