

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



5th Sunday of Easter

May 3, 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 a time it is appropriate 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

Holy and Living God, build us into a spiritual house, a gathering of witnesses for the world and in the world to declare your goodness, to follow in your way, to do the work of your hands, voice, and heart. Renew our spirits as we worship you and bask in your presence. Fill us with your Spirit that we collectively proclaim ourselves as your people, called to the fullness of your glorious and radiant being.

Amen

Introit “Allelu, Allelu, Allelu, Alleluia”

Young People, Chancel Choir & Congregation

Call to Worship

Rob Althoff

In You, Holy One, we seek sanctuary. In you, Sovereign God, we seek refuge.

Holy One, for your name’s sake lead us and guide us.

You are indeed our rock and our fortress. Our times are in your hands.

Strengthen us in your righteousness.

Holy One, for your name’s sake lead us and guide us.

Shine upon us this day as we worship you. Saturate us in your steadfast love.

Holy One, for your name’s sake lead us and guide us.

Prayer of Confession

Rob Althoff

Redeemer of our lives, we come to you knowing that we participate in a world often crushed by tyranny and evil. Our hearts are troubled, overwhelmed, and dismayed. At times, we feel helpless and hopeless by the enormity of the problems presenting all around us. We believe the lie of the enemy that there is nothing that we can do or that someone else is the one to do it.

May you, Holy and Righteous One, be glorified in the tumbling of walls cemented in evil and fortified by hate. For this, we pray for courage and resolve to do the works needed in this hour. For this, we pray for faith, trust, and hope to believe that the realm of the possible eclipses the narrow places of improbability. For this, we pray for the boldness to pray for what the world needs and more than our imaginations may hold. 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

Chosen of God, receive the mercy of God, who calls you from despair into hope, from suffering into repair, from hopelessness into resolve. God has given you capacity for strength and compassion. The Holy One journeys with you. Grace is available for you. Know that your prayers are met and amplified by the Spirit, and Christ will lead the way to life and love everlasting on earth as in heaven.

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

Rob Althoff

Hebrew Scripture

Proverbs 4:10-18

Pew Bible p 512

Psalm

Psalm 119:9-16 (CEB)

Read by All

How can young people keep their paths pure?

By guarding them according to what you've said.

I have sought you with all my heart.

Don't let me stray from any of your commandments!

I keep your word close, in my heart, so that I won't sin against you.

You, Lord, are to be blessed! Teach me your statutes.

I will declare out loud all the rules you have spoken.

I rejoice in the content of your laws

as if I were rejoicing over great wealth.

I will think about your precepts and examine all your paths.

I will delight in your statutes;

I will not forget what you have said.

Epistle

1 Peter 2:2-10

Pew Bible p 984

Response

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

"Simple Gifts" by Carl Strommer

Chancel Choir

Gospel

John 14:1-14

Pew Bible p 877

Response

This is the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Message

"K.I.S.S."

Pastor Mike

*Sermon Hymn

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

NCH #493

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... Be our way, our truth, our life. As you have come to us in Christ, lead us, through Christ, to come to you. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Through Christ, we pray for the earth... Show us how precious your creation is—from the great wonders of the world to small things, deemed of little worth. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Through Christ, we pray for all nations... Protect those who are attacked or persecuted because of who they are or what they believe. Provide for the peace and safety of all people. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Through Christ, we pray for this community... Give shelter to those who have no homes. Comfort those whose hearts are troubled. Help the lost to find their way. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Through Christ, we pray for loved ones... Be merciful to those who need your mercy; let them know that they are yours, precious, chosen, and beloved.

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.

Amen.

Responding to God's Work

Invitation to Generosity

Pastor Mike

Generous ones, you bear the image of the Generous God, who has provided for all needs and gives good gifts. Accept the invitation to share, sacrificially and from abundance, resources needed in this community and by our neighbors throughout the world for the glory 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 the gifts that we bring reflect the image we bear.
Be glorified through our generosity and the meeting of needs among
and beyond us. Amen.**

Gathering at God's Table

Welcome to the Table of the Lord. In this church all persons who are open to the Holy Spirit, who seek to grow in Christian love, and who choose to serve in the name of Jesus are welcome to participate. Our bread is gluten-free; our cup is grape juice.

Great Thanksgiving

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Communion Prayer & Words of Institution

Blessed are you, O God: You are a rock of refuge and a strong fortress for us. In times of trouble and seasons of shame you deliver us, for you are our redeemer, our faithful God. Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior: he is the way, the truth, and the life. He goes ahead of us, to make a place for us in your house. We believe in you and we trust in him to lead us home.

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this to remember me."

In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, to remember me."

By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup; make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. Build us up, like living stones, into a spiritual house, and let us be your chosen people, your royal priesthood, proclaiming your mighty and marvelous work. Through Jesus Christ, 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**

Distribution

We receive Holy Communion by intinction. As you come forward at the instruction of a deacon, receive the bread from the pastor. Continue to the deacon on the side you are seated and dip the bread in the cup. If you consume the bread before you dip, please ask the pastor for another. Return to your seat via the side aisles.

Prayer after Communion

Holy One, thank you for this feast at your table. As we receive bread and cup, may we encounter your grace and be filled with your love. May we go forward from this table with great joy, ever seeking your resurrecting presence among us and discerning your call for us to be present for our neighbors in the world. By your spirit, we pray. Amen

Sent Forth in God's Name

***Sending Hymn** "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" W&R #414

*Benediction

Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in the power of God in you and through you. Do the work of loving God, neighbor, and self. Do the work of holding the complexity of life in tension with compassion and care. Do the work of believing a future with hope is possible. Do the work of nurturing that hope into a vision and vision into reality. Do the work of glorifying God

by following the way of Christ and praying with our lives. Do the works; 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 Tim Bryan, organist Mary Jane Wirsing and our Chancel choir with director Diantha Howard,

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

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