



Welcome to a church where everyone matters
and everyone belongs.

**Prelude
Welcome**

1/1/17

"Oh Happy Day"
Oh, happy day (Oh, happy day)
Oh, happy day (Oh, happy day)
When Jesus washed (When Jesus washed)
When Jesus washed (When Jesus washed)
My sins away! (2x)

Light of Christ

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.**

Call to Worship/Prayer

Leader: We gather in the Light that was before, is now, and ever
will be.

People: We seek the Light's ancient wisdom.

Leader: We gather in the Light that is God's continuing gift.

People: We live into the Light's new wisdom.

Leader: We gather in the Light that is our own, emerging anew
each day.

People: We seek to share this wisdom, nurtured in the Light
from Bethlehem's cradle.

Leader: Let us pray together ...

God of Light and Love, in this very moment the star still beckons.
Gather us and let the star call us to new ways of healing and hope,
restoration and renewal, as we discover again Christ's call to
discipleship.

*Opening Hymn #586 "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

Sacrament of Holy Communion

All are welcome to receive communion.

The Invitation

Prayer of Blessing/The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

***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 debts, as
we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.***

Words of Institution

Intinction

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Generous God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us
at your table by giving us the presence of Christ. In this
celebration, let Christ be the center of our lives and the bond
that binds us to you and to one another, in faith, hope and
lasting love. Go with us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Scripture Luke 2:21-38

Sermon

Rev. Robin Bird

Sharing of Joys and Concerns/Morning Prayer

Call to Offering

Offertory "I Wonder as I Wander"
Stan Possell, soloist

***Doxology**

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all
creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Closing Hymn #469 "I Am the Light of the World"**

***Benediction**

**And now may the glory and love of God surround us.
May the peace and grace of Christ dwell deep within us.
May the power and presence of the Holy Spirit uphold us.
Amen.**

Postlude "Marcho di Rei" Bizet/Traditional

*All who are able are invited to stand.

Please join us downstairs after the service
for coffee and refreshments in Fellowship Hall.

In Our Ongoing Prayers

Steve Carr, Sr.; Shirley Bryant recovering at home; Elizabeth Fry; Janina Majkowski; James Purnell; Linda Dayton; Sara Levy; Julie, friend of the Turner family; Geraldine Strong; Tim Madigan; Lorraine Grork; Pat Lazeren; Shirley McElroy; Helen Dyar; Helen Dahling; Dave Hollister; Joyce Smith; John Arthur; Brian, 11 years old, fighting cancer; Daniel Burnett-Pollack; Debbie Chase; Dick Myer; Margaret Klukas; Paul Westerberg; people struggling with mental illness, and their families; the people of Syria; Heidi Howie; Mason Bower; Michael Turner; Martha Fowler; Michael Bebrin; Cooper Doyle

*New additions in **bold print***

Today's Preludes

James Burr, Organist

"A la ru (Oh, sleep Now, Holy Baby) arr. Osterland
"We Greet Thee, Heavenly Dove" arr. Rinehart
"Morning Star, O Cheering Sight!" arr. Pethel

This Week's Activities

Council: Wednesday, January 4, 7 PM, Kellogg Hall

Sanc. Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, January 5, 7:30 PM, Kellogg Hall

Grief Support Group: Friday, January 6, 10:30 AM, Kellogg Hall

Line Dancing: Friday, January 6, 7-8:30 PM in Fellowship Hall and continuing through February. As in the past, a cost of \$2 per session will be donated to our "Pay It Forward" program. Each session will include one or two beginner lessons. We will also review previous dances and take requests. So, grab your comfortable shoes, a water bottle and join us! All are welcome. Any questions, call Millie Oliphant, 860-872-7106.

Kids Club: Saturday, January 7, 5-9 PM, Fellowship Hall

Pajama Day! If you want to be comfy and support a great cause you can wear your pajamas to church on January 8!! The Sunday School kids will be collecting \$1 per person for this honor. All proceeds will go to the Hematology Department of the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

Bible Study begins on Monday, January 9 at 11 AM in Kellogg Hall. There will be guest leaders on January 9 and 16. We will resume our study of Religious Freedom/Freedom from Religion on January 23. Everyone is welcome!

God and Country: If you have a Scout who would like to work toward their God and Country award (God and Me, grades 1-3; God and Family, grades 4-6; God and Church, grades 6-8; God and Life, grades 9-12), please contact Debi Hockenberry. A new series will start on January 15 and she'd like to purchase the booklets, make schedules, etc.

Meatloaf Dinner: Friday, January 20 from 5 to 6:30 PM, sponsored by the Ways and Means Committee. The menu will include potato, roasted veggies, gravy, parfait and beverage. Cost - \$12/adult; \$6/child

The **Care Network** is offered by the Deacons as a helping hand during difficult times. If you are in need of a ride to church, the doctor, hospital, grocery store, etc., in need of meals or a visit, contact Cheryl Purnell, 860-712-8124 or Sue Pilkons, 860-875-4122.

Teddy Bear Ministry: Teddy Bears are sitting in the pews for you to take and give or send to someone in need of a bit of caring love. In order to keep this ministry going, we are asking for monetary donations to the Women's Fellowship Teddy Bear Ministry Fund or you may buy a bear (10"-12") and leave it in the Church Office. Contact Joanne Myer at 860-872-9222 or jmyer0146@yahoo.com if you have questions.

Child Care is available for church activities when notice is given 3 days prior to the event. Call Child Care Coordinator, Jen Jensen, 860-836-5824.

To request a visit with the pastor, please call the Church Office, 860-875-7580.

Church Office	860-875-7580
Email	church.secretary@firstchurchofvernon.org
Website	www.firstchurchofvernon.org