

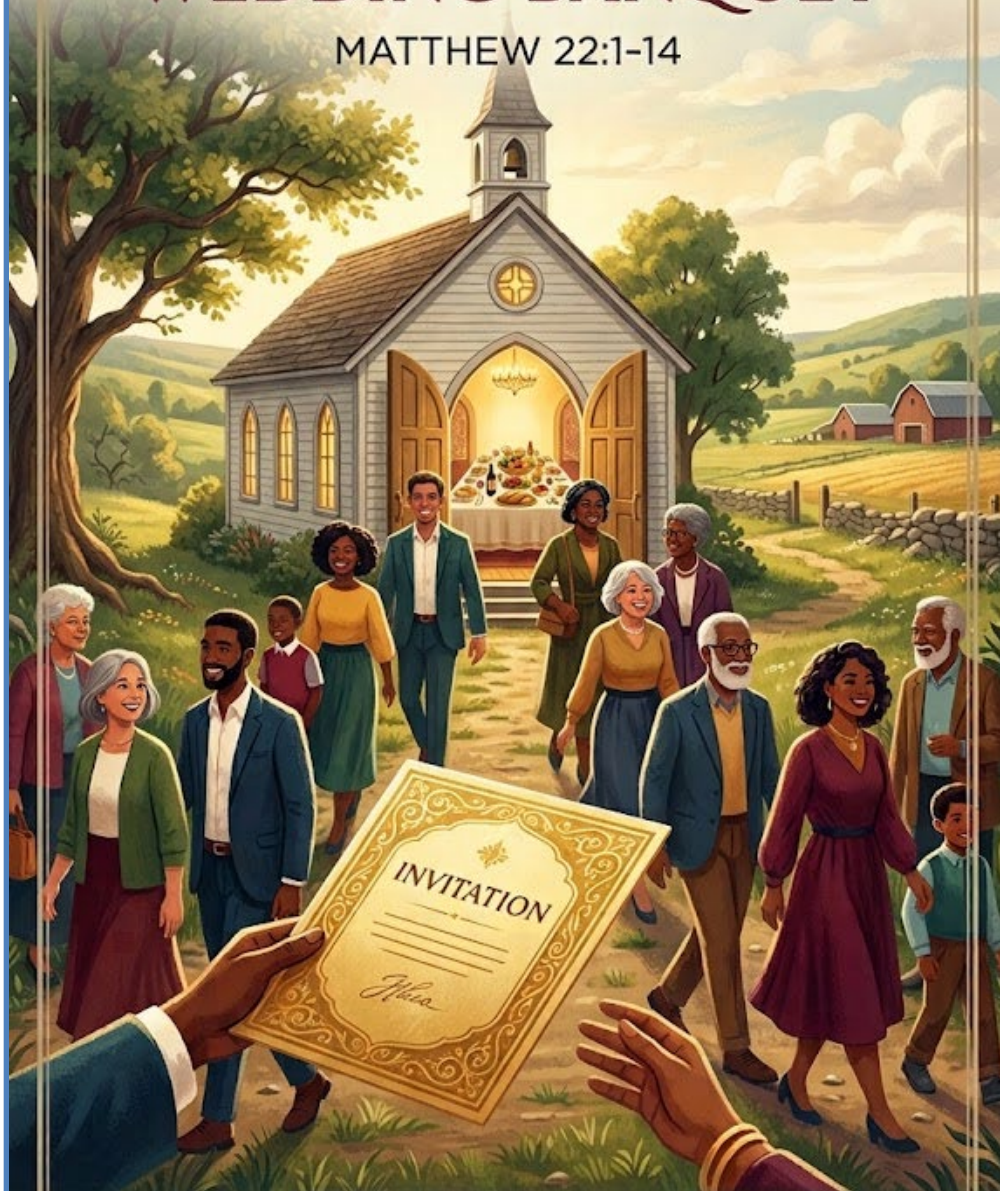
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WESTMINSTER WEST, VT



October 11, 2026

THE PARABLE OF THE WEDDING BANQUET

MATTHEW 22:1-14



All are Welcome

Welcome, Announcements, Acknowledgement of Place

Prelude: All Good Gifts (from “Godspell”)

Stephen Schwartz

Call to Worship

(Source: tinyurl.com/5c76bpht)

One: The world is filled with the glory of God, and we say,

Many: Thank you!

One: The hills and valleys are filled with color, and we say,

Many: Thank you!

One: The vines and trees are filled with fruit, and we say,

Many: Thank you!

One: Because we have food to put on the table, we say,

Many: Thank you!

One: Because we have this community that loves us, we say,

Many: Thank you!

One: We fill this house of God with our voices, saying,

Many: Thank you! May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O God,

as we enter into this service of thanksgiving and praise.

*** HYMN 4: Joyful, Joyful We Adore You**

Prayer of Confession *from South Africa* (Unison, Seated)

(Source: tinyurl.com/2p9d4c8d)

God, I pray over every meeting, conversation, and activity I engage in today. I pray that all my steps be ordered by you, that my heart and my mind always respond in obedience to your directions. I pray that I choose the way of righteousness when faced with many paths of judgment, that I will always fulfill your priorities and never allow my flesh to dictate my actions or attitudes. This day, I do all things to the glory of God, and I am fruitful in every good work. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

L: God, we are in awe of your patience, your pardon, and your presence among us—your steadfastness without bounds. Fill us with hope and overflowing love.

P: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Gloria No. 756 (As a round: unison, once; in parts, twice)**

Gloria, gloria in excelsis deo

Gloria, gloria alleluia, alleluia!

Prayers of the People

L: May the Lord be with you.

P: And also, with you.

L: Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father/Mother/Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your 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 let us not fall into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Manna Offering

Invitation to Offering

Leader: We are called to witness to the abundance in our life by sharing, so that all may have enough.

People: Just as God provided manna for God's children *daily* so will our daily needs be met.

L: We offer our gifts from God's abundance to our neighbors who live in scarcity, because it is God's desire that no one go hungry.

P: We give, giving thanks for the blessings we are now able to share.

CALL TO SHARE

WORDS OF SHARING (*unison*) from Isaiah 58: 1-2

If we feed the hungry from God's plenty and satisfy the needs of the wretched, then our light shall rise like dawn out of darkness and our dusk be like noonday. We shall be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

Hymn for Sharing "Bread in the Wilderness"

(Bring your offering for Our Place forward during the singing of the hymn, put it in the basket on the table, and return to your seat. Children may remain up front for the Message for All Ages after they make their offering.)

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

22 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: ² "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

⁴ "Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.'

⁵ “But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. ⁶ The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

⁸ “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. ⁹ So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ ¹⁰ So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ¹² He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.

¹³ “Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

¹⁴ “For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

Message: The Outward Invitation

***Hymn #42 O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing**

Offering of our Tithes and Pledges

Offertory: *Pie Jesu (from Requiem)*

Andrew Lloyd Webber, arr. Phillip Keveren

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.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn 591 This is My Song**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

Postlude: Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ - Jamaican Folk Tune, adapted by Doreen Potter, arr. John Carter

*Indicates that all who are able shall stand

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, Lee Crocker, Charlotte Gifford, Ray Huessy, 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 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. For all questions of church building use, please contact Tom Griffith.

Worship Participants:

Service Leader: David Mulholland

Musician: Eric Robinson

Deacons: Lee Crocker

Technician: Karen Blanchard

Trustees: Guy Payne, chair

Ministers to the World: The Congregation

Upcoming Worship Leaders:

Oct 18: Ray Huessy

Oct 25: TBD

Nov 1: Janet Langdon & Deacons