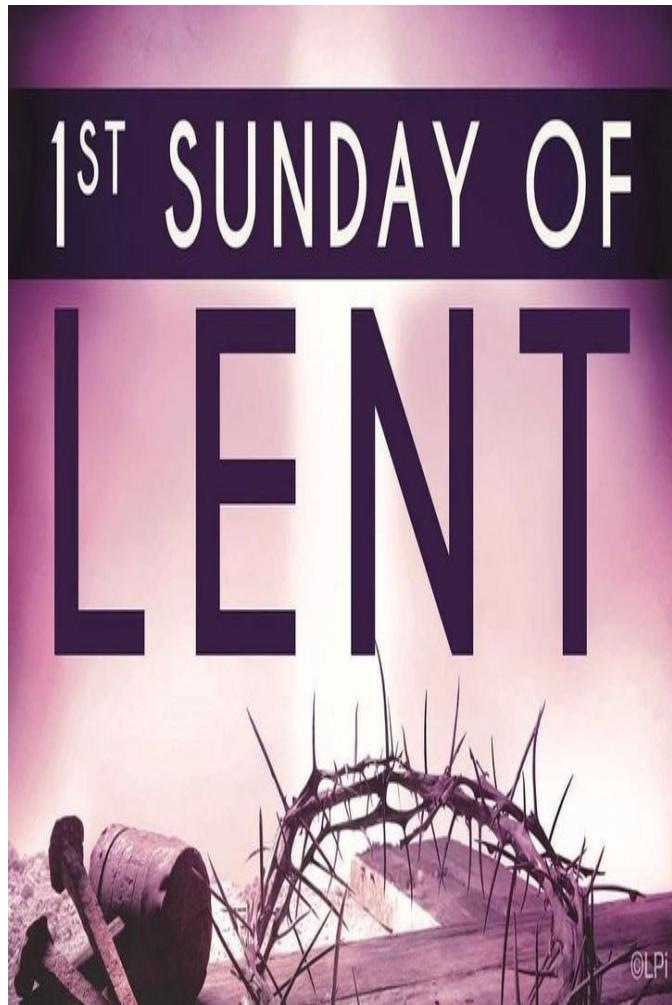


SILENT MEDITATION

Substitute
by Sarah Gordon
—for Lois



Placing your foot in the circle
without touching the line,
you're a part of the game:

a teacher filling in, an under-
study backstage called forward,
taking the lead, speaking

those words you'd practiced
fervently before the mirror.
You're a part of the play.

You're the pinch hitter, why yes,
moving toward home plate,
swinging that bat, nervous

maybe, yet proud. The one
who comes before, or after,
you're it. Standing next to

the light, all right, but
surely casting its shadow.
The priest came to anoint

the sick man, forgot his
oil. You, the sick man's wife,
ever at his side, retrieved

canola from your pantry,
the priest prayed over it,
and lo and behold

The United Church of Dorset & East Rupert
143 Church Street, Dorset, VT 05251

PO Box 263

802-867-2260

dorsetchurch@gmail.com, www.dorsetchurch.org,

Office Hours: Monday -Thursday 8-4,
Friday 8-12



All people are welcome here

~ FEBRUARY 22, 2026 ~ FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT ~

~ WORSHIP SERVICE ~

*Stand if you are able

NURSERY CARE AND CHURCH SCHOOL

Babies and children are invited, welcomed, and encouraged in worship services. We have worship bags in the narthex filled with activities to use during the worship service, as well as a rocker at the back of the sanctuary for parents with babies and toddlers. Children ages Pre-K through grade 7 are invited to join us downstairs for church school after the children's message.

INTROIT *Praeludium V* (Well-tempered Klavier, Book II)

J.S. Bach

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Mark McDonough

ENTER THE FLAME & THE WORD

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Creator of the world, eternal God,

People: we have come from many places for a little while.

Leader: Redeemer of humanity, God-with-us,

People: we have come with all our differences, seeking common ground.

Leader: Spirit of unity, go-between God,

Leader: we have come on journeys of our own, to a place where journeys meet.

Leader: So here, in this sanctuary, let us take time together,

People: for when paths cross and pilgrims gather, there is much to share and celebrate.

***HYMN #195 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Maggie McDonough

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us of all unrighteousness.

People: Remind us, God, remind us again, about taking the beam out of our own eye before taking the speck out of another's eye . . .
about the power of even a mustard seed of faith . . .
that we are forgiven as we forgive . . .
that we are to love one another as you love us . . .

Forgive our fickle memories. Our minds recall your words, it's our hearts and wills that keep forgetting.

MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: As far as the East is from the West, so far has God removed our transgressions from us. Friends, this is the Good News, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: Since God has made us the blessed community, the Church, let us greet one another with the peace and joy of Christ. The peace and joy of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

***RESPONSE Gloria Patri #36**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Leader: May God be with you here.

People: May God be with you there.

CHOIR ANTHEM *Wash Me Throughly*

David Halls

PRAYER OF PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Jordan (Skip) Dickinson

Our response:

Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

***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.

HYMN #211 *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Luke 10:25-42

Elizabeth Karet

SERMON A Slow Fast

Rev. Dr. Mark McDonough

OFFERTORY *Turn The Lights Back On*

Billy Joel

***DOXOLOGY HYMN** #46

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***CLOSING HYMN** #88 *All My Hope on God Is Founded*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Fuga V* (Well-tempered Klavier, Book II)

J.S.Bach

The flowers this morning are given by Ellen Leeds,
in loving memory of her mother, Molly Peck, and the loving kindness she
showed to all who knew her.

Our thanks to today's scripture reader, Elizabeth Karet;
liturgist, Maggie McDonough;
acolyte and beadle, Ellen Leeds and Karl White;
deacons and ushers, Sarah McClintock, Andrew Cairns, and Marietta and
Karl White;
coffee hour hosts, Gail Brodie and Sunny Velie;
and tech crew, Chris Lima, Patrick Honan, and Puck Bell.

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: Adiba; Helen Melhado; Ann Troumbley; Meghan Gill; Barbara Gill; Eric Perry, George VanDelinder; Cathy Condon; Bill A.; Emma Ingison; Auburn; Mark Cassidy; Jimmy Weiss; Jeff Duel; Robin Hoag; Spencer March; Larry Cochran; Damon Wilder; Bill Childs; Pete Ianacone; Michael; Oliver Bucholt; Donna Harris; Tom Drunsic; Linda Bushee; Mason; Robert Goepel; Sandi Hedman; Ellen; Karsyn Mullen; friends and family of Margaret Badger; friends and family of Andrew Davis; in the Dorset Church, for our Bible study group; in the Vermont Conference, for the First Congregational Church of Manchester, and their pastor, Bill Borror; in the UCC, for the Edythe G. Alberty Fund and The Harry C. Moores Foundation, both supporting subsidies that allow vulnerable older adults and their families to access NaviGuide services at a reduced cost.

LONG-TERM PRAYER CONCERNS: Craig, Jaxson, and Jacob Smith; Diane; Millie Holland; Michael Chambers; Patrick Denis; Dody Marcotte; Eric Parks; Tim Velie; Kris; Kay Kwasniewski; Robbie Littlewood; Elizabeth LaBerge; Dottie Hinkle;

Chip Wilson; Hazel Prouty; James Jankowski; Jameson Gray Pelton; Evelyn Tobin; Cassia Duran; Rich; Bill Wise; George Smith; Jack; Jonathan Dickinson; Judy Dunn; Alan Wiegand; Sandra Hazelton Pratt, Steve and Val Smith; Steve Larsen; Amanda Williams.

BIBLE STUDY

For our Bible study we will read *The Bible Speaks to You*, by Robert McAfee Brown. In this study we will learn how the Bible was written and how we can read the Bible with deeper understanding and application to daily life. The classes will be held Wednesdays, 10:00 - 11:00 am, February 25 through March 25. The classes will be in person and via zoom. They will also be recorded and made available on the church's website.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Truth & Justice - March 3 @ 5:00 pm
Search Committee - March 4 @ 5:00 pm
Music Committee - March 5 @ 6:30pm
Deacons - March 8 @ 11:30 am
PFLAG - March 8 from 2-4 pm

The Dorset Group hosts an open meeting for Alcoholics Anonymous here at the Dorset Church in the vestry every Monday night starting at 8:00pm All are welcome.

The Dorset Players & Lisa J. Hadlock Welcome
The Grand Kyiv Ballet of the Ukraine



At the Dorset Playhouse

Tickets at dorsetplayers.org or call

802-867-5777

After Show Reception with the Barrow's House
Proceeds go to the Grand Kyiv Ballet Company



*The Dorset Players and Kitchens of Vermont
present the Twenty-First Annual*

One Act Festival

Friday, February 27 ~ 7:30

Saturday, February 28 ~ 7:30

Sunday, March 1 ~ 2:00



Tickets Available at www.dorsetplayers.org Or 802-867-5777

Show Sponsor: Kevin O'Toole, Attorney at Law

Dear Church Family,

Lent is here! The Christian Education Committee invites you to use the following resources for this meaningful journey.

During coffee hour throughout Lent, Lenten devotionals will be available in both hard copy and electronic formats, perfect for personal use or to share with a friend, neighbor, or someone who is homebound.

We also have a selection of Bibles on display for you to explore. If you haven't looked at your Bible in a while, this is a wonderful time to revisit it or even discover a new one.

If you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to reach out:

Gretchen Lima, Christian Educator

gretchenlima@aol.com • (973) 900-1485

You don't have to wait until Lent begins to start a daily practice. Here are a few electronic devotional resources you can access now:

• **United Church of Christ Daily Devotional**

<https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional>

• **d365 Daily Devotional** — especially meaningful for families with children and youth. Devotions are written by ministers, professors, students, teachers, missionaries, and denominational leaders.
<https://d365.org>

• **The Upper Room** — Perfect for anyone. We will also have hard copies of this devotional available soon.
<https://www.upperroom.org>

Grace and peace, Gretchen Lima and the Christian Education Committee

**BILLY JOEL THEMED
CHORAL CONCERT**
SPONSORED BY THE DORSET CHURCH
MARCH 7, 2026
AT 7:00 PM
ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT
THE BAPTIST CHURCH FOUNDATION,
LOCATED IN MANCHESTER,
VERMONT.

**PLEASE CALL 802-867-2260, IF YOU
HAVE QUESTIONS.**



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PASTORAL COUNSELOR Rev. Steve Longley

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Skip Dickinson, Linda Drunsic, Ann Honan, Candace Parks, Nora Larsen

TRUTH AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE (Ad hoc committee of Mission Committee)

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