

**The United Church of Northfield
Welcomes You To Morning Worship
and a Service of Holy Communion**



***"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you're welcome here."***

May 2, 2010 at 10:00 A.M.

*We are a member of Vermont Conference, The United Church of Christ
and are affiliated with the National Unitarian Universalist Association and
Northern New England District of the UUA.*

Historically we are united from Congregational and Universalist roots.

The United Church of Northfield
MAY 2, 2010 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR C

Prelude & Candle Lighting

Alison Cerutti

Words of Welcome

Gathering Song: *We Are People on a Journey*

***Call To Worship:**

Leader: Let us Imagine...

Left: ... a place where all are welcome

Right: ... and everyone hears the sound of their name.

Leader: Imagine...

Left: ... everyone having enough food and water

Right: ... and a home free of hatred and fear.

Leader: Imagine...

Left: ... a place where creativity is valued

Right: ... and the spirit is nurtured in love.

Leader: Imagine...

Left: ... just imagine

Right: ... this is that place.

Leader: Let us worship the god of holy imagination and sing!

***Hymn of Praise:** "All Creatures of Our God and King" No 64 Pilgrim Hymnal

Morning Prayer: (Unison)

We praise you, O God, for the gift of creation and the surprise of re-creation.

Open our eyes to see new things. Open our minds to think fresh thoughts.

Open our communities to welcome new partners. Open our spirits to follow your Spirit. Amen.

Prayer Response: *O Day of God, Draw Near*

UCN Choir

Call to Confession:

Let us now approach our time of confession with a somber spirit and a contrite heart.

Prayer of Confession: (based on John 13: 31-35) (responsive)

Leader: Jesus said, "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

People: **But what about those with challenging personalities or who are not attractive in appearance? What about those with whom we seem to share nothing in common or who do not interest us in any way? What about our own places of unloveliness?**

Leader: Jesus said, "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

People: **What about those who disregard others and abuse creation? What about those who bring harm to community and destroy that which is good? What about the ways we, too, resist God's new creation?**

Leader: Jesus said, "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

People: **But what about those in whom the divine spark is difficult to see, those who diminish the presence of God by their unspeakable actions? What about our own actions that dim your presence?**

Words of Assurance:

Behold! God is here, in our midst, making all things new. Hopeless despair and lonely pain are no more, silent grief and sorrow disappear in God's presence. We are living in God's new creation. Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Congregation's Response:

Holy, Holy, Holy, my heart, my heart adores you!

My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy, God. Page 793 NCH(black)

Music Offering: *I Want to Be Ready*

UCN Choir

A Time With Children

Karen Taylor

Discovery Hour and nursery care are provided for children of all ages.

Scripture for the day: Acts 11: 1-18
Revelation 21: 1-6

Sermon Title: "Visions" Rev. Roger Brown

***Responsive Hymn:** "O Holy City, Seen of John" No 613 New Century Hymnal

A Service of Holy Communion: (see insert) *We offer Gluten Free Communion*

The Offering: *Today you are invited to offer your gifts to support the ministries of The United Church of Northfield and the Dolma offering. We also invite your written prayer requests.*

The Offertory

Alison Cerutti

***Doxology**

page 780 New Century Hymnal (black)

***Prayer of Dedication:** *(Unison)*

Gracious God, we add to our prayers for the lifting of Your church, with our gifts which we have brought to your house of prayer. May our church be living, loving, growing, and glowing, ever abounding in the ministry of your people. If money talks, may it say that we are faithful in our vows we have made before you. Use our gifts for your work. Amen.

***Passing of the Peace of Christ**

"May the peace of Christ be with you."

Response: "And also with you."

***Closing Hymn:** "Be Now My Vision"

No 451 New Century Hymnal

Brief Announcements

Commissioning

Leader: Go to love others as Christ loves you and to celebrate God's goodness with all of creation.

People: **We go surrounded by God's Spirit.**

Leader: The former things have gone away; God is making all things new. God dwells among us even now.

People: **We go now to help make God's dream come true.**

Benediction

Postlude

Alison Cerutti

* Denotes standing if you are able.

Please join us for a time of fellowship in Howes Hall after the worship service. This morning following worship is the All Church Spring Cleaning Day; a light lunch is provided.

Giving for April 18, 2010: 2010 Pledge Income: \$1,364; Plate Offering: \$26.50; Heifer Offering: \$6.41, Total Heifer \$300.96; Goal: A Heifer for \$500; Other: Fuel Fund \$10.

Giving for April 25, 2010: 2010 Pledge Income: \$380; Plate Offering: \$83; Heifer Offering: \$2.51, Total Heifer \$303.47; Goal: A Heifer for \$500; Other: Fuel Fund; \$10. **Thank you for your faithful giving!**

The Ministry of The United Church of Northfield

Ministers to the World: The Congregation

Secretary: Laura Ranker

Interim Pastor: The Rev. Roger Brown

Sexton: Danny Rowe

Ushers: Judy and Lauren Howard

Greeters: Esther and Philo Hardie

Choir Leadership Today:

The United Church Choir

Pianist/Organist: Alison Cerutti

Choir Director: Billie Porter

Deacon in Charge: Billie Porter

CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office Phone: 485-4431

Church e-mail: uccnorthfield@trans-video.net

Church Parsonage: 485-7380

Rev. Roger Brown Cell phone: 802-380-8198

Rev. Roger Brown email: roglb@yahoo.com

Visit us at our website: www.unitedchurchofnorthfield.org



THIS WEEK AT THE UNITED CHURCH

May 2, 2010 – May 8, 2010

- Monday: 7:00 P.M. Men's AA meets in Howe's Hall.
- Tuesday: UCN Woman's Book Group meeting is on hiatus until further notice.
6:00 P.M. Search Committee meeting in Howe's Hall
- Tues – Thurs: Rev. Brown away at the Society of Ordained Scientists retreat, at the Walker Center, Newton, Massachusetts
- Wednesday: 7:00 P.M. Women's 12 Step AA Meeting in Howe's Hall.
7:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal at the home of Billie and Larry Porter.
- Thursday: 7:15 A.M. Early Bird Bible Study at the home of the Porter's, 176 Central Street. All are welcome.
- Friday: Northfield Play Group for infants and toddlers 9:30 - 11:00; Howe's Hall.
- Sunday, May 8th: 7:00 P.M. Paine Mountain Arts Council Concert featuring pianist Alison Cerutti and violist Elizabeth Reid joined by harpist Therese E. Wunrow and flutist Hilary Goldblatt at the United Church of Northfield.
- Sunday, May 23rd Public Forum after worship on Feasibility Phase of Capital Campaign presented by David Williams. Information on projects to be addressed and dollar goal.

LENTEN STUDY SERIES:

Adult Lenten Study Series "Wrestling with Angels" Each Sunday in Lent

11:45 A.M. - 12:45 P.M. with a light lunch provided; meeting in the Pastor's Study.

HAVE THE PASTOR FOR DINNER

OF COURSE, WE ARE NOT SUGGESTING YOU SERVE HIM UP AS THE DESSERT COURSE, BUT INVITE HIM INTO YOUR HOME TO SHARE A MEAL. WHAT BETTER WAY TO HELP HIM IN GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH ALL OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY AS HE PREPARES US IN OUR SEARCH FOR A SETTLED PASTOR. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO

CONTACT THE REV. ROGER BROWN AT THE PARSONAGE (485.7380), ON HIS CELL PHONE 802.380.8198) OR BY EMAIL (**ROGLB@YAHOO.COM**) TO ARRANGE A DINNER DATE. *The Deacons.*