

The Congregational Church of South Hero, U.C.C.



4th Sunday of Easter
April 26, 2026

9:30 AM

Rev. Dr. Michael W. Galica

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

A few things about our church...

- ❖ A **restroom** is in the back area of the church by the closets. Additional restrooms and a **changing table** are available downstairs.
- ❖ A **supervised nursery** is downstairs for children ages 5 and under.
- ❖ **Bold type** in the bulletin indicates a response by all.
- ❖ An * (**asterisk**) notes an invitation to stand in body or spirit, as you are able.
- ❖ Hymns marked **NCH** are in the **black New Century Hymnal**.
Hymns marked **W&R** are in the **green Worship & Rejoice** hymnal.

Preparing for Worship

Prelude

Ringing the Church Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Gathered as One

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

Invocation

Pastor Mike

God who is Shepherd, Gate, and Way, we join together as a community in your presence and in your protection. Shield us from apathy and isolation. Fortify us against resignation and despair. Nudge us toward justice and righteousness in your name. As we gather to worship you, may we be transformed by your love, strengthened in grace, and rooted in faith for your glory and your kin-dom come.

Amen

Introit

Chorale Choir

Call to Worship

Mark Kennedy

The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us enter with thanksgiving and praise!

The Shepherd restores our souls, satisfies our needs, and leads us on the right path.

The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us live with courage and conviction not fear and timidity.

Through valleys and storms, chaos and confusion, threats and concerns, the Shepherd comforts us with power and strength, love and compassion, hope and peace.

The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us worship in the presence of the Holy One!

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all our days of my life. Let us dwell in God's presence forever!

*Gathering Hymn

“The Strife is O'er”

NCH #242

Prayer of Confession

Mark Kennedy

Shepherd of our lives, like sheep, we wander and stray. We come to you for sustenance yet distance ourselves from your realm when you require more from us.

We bite one another with words that cut and attitudes that reflect more apathy than care. We lie down and become stuck when you would expand our territory and sphere of belonging.

We give you thanks for not giving up on us and continuing to lead us by your Spirit. Give us courage and confidence to do your will and to love with our lives.

We devote ourselves anew to your teaching, to community, to the sacramental life, and to prayer. Lead us in the ever full and renewed life in Christ. Amen.

*A time of silence to contemplate these words
and how they apply to us personally and as a community of faith.*

Assurance of Pardon and Grace

Pastor Mike

Beloved, the Shepherd cares for you and rejoices whenever you turn back to follow God's holy way. Life in the promise of glorious, flourishing life and the kin-dom of God manifested on earth. There is no detour you may take where the Shepherd cannot find you and urge you back into their loving embrace. You are redeemed and restored in Christ. Receive the goodness of God whose grace is sufficient and available for you to begin anew.

Amen.

Our Celebration

“Christ Arose!”

W&R #294 v3

**Death cannot keep his prey—Jesus my Savior,
He tore the bars away—Jesus my Lord!**

**Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
He arose a victor from the dark domain,
And he lives forever with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!**

Proclaiming God's Word

Time with Young People

Pastor Mike

Prayer for Illumination

Mark Kennedy

Hebrew Scripture

Ezekiel 34:7-15

Pew Bible p 702

Psalms

Psalms 100 (CEB)

Read by All

Shout triumphantly to the LORD, all the earth!

Serve the LORD with celebration!

Come before him with shouts of joy!

Know that the LORD is God—he made us; we belong to him.

We are his people, the sheep of his own pasture.

Enter his gates with thanks; enter his courtyards with praise!

Thank him! Bless his name!

Because the LORD is good, his loyal love lasts forever;

his faithfulness lasts generation after generation.

Epistle

1 Peter 2:19-25

Pew Bible p 984

Response

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“With A Voice of Singing” by Martin Shaw Chancel Choir

Gospel

John 10:1-10

Pew Bible p 872

Response

This is the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Message

“God who Searches for Sheep”

Pastor Mike

*Sermon Hymn

“God Is My Shepherd”

NCH #479

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Pastor Mike

We offer our prayers through Christ, who lives and reigns forever, and prays for us in heaven. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Through Christ, we pray for the church...Help us to follow Christ more faithfully, heeding the voice of our good shepherd and inviting others into his abundant life. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Through Christ, we pray for the earth... Restore green pastures and still waters; drive away death and lead us in right paths, for the sake of the world you so love. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Through Christ, we pray for all nations... Save us from our own corruption; speak your life-giving promise to all your children, near and far. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Through Christ, we pray for this community... Increase goodwill among all peoples. Show us what we have in common and give us a shared vision of abundant life. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Through Christ, we pray for loved ones... Shelter all who are threatened and abused, give peace to those who are suffering, and comfort those who are in pain. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of all power and glory, receive these prayers, and continue your mighty work among us, through Jesus Christ, our living Lord, who taught us to pray...

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

Responding to God's Work

Invitation to Generosity

Pastor Mike

Community of faith, let us hold true to the ethos of the early church and hold "all things in common" (Acts 2:4). Let us share our abundance to enjoy shared life, to meet the needs among us, and to demonstrate our commitment to the kin-dom of God.

Offertory

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.

CREATOR, CHRIST and Holy Ghost.

(sing the ending you are more comfortable with)

Praise FATHER, SON and Holy Ghost. Amen

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Generous God, may these gifts bless our life together, fortify our ministry, and transform our community. Receive them as we give them—with gladness and thanksgiving. Amen.

Sent Forth in God's Name

*Sending Hymn "All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

NCH #7

*Benediction

Beloved, as you go, note the encouragement of the Shepherd:
The Gate is open and with you.

In your coming and going, the Shepherd leads you.

Go, have life and have it abundantly.

In the Name of God: Parent, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

*Benediction Song

"Alleluia No. 1"

W&R #291

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name!

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.

He is the King of creation.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name!

*Dismissal

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

Go in peace to love and serve God.

Thanks be to God!

Liturgy adapted from "Worship Ways", *Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ* and "Call to Worship", published by the Office of Theology and Worship of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in partnership with the Presbyterian Association of Musicians.



Thank you for joining us today and to Mike, our Pastor. Thank you to our reader Mark Kennedy, organist Mary Jane Wirsing and our Chancel choir with director Diantha Howard.

Announcements

No Sunday School today April 26th and May 10th



Join us for coffee every Sunday following worship. Thank you to Kelsey Dickson for hosting today.



Liturgist. Reader. Volunteer. Do you want to add your voice to worship? Looking for people, young and not so young, to serve as liturgists. A sign-up sheet is on the table in fellowship hall near the nametag drop off. Leave your name/contact info and even check off a Sunday if you have a preference. It's easy. Everything is written down for you and emailed to you before your Sunday

Welcome Mission Project; our goal is 4-6 complete baskets monthly with:

- laundry basket(new)
- laundry detergent (unscented & sensitive skin)
- clothes hangers (new)
- Shower curtain liner
- curtain rings
- toilet brush set

Leave items on back counter in fellowship hall.

Unable to attend Sunday worship in person? Don't miss out! LIVE on YouTube. <https://tinyurl.com/CCSHLive> The bulletin is posted on our webpage.

Nametags are encouraged. Need one? Lost one? Let Margaret know.

Tuesday nights from 7-8pm LECTIONARY GROUP - a small zoom gathering to discuss the scriptures for the following Sunday.

Elise at ewhittem@gmail.com

****See the E News for more complete announcements****



Today! Pastor Mike's Installation

2:00 PM Service

You are invited along with members of the VT UCC Conference, and the Champlain Association, to support Mike who has been called to be our Pastor. Offertories received at the service will be shared by local mission work of CSH and with the Champlain Association.

Reception immediately following.

Congregational Church of South Hero, U.C.C.

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Pastor Mike's office hours for the week are posted outside his office.

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