

Congregational Church of Westminster West, Vermont

October 19, 2025

The Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Time of Gathering

Prelude: Jonah-Man Jazz, 1st movement

Michael Hurd

Call to Worship

One: Praise the God of all Creation!

**All: Worship the One who calls us--speaking with a different voice,
offering an unexpected invitation.**

One: Celebrate the presence of our loving God.

All: Rejoice, the Realm of God is near!

Opening Hymn: “Lead On Eternal Sovereign” NCH 573

Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow in your way;
loud rings your cry for justice, your call for peace this day:
Through prayerful preparation, your grace will make us strong,
to carry on the struggle to triumph over wrong.

Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow not with fear,
for in each human conflict your words of strength we hear:
That when we serve with gladness, you will not let us fall,
our trust is in your promise that love will conquer all.

Lead on eternal Sovereign, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and all your saints together will sing a hymn of peace;
Then all in your dominion will live with hearts set free,
to love and serve each other for all eternity.

Time of Confession and Prophetic Action

Prayer of Confession

All: Holy One, what a blessing and privilege we share here in this sacred space and among this loving community. But, like Jonah, we sometimes are jealous of what we share here. We know that others are longing and thirsting for what we know and experience. Forgive us our reluctance to open our doors, open our hearts to others; some like us, some not. We repent of our hesitations and unwillingness to witness to those we have considered strangers and even enemies for fear they just might become friends. We confess our sins this morning, for things we have done and other things left undone. We remember the times when we could have done better, and the times when we could not bring ourselves to reconciliation because of our pride. Hear these confessions, and the ones that are deepest in our hearts and souls... *(silence is kept)*

Assurance of Pardon

One: The one who calls us to this place calls us to reconciliation through grace. God will not deny a repentant heart or an open spirit. Know that you are forgiven and walk in the new way that is made known to you in God's love.

All: Amen!

Gloria #756

Time of Prayer

Joys and Concerns

Silent and Spoken Prayer

Lord's Prayer:

Our [Father/Mother/Creator] 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. Let us not fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Time of Reflection

Scripture Reading: The Book of Jonah

Hymn: "Jonah" (insert)

1 We sail a ship with a man named Jonah,
we sail a ship with a man named Jonah,
we sail a ship with a man named Jonah, early in the morning.

Refrain: God, our God, have mercy on us,
God, our God, have mercy on us,
God, our God, have mercy on us, early in the morning.

2 Fall on your knees, for the sea is raging....

3 Who is the guilty one among us?

4 Cast the lot, and the number's Jonah!

5 Row...Row...to save this Jonah!

6 O...God...we've got to drown him...

7 Done, and the sea has ceased its raging...

8 God, send a fish and a resurrection...

9 What shall we do when the world is drowning?

10 God, send a fish and a resurrection...

Sermon: "Jonah as Wisdom" Rev. Dr. Shawn Bracebridge

Time of Offering

Offertory: Behold! I Tell You a Mystery

G.F.Haendel

Doxology:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God for all that love has done

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One!

Dedication

Time of Commissioning

Closing Hymn: “O Grant Us, God, a Little Space” NCH 516

O grant us, God, a little space from daily tasks set free.
We meet within this holy place and find security.

Around us rolls the cease-less tide of business, toil, and care,
and scarcely can we turn aside for one brief hour of prayer.

Yet this is not the only place your presence may be found;
on daily work you shed your grace, and blessings all around.

Yours are the work-place, home, and mart, the wealth of sea and land;
the worlds of science and of art are fashioned by your hand.

Work shall be prayer, if all be wrought as you would have it done;
and prayer, by you inspired and taught, shall then with work be one.

Benediction and Commissioning

One: Go now, follow where Christ calls you and proclaim the message God
gives you.

All: Wait in hope for God.

One: Avoid becoming bound up in the busyness of the world, but live in
readiness for the in-breaking of God's Realm. And may God be your
haven and your glory; may Christ Jesus give you courage for his
mission; and may Spirit embrace your soul in God's silence.

**All: We part in peace to love and serve God, in the name of Christ!
Amen!**

Postlude: Let the Mystery Be

Iris Dement

Church and Community Notes:

As we seek a settled pastor through our search and call process, we will not be able to offer office hours as usual, but the deacons (Karen Blanchard, Charlotte Gifford, Ray Hussey, Adrienne Major and Sue Venman) are available to support the congregation. You can leave a message on the church number (802-387-1175) or you can contact a deacon directly. In case of a pastoral emergency, a deacon will call on the Rev. Shawn Bracebridge (pastor of the Dummerston UCC) and help a person in need get in contact with him.

Upcoming Events:

Oct. 26: Breakfast Church, Sue Venman

Nov. 2: All Saints, Sharon Easterling, Holy Communion

Nov. 9: Charlotte Gifford, Manna Sunday

Nov. 16: Lee Crocker

Nov. 23: Karen Blanchard

Annual Soup Sale, Fri. Nov. 28 & Sat. Nov. 29

Nov. 30, Advent 1: Lise Sparrow

Greening the Sanctuary: Sat. Dec. 6, 9 am

Dec. 7, Advent 2: David Mulholland