

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MIDDLEBURY,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Middlebury, Vermont

September 9, 2017

Dedication Service

*Our mission is to live as Jesus taught,
loving God and loving our neighbors as ourselves.*

PRELUDE

Trumpet Voluntary

John Stanley, arr. Peter S. Neu

Simple Gifts

Traditional, arr. David R. Thomas

La Paix and La Rejouissance from “Royal Fireworks”

G. F. Handel, arr. David R. Thomas

OPENING SENTENCES

Mhairi McMurray

Praise God in this house of worship;

praise God under the open skies.

Praise God for Her acts of power;

praise Her for Her magnificent greatness.

Praise God with a blast on the trumpet,

praise by strumming soft strings,

praise God with castanets and dance,

praise with banjo and flute,

praise with cymbals and a big bass drum,

praise with fiddles and mandolin.

Let every living creature praise God!

Alleluia!

— *adapted*, Psalm 150 (The Message)

*HYMN

“Rejoice, You Pure in Heart”

#15

WELCOME

Russell Carpenter

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Michele Brown

* the congregation is invited to stand.

Bold print designates a collective response.

SCRIPTURE Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Erika Garner

HOMILY About Time

Rev. Andrew Nagy-Benson

ANTHEM “No Matter Who You Are”** *Chancel Choir*

*No matter who you are, children, youth, and aged;
Across the generations, throughout life changes,
Hearts together in song,
Full of gratitude for this accompaniment to our journey.
We sing and echo over time and space,
Singing inspired from above and within us,
Swelling our senses, letting out the joy inside.*

*No matter who you are,
No matter where you are,
Music from deep sorrow rises, healing our hearts.
We look beyond ourselves to justice, and kindness,
Sharing the love of God;
A prayer for our world, each other, peace.*

*We pray tightly bundled in God’s love.
We offer this space to you, O God, to fill.
We are your instruments, O God, creating an open door.*

*No matter who you are,
No matter where you are,
You are welcome here.*

Glory to God!

GREETINGS FROM OUR CONFERENCE MINISTER

Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak

PROJECT REFLECTIONS

Dave Hallam, John Tenny

CHARTER HOUSE KEY

Robert Foster, Doug Sinclair

LITANY OF DEDICATION *Rich Carpenter, Jennifer Smith*

For those who have come before us
and faithfully tended the flame of community in this place,
thanks be to God.

For the Spirit of Christ that enlivens this fellowship
in acts of worship, learning, service, and mutual care,
thanks be to God.

For all who dreamed this building project to completion,
who contributed their knowledge and skills,
who offered their resources and prayers,
thanks be to God.

For bringing us to this threshold of possibility,
where new partnerships wait to be formed,
thanks be to God.

May our communities be made stronger
by the work of this place.

May our children and youth find encouragement here
to grow in faith, hope, and love.

May all who enter in
know the blessing of belonging.

May all who go
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

May it be so.

Gracious God, we dedicate this new building to you,
with thanks for what has been,
with hope for what will be,
and with joy for this day that you have made.
Alleluia! Amen.

Robert Foster	<i>Senior Trustee</i>
Doug Sinclair	<i>Executive Director of Charter House Coalition</i>
Richard Carpenter	<i>Chair of Budget & Stewardship Committee</i>
Jennifer Smith	<i>Director of Children and Youth Ministries</i>
Rev. Dr. James C. Davis	<i>Theologian in Residence</i>

Building Preservation Committee:

Richard Carpenter, Russ Carpenter, Mal Chase, Glenna Emilo, Robert Foster, Erika Garner, Dave Hallam, Andy Nagy-Benson, Jennifer Smith

Capital Campaign Committee:

Michele Brown (co-chair), Margaret Carothers (co-chair), Richard Carpenter, Russell Carpenter, Jen Clark, James Davis, Amy Emerson, David Hallam, Andy Nagy-Benson, Jennifer Smith

Open House Committee:

Josie Abbott, Jessica Allen, Jim Blair, Dan Brown, Mal Chase (chair), Lilly Devlin, Skyeler Devlin, Jim Douglas, Erika Garner, Gail Hietzker, Mhairi McMurray, Mary Nagy-Benson, Erin Quinn, Julian Roy, Paige Russell, Jennifer Smith, Spencer Smith.

We offer heartfelt thanks to the sub-contractors:

Chris Acker, *Acker Excavating*
Bristol, VT

Kevin Alexander, *Alexander Masonry*
Bristol, VT

Skip Barton, *Bay State Elevator Co.*
Essex Junction, VT

Marc Bourdeau, *Windows & Doors by Brownell*
Williston, VT

Brian Buteau, *Fine Lines in Wood Inc.*
New Haven, VT

Eric Denu, *Countryside Carpet & Paint*
Middlebury, VT

Curtis Edson, *No-Fire*
Colchester, VT

Sean Flynn, *Silver Maple Construction*
New Haven, VT

Mike Frost, *Vermont Eco-Floors*
Charlotte, VT

Paul Gallo, *Magic Brush Painting*
Rutland, VT

Drew Gelfenbein, *Specialty Coatings, LLC*
South Burlington, VT

Peter Katz, *Otter Creek Awnings*
Williston, VT

John LaRosa, *Nicom Coatings Corporation*
Berlin, VT

Corey Laughlin, *C L Concrete*
Sheldon, VT

Bill Lepore, *Omega Electric*
South Burlington, VT

Michael Little and Traven Francis, *Mr. Mike's Cleaning*
Middlebury, VT

Russell Marsan, *Carpenter & Costin*
Rutland, VT

Mike Maunz, *Doxsee Roofing, Inc.*
Bennington, VT

Don Noel, *Avonda Air Systems, Inc.*
South Burlington, VT

Louis Nop, *Nop's Metal Works*
Middlebury, VT

Tom Phillips, *T J Phillips & Sons Construction, Inc.*
Wallingford, VT

Dave Seward, *R K Miles Lumber Co.*
Middlebury, VT

Guy Tedesco, *A. Tedesco Masonry*
Rutland, VT

Gill Turgeon, *Green Mountain Drywall Co., Inc.*
Wallingford, VT

And special thanks to Janet Franklin, Liz Robinson, and Thad Stowe for helping to furnish the new building.