SILENT MEDITATION

God's Grandeur
Gerard Manley Hopkins

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not reck his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

FIRST SUNDAY OF Advent

The United Church of Dorset & East Rupert
143 Church Street, Dorset, VT 05251
PO Box 263
802-867-2260
dorsetchurch@gmail.com,
www.dorsetchurch.org,
Office Hours: Monday -Thursday 8-4,
Friday 8-12

All people are welcome here



~ WORSHIP SERVICE ~ NOVEMBER 29, 2026 ~ FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES AND SMART WATCHES DURING THE SERVICE

NURSERY CARE AND CHURCH SCHOOL

Babies and children are invited, welcomed, and encouraged in our worship services. Worship bags filled with activities are available in the narthex for use during the service, and a rocker is located at the back of the sanctuary for parents with babies and toddlers. A small nursery area downstairs in the Vestry, with a livestream of the service, is also available for parents who wish to stay with their children. Children in Pre-K through grade 7 are invited to join us downstairs for church school following the children's message.

PRELUDE *Savior of the Nations, Come* Andreas Nikolaus Vetter

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. Mark McDonough

ENTER THE FLAME & THE WORD

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE: Lisa May and Sean Bottomms

***HYMN** #128 *One Candle Is Lit (vs.1)*

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rich Grip

Almighty God,
you pour out your spirit of grace and supplication on all who desire it. Deliver us from cold hearts and wandering thoughts, that with steady minds and burning zeal we may worship and enjoy you and the company of our fellow saints and sinners, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: As far as the East is from the West, so far has God removed our sins from us.
Friends, hear and receive the Good News, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
With the power of the Holy Spirit, we are being made new.
People: Alleluia! Amen!

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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.

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: Since God has made us the blessed community, the Church, let us greet one another with the peace and joy of Christ. The peace and joy of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

***RESPONSE** #34 *Glory to God*
Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

CHOIR ANTHEM *People, Look East* Besancon carol melody, Malcom Archer, arr.

PRAYER OF PASTORAL CARE
God of Peace, **hear our prayer**

***HYMN** #122 *Comfort, Comfort You My People*

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11, Mark 1:1-8 Candace Parks

SERMON Taking Flight .

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Cradle Hymn* Alice Jordan

***DOXOLOGY** #46

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Use this QR code to donate

CLOSING HYMN #125 *Come, O Long-expected Jesus*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Invention in D minor* J. S. Bach

The flowers this morning are given by Annabelle Liu, in loving memory of my dear father, Shuyan Liu, and in gratitude for the love and support of our church family.
Our thanks to today's coffee hour hosts, Donna Fabricius, Nan Leach
Caroline Sargent, and Jean Kingston;
liturgist, Rich Grip;
scripture reader, Candace Parks;
Advent candle lighters, Lisa May and Sean Bottomms;
deacons and ushers, Lynne and Scott Welsh and Karl White;
tech crew, Chris Lima, Patrick Honan, Puck Bell, and Jade Lilith-Streeter.

PRAYER LIST: Our prayer list is a network of love and faith in the power of prayer. We receive these names from members and friends of our church who hold these individuals up in their own prayer life for God's healing and strength upon them.

IMMEDIATE NEEDS PRAYER CONCERNS: Platt Herrick; George Bush; Bill Gaudet; Marietta White; Larry Cochran; Kylee Heingartner; Nuni; Dale Coppin; Clara Miller; Charlotte, Harlan and Chelsea; Tracy Breeyear; Linelle Pike; Bill Auperlee; Joe McVicker; Fran Wilwol; Andy Longacre; Alice Leary; Tim Velie; Flora Gallup; Joe and Norma Will; Tommy and Tracie Salmon; Katherine Buchmayr; Jennifer Salmon; Cindy O'Leary; Stephen and Maria Cummins; Gretchen Lima; Oliver Fox Buckner; Ann Troumbley; Cathy Condon; Mark Cassidy; Jimmy Weiss; Jeff Duel; Robin Hoag; Damon Wilder; Howard Day; Robby Littlewood; Tom Drunsic; Jim Goodwin; Donna Tonic; friends and family of Patricia A. Perkins; in the Dorset Church, for our choir; in the Vermont Conference, for Grace Congregational Church (Rutland) and their pastor, Rev. Terry Hanley.

LONG-TERM PRAYER CONCERNS: Staff Sargent Houston Wood and family; Larry Cochran; Marianne Bacon; Jonathan Dickinson; Sarah Faith Dickinson; Norma O., Craig, Jaxson, and Jacob Smith; Diane; Millie Holland; Michael Chambers; Patrick Denis; Dody Marcotte; Eric Parks; Kris; Kay Kwasniewski; Elizabeth LaBerge; Dottie Hinkle; Chip Wilson; Hazel Prouty; James Jankowski; Jameson Gray Pelton; Evelyn Tobin; Cassia Duran; Rich; George Smith; Jack; Judy Dunn; Alan Wiegand; Steve and Val Smith.



SECOND HOUR TODAY AT 11:30

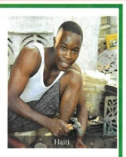
This Second Hour class will be presented by Keith Michl on **Personal Family Health Planning and Decision Making.** This life transition planning session will present an opportunity for everyone in our church to understand how to plan for changes in our lives, no matter where on life's path we are.

There will be time in this Second Hour for questions and discussion.

November 29 - First Sunday of Advent
*Make an ornament for our Christmas Eve Family Service, during coffee hour
December 2
Dorset Green Community Tree Lighting & Church Chili Potluck, 5pm
December 5
Fair Trade SERRV sale, 9am-2pm
December 6 - Second Sunday of Advent
*Fair Trade SERRV sale, 11am-12noon
December 8
Fellowship Christmas Celebration & Annual Meeting (potluck), 12pm
December 13 - Third Sunday of Advent
*Living Nativity Christmas Pageant during worship
* Post pageant coffee, cider, and Christmas cookies in vestry
*Sankta Lucia Concert, 5:00 pm (free will offering)
December 20– Fourth Sunday of Advent
*Brass Quintet during worship
*Fair Trade SERRV sale, 11am-12noon
December 24 – Christmas Eve
*Family Worship Service, 4:30pm
*Communion Worship, 8pm
December 27- Lessons and Carols
January 10 - Epiphany Sunday
*All-church Epiphany Party (soup and salad luncheon), 11am



ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR





FAIR TRADE CRAFTS FROM SERRV INTERNATIONAL



Gifts Through:

Habitat For Humanity
Heifer International
Asian Rural Institute





AT THE

DORSET CHURCH





SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5
9:00 am - 2:00 pm
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6
11:00 am - 12:00 pm





All images from SERRV.ORG

BENNINGTON COUNTY *Choral* SOCIETY

SUN, 12/13 AT 3PM
ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BENNINGTON, VT
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, BENJAMIN APRIL

A HOLIDAY CONCERT OF BRITISH CHORAL MUSIC

FEATURING "GLORIA," BY JOHN RUTTER



PLUS PIECES BY HOLST, VAUGHN WILLIAMS & OTHERS

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:
BENNINGTONCOUNTYCHORALSOCIETY.COM
ADULTS $20 IN ADVANCE / $25 AT THE DOOR



Aldi's Bus Trip

Friday, December 18, 2026

Meet at the Dorset Church

at 9:00 a.m.

News of the Larger Church

The Rev. John Eliot arrived from England to the New World in 1631, learned the local Native American language, and began to preach his Christian faith to them. In 1651, by order of the Massachusetts General Court, Natick was established as the first Praying Indian village. The town was set apart for the Praying Indians. In the beginning, there were 51 inhabitants of the Natick Praying Indian Village, the first Indigenous Christian town in the country. Today, the Natick Praying Indian Church celebrates 375th Anniversary with other local churches.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Deacons, December 13 @ 11:30

PFLAG, December 13 from 2-4

Trustees, December 15 @ 3:30

The Dorset Group hosts an open meeting for Alcoholics Anonymous here at the Dorset Church in the vestry every Monday at 8:00pm.

All are welcome.

If you would like to receive a daily devotional, please go to https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/

The Green Team is sponsoring a puzzle swap on **December 6 during coffee hour.** This will be a good time to get some new puzzles and leave your already completed puzzles. Please don't bring them before December 6. Any questions, please contact Linda Drunsic at 802-362-1513.



GREEN TEAM ANNOUNCES



BUY A TAG AT THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE RANGER STATION

(RTE. 11&30 MANCHESTER)

FOR $5.00.

CUT YOUR OWN TREE IN THE NATIONAL FOREST.

CONTACT ELLEN MALONEY

FOR QUESTIONS OR DIRECTIONS,

802-867-0115.

IT'S FUN!

Join Us for Free Winter Yoga Classes

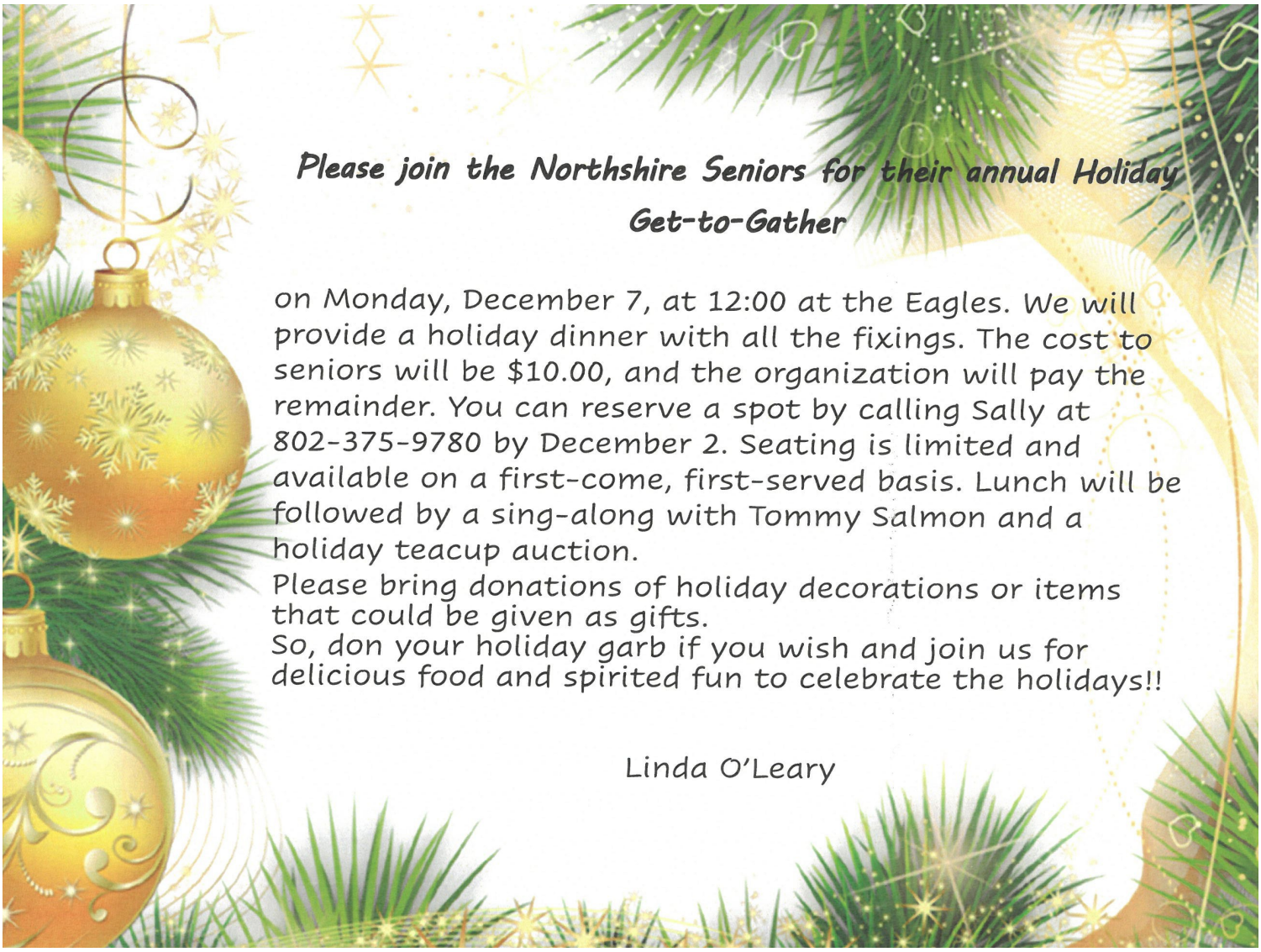
Registered Nurse and Registered Yoga Teacher Desiree Hensel will offer free yoga classes this winter in the Pastoral Chapel.

Hatha Yoga, Saturdays, 8:30–9:30 AM, continues December 5. This is a mixed-level practice with physical postures and breathwork. Please bring a mat and any props you enjoy using.

Chair Yoga for Brain Longevity also continues Thursdays, December 3 and 10, from 9-9:50. We will pause through the holidays and start back in January on Thursdays, January 7 through February 11. This is a supportive, accessible class based on the Alzheimer's Research and Prevention Foundation curriculum, which includes seated and standing poses, the Kirtan Kriya meditation, and brief discussions on modifiable risk factors for cognitive decline.

Questions? Call 812-606-6078 or email hensel-nursinged@gmail.com.





Hello from Sunday School and Christian Ed

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

11/29 - Check out the Advent wreath on our ornament - making table in the vestry! Our SS children had fun making these last week.

Thank you to Emily Kohler for helping to set up and make the lovely sample angel ornaments on display to inspire us to make more!

We'll be lighting our first candle of Hope today.

12/2 - CE Committee is again hosting our popular Soup & Chili potluck after the annual 5pm Tree Lighting on the Dorset Green. All are welcome, and the more, the merrier!

We are looking for donations of your favorite soups, chilis, breads, or desserts to share. Please see sign-up sheet in Vestry, or email Paula at paulamnassivera@gmail.com.

12/13- Living Nativity performance with our Sunday School children during worship.

How to have an Eco-Friendly holiday (from the Green Team)

When planning a green Christmas, focus on swapping synthetic décor and disposable paper for compostable, reusable, and locally sourced alternatives. Here are a few suggestions:

The Tree and Greenery

- Choose a real, local tree: cut trees from a nearby farm or local forestry area. Afterward, donate your tree to a local farmer or take to a chipping/mulching station.
- Try a potted, living tree: buy a small evergreen in a pot to decorate indoors for a couple of weeks, then plant it in your yard in the spring.
- Decorate a tree in your yard for the birds: use bird - friendly (and edible) all-natural ornaments and garlands.
- Forage your décor: gather fallen pinecones, birch branches, and winterberry and evergreen boughs for mantels and centerpieces instead of using plastic garlands.

Sustainable Gift Wrapping

- Use fabric: wrap boxes in thrifted scarves, linen tea towels, or scrap cotton fabric tied in simple knots – the wrap becomes part of the gift.
- Repurpose paper you already have: brown craft paper, old maps, sheet music, comics, old wallpaper, or children's artwork make great, fully recyclable wrapping paper.
- Skip plastic tape and ribbons. Secure packages with natural jute twine, raffia, or cotton ribbon, and tuck in a sprig of rosemary or cedar instead of plastic bows.

Natural Ornaments and Lighting

- Make edible or compostable ornaments: string together popcorn and cranberries, bake salt dough shapes, or dehydrate thin slices of oranges to string up in windows and catch the light.
- Switch to LED lights: if you need new string lights, choose warm, white LEDs – they use up to 80% less energy than incandescent bulbs and last much longer. Put them on a smart plug or timer so they aren't on all night.
- Burn beeswax candles: replace paraffin candles (which are petroleum based) with pure beeswax tapers for a warm glow and subtle honey scent.

Thoughtful Gifting and Entertaining

- Prioritize experiences and consumables: gift local maple syrup, artisanal cheeses, baked goods, concert tickets, or state park passes to avoid clutter and packaging waste.
- Skip disposable tableware: use real plates, cloth napkins, and glassware for holiday gatherings instead of paper or plastic partyware.
- Avoid holiday clothing purchases: re-wear festive outfits from previous holidays or thrift shop for something "new."

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING AND CAROL SING-A-LONG
AT THE DORSET GREEN
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2 ~ 5:00PM
Potluck Chili and Soup Dinner to follow in the Dorset Church Vestry.
ALL ARE WELCOME

The community is invited to attend the Holiday Tree Lighting and Carol-Sing-along, along with The Dorset Church family and friends. Our Potluck Chili and Soup Dinner will follow at the church vestry. All are welcome to bring a soup or chili to share, and join us in bringing in the Christmas season with peace, joy, and friendship. (The church provides the drinks, bread, and dessert)



CHURCH DIRECTORY 2026

PASTOR ….. Rev. Dr. Mark McDonough*
OFFICE MANAGER ….. Kimberly Perkins
BOOKKEEPER/MANAGER'S ASSISTANT …. Leslie Mazzucco
MUSIC DIRECTOR ….. Tommy Salmon
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR ….. Paula Mann Nassivera
SEXTONS ….. Lynn and Pete Jennings
MODERATOR ….. Al Lindsey*
CLERK ….. Elizabeth Karet*
TREASURER …. Janet Chandler*
ASSISTANT TREASURER ….. Al Lindsey*
MEMBER-AT-LARGE …..
CHURCH DELEGATES ….. Derry Dickinson, Skip Dickinson, Dick Coss, Kris Harvey
MANSE LIAISON ….. Gay and Roger Squire

TRUSTEES
Phil Peterson* (Co-chair), and Linda O'Leary* (Co-chair), Linda Drunsic, Jack Gilbert, Sarah McClintock, Nora Larsen, Ellen Leeds, Joel Ario, Julie Citron

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE
Kit Wallace (Chair), Steve Holman, David McAneny, Scott Welsh, Scott Russell, Eric Emery

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE
Phil Peterson (Chair &Trustee Rep.), Julie Citron (Secretary), Sarah McClintock, Martha Eyman, Janet Chandler

STEWARDSHIP
Joel Ario*, Nora Larsen (Trustee Rep.), Henry Chandler * (A) Kit Wallace

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
Karen Allen (Staff Rep.), Jack Gilbert (Trustee Rep.), Steve Holman, Henry Chandler

DIACONATE
Susan Patch-Crandall, Cheryl Gasperetti, Robin Chandler*, Sue Westin, Todd Jorn
Mary True (Co-chair), Lindy Bowden, Lee Romano, Dick Coss, Lynne Welsh (Co-chair), Ginger Foss, Barbara Bertram

CHANCEL COMMITTEE (Ad hoc committee of Deacons)
Robin Chandler, Lindy Bowden, Ginger Foss

MUSIC COMMITTEE
Elizabeth Karet, Tommy Salmon (ex officio), Roger Squire, Lynne Welsh (A)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Paula Nassivera* (ex officio), Ann Honan, Ruth Stewart, Kelly Gaiotti, Emily Kohler

FELLOWSHIP
Nora Larsen (Secretary), Betsy Olson (Treasurer), Robin Chandler (Vice President),*
Linda O'Leary* (President)

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE
Maggie McDonough* (Chair), Dotty Thompson, Sara McClintock, Judy Dunn, Betty Hazelton, Nora Larsen, Judy Kernodle; Nan Leach, Caroline Sargent, Gail Brodie, Candace Parks, Rich Urso, Barbara Urso, Sunny Velie

MISSION COMMITTEE
Sandi Hedman, Michelle Emery, Rev. Jordan (Skip) Dickinson*, Janet Chandler, Richard Urso (Chair)

GREEN TEAM COMMITTEE (Ad hoc committee of Mission Committee)
Ellen Maloney (Chair), Sandi Hedman, Nan Leach, Cindy Safier, Caroline Sargent,
Skip Dickinson, Linda Drunsic, Ann Honan, Candace Parks, Nora Larsen

TRUTH AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE (Ad hoc committee of Mission Committee)
Rich Urso (Chair), Ellen Leeds, Paula Nassivera, Patrick Honan

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Dick Coss (Deacon Rep.)

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Richard Grip* (Chair), Linda O'Leary, Betsy Olson, Alex Gray, Colleen LaChac, Dick Coss, Sandi Hedman

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
Patrick Honan*, Tracie Salmon, Sue Westin

*Member of the Cabinet (A) Appointed