

Readings for July 11, 2021 United Church of Strafford In-Person and Zoom Service

from Psalm 85

God, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
Restore us again, O God of our salvation.
Let me hear what you will speak,
for you will speak peace to your people, to your faithful,
to those who turn to you in their hearts.
Surely your salvation is at hand for those who are in awe of you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
You, God, will give what is good.

Amos 7:10, 12-15

Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words....”

And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

Then Amos answered Amaziah, “I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and God took me from following the flock, and God said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”

Mark 1:4, 9, 14; 6: 14-16

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.... In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan... Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news....” King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, “John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.” But others said, “It is Elijah.” And others said, “It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.” But when Herod heard of it, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.”