

# The United Church of Northfield Welcomes You To Morning Worship



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Season of Creation, Pentecost 2 2011.

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

**September 25, 2011 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 the Northern New England District of the UUA. Historically we are united from Congregational and Universalist roots.

*On the First Sunday of each month we have Communion Sunday and our Dolma Sunday Offering (sponsored child of the Tibetan Children's Village, Dharamsala, India). We offer a Gluten Free Communion option. We are handicap accessible.*



**The United Church of Northfield**  
**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Prelude & Candle Lighting**

Alison Cerutti

**Introit:** *Enter, Rejoice, and Come In*

UCN Choir

**Words of Welcome**

**\*Call To Worship:**

One: Come, let us remember God's presence with us.  
Let us give ear to all that God would teach us.

**All: Our ancestors have told us about God's might.  
They have celebrated God's wondrous deeds.**

One: In the wilderness of Sinai, God provided water.  
Through the sea, God provided safe passage.

**All: Yet the Israelites questioned God's presence.  
They needed assurance amid their doubts.**

One: Our doubts can lead to honest searching.  
God welcomes questions that seek new truth.

**All: We want to see God's larger picture.  
We are here to broaden the scope of our concerns.**

**\*Hymn of Praise:** "This is the Day" (English verses) #65 NCH

**Prayer of Invocation:** (seated, in unison): **In holy presence we gather: We move into the waters of God—deep silent pools, loud rushing rapids, strong steady rivers—as a people whose life flows from God. We listen with the waters for covenanted words and signs, that we may trust and work toward God's promises freed from fear. In holy presence, born up by the current of Spirit toward hope, we gather to worship.**

**Prayer Response:** "Hear our Prayer" (remain seated) #769 NCH

**Call to Confession:** Like the chief priests and scribes of Jesus' day, we are tempted to confuse our ways for God's ways. We trust our own authority and defend the way we live as if we have earned all that we claim as our own. We see the sins of others more readily than we see our own. Our church sometimes reflects our priorities more than the mind of Christ. We need to pray.

**Prayer of Confession:** **We fear to approach you with our confession, holy God, for you may require changes in us that our costly. You ask us to have the mind of Christ, a mind free of pretense and self-interest. You challenge us to lay aside our advantages to go where you send us. We fear loss of security if we are obedient. It is hard to see ourselves as exploiters when we pursue advantages for our families. It is difficult to consider others when we feel like victims. We confess our need for you and our desire to find your purpose for us. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance:** God accepts us in the midst of our struggles. Like a river which is made for flowing freely—so are our lives. May God’s forgiveness and transformation and vocation flow through us and flow from us, bringing life to us and all. Amen.

**The Congregation’s Response:**

Page 793 NCH

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

My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy, God.

**Music Offering:** *For the Beauty of the Earth*, by John Rutter

UCN Choir

**A Time With Children**

Pastor Sherry Baer

*(Infant and toddler care provided. Older children and youth to remain upstairs)*

**Scripture Reading:** Exodus 17:1-7

Nathan Ranker

**Responsive Psalm:** Psalm 78: vs.1-4, 12-16

Pg. 669 NCH

**Epistle Reading:** Phil 2:1-13

John Cruickshank

**Gospel Reading:** Matt 21:23-32

**Sermon:** “God’s Sustaining Presence”

Pastor Sherry Baer

**Sermon Hymn:** “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

#23 NCH

**Joys and Concerns:** *These are the joys and concerns of the people. Please share what you would like us to be praying for including a person's name if appropriate.*

**Silent Prayer:** We take a minute to be in silence to await God’s peace.

**Pastoral Prayer:** (I will pause during this prayer for those who would like to lift up loved ones by name, or other thoughts.)

**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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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**

**The Offering:** As Christ gave up selfish ambition and conceit for human beings like us, may we offer our best for sisters and brothers who need our message we can send and practical help we can provide through our offerings.

**The Offertory**

Alison Cerutti

**Doxology:**

# 780 NCH

**Prayer of Dedication:** (in unison): **We give, trusting you, O God. We empty our selfish ambitions, believing that the common good is of greater concern. We give because you have richly blessed us. We present ourselves in your service because you have gifted us in so many ways. We reach out helping hands because we care about all those you have called us to love. Bless these our gifts today and let them be used to spread your message of hope the world so needs. Amen.**

**\*Passing of the Peace of Christ:** “May the peace of Christ be with you.”

Response: “And also with you.”

**A Liturgy of Farewell to Our Bridge Pastor (see insert)**

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

#451 NCH

**Brief Announcements**

**Choral Benediction:** *The Lord Bless and Keep You*

UCN Choir

**Benediction**

Pastor Sherry Baer

**Postlude:**

Alison Cerutti

*\* Denotes standing if you are able. NCH is the New Century Hymnal with a black cover. PH is the Pilgrim Hymnal with a red cover.*

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**Please join us in Howe's Hall following the morning worship service for a special coffee hour and time of fellowship to honor Pastor Sherry Baer for her dedicated service to the United Church of Northfield in our time of transition and to wish her peace and blessings on her new endeavors.**

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**Giving for September 18, 2011:** Pledge Income: \$775; Plate Offering: \$47; Heifer Offering: \$6.10, Total Heifer \$34.80, Goal: Tree Seedlings \$180; Other: SOS: \$10.

*Thank you for your faithful giving.*

**The Ministry of The United Church of Northfield**

Ministers to the World: The Congregation

Secretary: Laura Ranker

Bridge Pastor: Sherry Baer

Sexton: Arnold Nichols

Greeters: Lorinda and Bev Dezotell

Ushers: Kevin and Kate Beal

Choir Leadership: Alison Cerutti

Pianist/Organist: Alison Cerutti

Infant Care: Naomi Herring

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Church Office Phone: 485-4431; Church e-mail: [uccnorthfield@trans-video.net](mailto:uccnorthfield@trans-video.net)

Visit us at our website: [www.unitedchurchofnorthfield.org](http://www.unitedchurchofnorthfield.org)

SOS webpage-Visit us at: [www.unitedchurchofnorthfield.org/sos](http://www.unitedchurchofnorthfield.org/sos)



**THIS WEEK AT THE UNITED CHURCH**

***September 26, 2011 to October 2, 2011***

- Mon.: Rev. Jennifer Kimball begins her ministry with the United Church of Northfield  
9 A.M. Early Bird Bible Study to be announced.  
7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. Men's AA meets in Howe's Hall.
- Wed.: 9:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. CV Building Bright Futures (play group)  
ages birth to 6 years in Howe's Hall.  
7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. Women's 12 Step AA Meeting in Howe's Hall.  
7:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal in church sanctuary.
- Thurs.: 7:00 P.M. Troop 759 Boy Scout meeting in Howe's Hall.
- Sun.: Welcome Reverend Jennifer Kimball to her first Sunday service with us as the  
new minister to the United Church of Northfield. A special fellowship hour will  
follow the morning worship service to welcome Jennifer and her family.