Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional First Congregational Church of Woodstock Reverend John Meinen February 2, 2025

Our guest preacher, John Meinen, is the Reformed University Fellowship Minister at the University of Vermont.

10:30 Morning Worship Service:

First Peter 4:12-19

# Suffering as a Christian

1. Don't Be Surprised by Suffering—EXPECT it.

2. Don't Be Ashamed of Suffering—EMBRACE it.

3. ENTRUST Your Soul to a Faithful Creator While Doing Good.

Prayerfully consider not only what you learned in this morning's message, but what the Holy Spirit would have you apply to your daily life.

## Psalm 31:1-2, 23-24

<sup>1</sup> In you, O Lord, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me!
<sup>2</sup> Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily!
Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me!

<sup>23</sup> Love the Lord, all you his saints! The Lord preserves the faithful
but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride.
<sup>24</sup> Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord!

### John 15:18-21

"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.

### **Revelation 1:9**

I, John, your brother and *partner in the tribulation* and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos *on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus*.

#### Romans 8:31-39

<sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.