
Subject: Pastor's Weekly Email

From: News from FCCV (lists@firstchurchofvernon.org)

To:

Date: Friday, April 28, 2017 11:25 AM

Family and Friends of FCCV,

We continue in our season of Eastertide! Are you still celebrating the Risen Christ? We truly have a lot to celebrate in our lives. I pray that you will take time today to give thanks to God for all those who love you, and for all that you have. "Every good gift, every perfect gift, comes from above." (James 1:17) God gave us the best gift – Jesus – so let's continue to celebrate in this season of Easter!



Sunday, our scripture text comes from Acts - a sequel to Luke's gospel. The scriptures we'll be reading are found in chapters 6 and 7. I know ... it seems like a lot of scripture to read, but it tells the story of Stephen. (I promise I won't be reading all 2 chapters of the text on Sunday!)

Stephen is chosen, along with 6 other men, to continue "proclaiming God's word" because he had exceptional faith. *"Stephen, who stood out among the believers for the way God's grace was at work in his life and for his exceptional endowment with divine power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people."* Wouldn't you know there were those who just didn't like what Stephen was doing and the attention God was getting, so they falsely accused him of insulting Moses and God. He was dragged before the Jerusalem Council and asked if these accusations were true. Stephen's response – which was quite the sermon – enraged them so much that they dragged him out and stoned him! (I'm praying the response to my sermon on Sunday goes much better!)

I believe we can see ourselves in Stephen's story ... sometimes we may be emboldened by our faith and we stand up and speak out ... and other times we may be enraged by what we are hearing. Ask God to open your heart to receive the message God is telling us through Stephen's story.

Come and experience God with us this Sunday!

God's love and mercy never fails!

Grace be to y'all,
Robin

Prelude to the Preludes



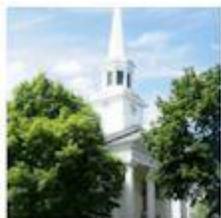
The book of Acts tells of the struggles of the early Christian church and in this Sunday's reading Stephen says: "The Most High does not dwell in houses made by human hands; as the prophet says: 'Heaven is my throne, and earth is the footstool of my feet...'" My preludes reflect several notions of where Jesus 'resides.' You'll hear original pieces entitled "Within My Heart He Dwells," "Here Faith Abides" and "How Dear to Me Is Your Dwelling." Other tunes you will recognize, like "In Heavenly Love Abiding," "In Christ There Is No East Nor West" and "The Church's One Foundation." Thomas Chesterton arranged "How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place" from Brahms' German Requiem.

The postludes use the metaphor of a rock for Jesus, being the base of His church on earth. Edward Broughton arranged both "Built on a Rock" and "The Solid Rock." ---James

Reminders....

Lasagna Dinner tonight from 5-6:30 PM. Adults \$12, Kids, \$6

Tag Sale tomorrow from 9 AM-2 PM



News from FCCV

First Congregational Church of Vernon - UCC
695 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, CT 06066

Office: 860-875-7580

Website: www.firstchurchofvernon.org

To be sure you receive our regular mailings and emergency announcements please add lists@firstchurchofvernon.org to your Contacts.

Attachments

- clip_image002.jpg (10.88KB)
- clip_image004.png (53.18KB)
- sigimg0.sigimg0 (11.14KB)