



## SILENT MEDITATION

### **The Elder Son**

by Paul Willis

*He called one of the servants and asked  
what was going on. (Luke 15:26)*

Mr. Perfect, he calls himself.  
Well, not out loud, but I can tell  
that's what he's thinking.  
Not a red hair out of place,  
which is easy for him to keep up,  
since he doesn't really do the work  
he always claims he is doing.  
Who does it? You guessed it—  
yours truly, always at Mr. Perfect's side,  
winnowing the grain while he  
practices his complaints in the wind.  
Lately, he's been talking about  
running for the Sanhedrin  
to make Judea great again.  
Ha! As if we ever were.  
The younger son, I always liked him  
better, even if he was a bit wild.  
But what could you expect  
with an older brother like that,  
giving him wedgies in the field  
while their father looked the other way?  
So when Big Boy asked about  
the music and dancing at the house,  
that was my shining moment.  
*We're having a party, you big dope!*  
That's what I wanted to say.  
*And, for once, it's not about you.*

The United Church of Dorset & East Rupert

143 Church Street, Dorset, VT 05251

PO Box 263

802-867-2260

[dorsetchurch@gmail.com](mailto:dorsetchurch@gmail.com), [www.dorsetchurch.org](http://www.dorsetchurch.org),

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



**All people are welcome here**

~ MARCH 15, 2026 ~ FOURTH 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** *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

Gordon Young

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Dr. Mark McDonough

**ENTER THE FLAME & THE WORD**

## **WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: God of the past who has fathered and mothered us,

**People: we are here to thank you.**

Leader: God of the future who is always ahead of us,

**People: we are here to trust you.**

Leader: God of the present here in the midst of us,

**People: we are here to praise you.**

Leader: God of life beyond us within us,

**People: we rejoice in your glorious love.**

**\*HYMN** *I Cannot Tell* (tune: Londonderry Air)

**Verse #1**-I cannot tell why He, the King of Heaven,

Should leave the peace of all eternity,

Why God Himself should lay aside His splendor

To leave the Father's side and come to me.

But this I know: our silence filled with singing,

And all our darkness fled from heaven's light.

When Christ the Lord, so human, yet so holy

In love was born a child for me that holy night!

**Verse #2**-I cannot tell why He, the Joy of Heaven,

Should give Himself to suffer for my sin,

Why Holy God should love, love me in my shamefulnes,  
Why He should die to draw my soul to Him.  
But this I know: Christ the Lord is risen,  
And praise His name, He's risen now in me!  
Because He lives, I'll rise to life eternal!  
He took my guilty heart, and I'm forever free!

**Verse #3-**I cannot tell when he will rule the nations,  
How He will claim His loved ones as His own;  
And who can tell the holy jubilation  
When all His children gather 'round His throne.  
And this I know; all flesh will see his glory,  
And skies will burst as all creation sings,  
The Son will rise on one eternal morning  
When Christ, the Savior of the world, is Lord and King!

### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God,**

**Forgive us when we forget the gift in our every breath,  
the care that sustains our every moment,  
the grace that can transform our every day.**

**Set us free from the prison of grudging hearts,  
mean desires, and resentful spirits.  
Give us the courage to act with justice and generosity,  
and draw us into love  
that does not calculate or keep scores.**

### **MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION**

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

Friends, hear and receive the Good News: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven  
and being made new.

**People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Amen.**

#### **PASSING 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 #37** *Gloria Patri*

## **TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

### **RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

Desiree Hensel  
Anne Keller  
Jackie Wilson

### **WELCOME BY THE CONGREGATION**

Leader: Let us, the members of the United Church of Dorset and East Rupert, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: **We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love, and be witnesses of our risen savior.**

**UNISON READING OF THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE DORSET CHURCH**  
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 Sacraments, 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.

### **RITUAL OF EXTENDING THE HAND OF FELLOWSHIP**

Pastor and Diaconate Representatives

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *Brother James' Air*

James Leith MacBeth Bain

### **PRAYER OF PASTORAL CARE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Rev. Jordan (Skip) Dickinson

**Our response:**

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

### **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 #80** *My Shepherd, You Supply My Need*

## **WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD**

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS** Luke 15:1-32

**SERMON** Eating with Sinners

Rev. Dr. Mark McDonough

**ORGAN OFFERTORY** *Be Thou My Vision*

Paul Manz

**DOXOLOGY HYMN #46**

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**HYMN #595** *Be Thou My Vision*

#### **\*BENEDICTION**

May the road rise to meet you,  
may the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
and the rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

\***POSTLUDE** *The King of Love*

Gordon Young

The flowers this morning are given by the Dorset Church,  
welcoming our new members, Desiree Hensel, Anne Keller, and Jackie Wilson.  
Our thanks to today's scripture reader, Elizabeth Karet;  
liturgist, Joel Ario;  
deacons and ushers, Liz Schafer, Sid Staunton, Lee Romano, Keith Michl, and  
Marietta and Karl White;  
coffee hour hosts, Kris Harvey and Judy Dunn;  
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:** Jonathan Dickinson; Sarah Faith Dickinson; Helen Melhado; Ann Troumbley; Meghan Gill; Eric Perry, George VanDelinder; Cathy Condon; Bill A.; Emma Ingison; Auburn; Mark Cassidy; Steve Larsen; Jimmy Weiss; Jeff Duel; Robin Hoag; Spencer March; May; Larry Cochran; Damon Wilder; Pete Ianacone; Michael; Oliver Bucholt; Donna Harris; Steve and Val Smith; Tom Drunsic; Bella & Baby Enzo; Linda Bushee; Mason; Robert Goepel; Jo,

Jeff and Sara; Shelby Baughn; Eric Hangen; for the friends and family of Bill Childs; for the friends and family of Bill Wise; in the Dorset Church, for our Cabinet; in the Vermont Conference, for Grace Congregational Church and their pastor, Terry Hanley; in the UCC, for the Youth Voices: Bold Faith applications, a weeklong immersion in faith-based advocacy, justice, and community in Washington D.C.

**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; George Smith; Jack; Jonathan Dickinson; Judy Dunn; Alan Wiegand.

### Free Community Dinner

Thursday, March 26 from 5:30pm -7:00pm

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Chicken marsala with mushroom gravy

Creamy vegetable casserole

Mashed potatoes

Hearty green salad

Assorted desserts

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The Dorset Church

143 Church Street, Dorset, VT

802-867-2260

# SCHOLARSHIP



**THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE** wants to alert the church community that applications for scholarships awarded for the 2026-2027 year are now available. Call the church office at 867-2260 for applications.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS  
APRIL 10**

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

Cabinet – Today @ 11:30

Trustees – March 17 @ 3:30

Search Committee – March 18 @ 5:00

Stewardship Committee – March 20 @ 8:00



**UNITED CHURCH OF DORSET AND EAST DORSET**

143 CHURCH STREET, DORSET, VT 05251

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**Aldi's Bus Trip**

**FRIDAY, March 27**

**Meet at the Dorset Church**

**at 9:00 a.m.**

**Call 867-2260**

**to reserve your spot!**

**PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST MARCH 29**

8:30 AM

(CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST)

**PALM SUNDAY SERVICE**

10:00 AM

**WITH SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN**

**"PASSION PRAYER WALK"**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 31**

5:00 AM

**FIELD TRIP TO WESTON PRIORY**

(MEET IN DORSET CHURCH PARKING LOT TO CARPOOL)

**MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 2**

**UPPER ROOM / OPTIONAL FOOT WASHING SRV. 5:30 PM**

**AGAPE POTLUCK MEAL**

6:00 PM

**TENEBRAE SERVICE with COMMUNION**

7:00 PM

**GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 3**

12:00 PM

**THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST SERVICE**

**HOLY SATURDAY APRIL 4**

**CHILDREN'S EASTER STORY & ACTIVITY**

10:00 AM

**EASTER EGG HUNT (DORSET UNION STORE)**

11:00 AM

**EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 5**

**SUNRISE EASTER SERVICE (DORMY GRILL)**

6:30 AM

**EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE (DORSET CHURCH)**

10:00 AM

(NURSERY CARE AVAILABLE)

***TODAY at 11:15***

Join Truth and Justice Vermont in the Sunday School room to make signs for the next nationwide NO KINGS protest on March 28. We will provide poster board, cardboard, and markers. We need your creativity and your passion. Please join us!

- **Updated directories are here:** If you already have a directory binder from the 2019 directory, please replace the pages with the 2026 version. Notebook versions are available for those new to our church community. Directories will be available in the Vestry on Sundays. Otherwise, please pick up your copy at the church office.
- **Reminder:** Please respect the privacy of your fellow parishioners by NOT sharing any information beyond the church community.

## CHURCH DIRECTORY 2026

**PASTOR** ..... Rev. Dr. Mark McDonough\*  
**PASTORAL ASSISTANT** ..... Rev. Jordan (Skip) Dickinson  
**PASTORAL COUNSELOR** ..... Rev. Steve Longley  
**OFFICE MANAGER** ..... Kimberly Perkins  
**BOOKKEEPER/MANAGER'S ASSISTANT** .... Leslie Mazzucco  
**MUSIC DIRECTOR** ..... Tom Salmon  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL COORDINATOR** ..... Paula Mann Nassivera  
**CHRISTIAN ED DIRECTOR** ..... Gretchen Lima  
**SEXTONS** ..... Lynn and Pete Jennings  
**MODERATOR** ..... Al Lindsey\*  
**CLERK** ..... Elizabeth Karet\*  
**TREASURER** ..... Janet Chandler\*  
**MEMBER-AT-LARGE** ..... Lori Hong\*  
**CHURCH DELEGATES** ..... Derry Dickinson, Skip Dickinson, Dick Coss, Kris Harvey  
**MANSE LIAISON** ..... Gay and Roger Squire  
**TRUSTEES**

Phil Peterson\* (Co-Chairs), and Linda O'Leary\* (Co-Chairs), Linda Drunsic, Jack Gilbert, Sarah McClintock (Secretary), Nora Larsen, Ellen Leeds, Joel Ario, Al Lindsey (Assistant Treasurer)

### **BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

Kit Wallace (Chair), Steve Holman, Bruce Welsh

### **INVESTMENT COMMITTEE**

Phil Peterson (Chair, & Trustee Rep.), Julie Citron (Secretary), Sarah McClintock, Martha Eyman

### **STEWARDSHIP**

Joel Ario,\* (Trustee Rep.), Henry Chandler \* (A) Kit Wallace

### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Karen Allen (Staff Rep.), Jack Gilbert (Trustee Rep.), Steve Holman, Henry Chandler

### **DIACONATE**

Susan Patch-Crandall, Cheryl Gasperetti,\* Robin Chandler, Sue Westin, Todd Jorn  
Mary True, Lindy Bowden, Lee Romano, Dick Coss, Lynne Welsh Ginger Foss, Barbara Bertram

### **CHANCEL COMMITTEE** (Ad hoc committee of Deacons)

Robin Chandler, Lindy Bowden, Ginger Foss

### **MUSIC COMMITTEE**

Elizabeth Karet (A), Tom Salmon (ex officio), Roger Squire, Liz Schafer

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Paula Nassivera\* (ex officio) and Gretchen Lima\* (A) (Co-Chairs), Ann Honan, Nan Leach, Kelly Gaiotti, Emily Kohler, Ruth Stewart, Donna Fabricius

### **FELLOWSHIP**

Nora Larsen (Secretary), Betsy Olson (Treasurer), Robin Chandler (Vice President),\*  
Linda O'Leary\* (President)

### **HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE**

Kris Harvey\* (Chair) Rose Watrous, Dotty Thompson, Sara McClintock, Maggie McDonough

### **MISSION COMMITTEE**

Sandi Hedman (Trustee Rep.), Michelle Emery, Rev. Jordan (Skip) Dickinson\*

### **GREEN TEAM COMMITTEE** (Ad hoc committee of Mission Committee)

Ellen Maloney (Chair), Sandi Hedman, Nan Leach, Cindy Safier, Caroline Sargent,  
Skip Dickinson, Linda Drunsic, Ann Honan, Candace Parks, Nora Larsen

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

Rich Urso (Chair), Ellen Leeds, Paula Nassivera, Patrick Honan

### **PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Dick Coss (Deacon Rep.), Mary True, Al Lindsey, Lori Hong (Member-at-Large)

### **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

Richard Grip\* (Chair), Linda O'Leary, Betsy Olson, Alex Gray, Colleen LaChac, Dick Coss, Sandi Hedman

### **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

Patrick Honan,\* Tracie Salmon

\*Member of the Cabinet      (A) Appointed