

***United Church of Strafford, Vermont***  
August 15, 2021  
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
*MH=Methodist Hymnal; PH=Pilgrim Hymnal*

**Gathering Music** Annemieke McLane

**Silent Prayer of Invocation** Pastor Tom Kinder

**Prelude** Suite VIII, HWV 433, Allemande G.F. Handel

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Introit** “I Woke Up This Morning”

**Call to Worship**

**\*Hymn** MH #103 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

**Children’s Time and Lord’s Prayer**

**Anthem** “As with rosy steps the morn,” from *Theodora* G.F. Handel  
Becky Bailey, Soloist

**Readings** from Proverbs 9:1-6; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58  
Ken Bushnell, Reader

**Sermon** Wisdom Calls: “Lay Aside Immaturity and Live”

**\*Hymn** Be Thou My Vision *hymn folder*

**Spiritual Reflection Together**

To exist is to change, to change is to mature, to mature is to go on creating oneself endlessly. *Henri Bergson*

It is up to us to be brave and take decisions based on the scientific evidence. *Greta Thunberg, August 9, 2021*

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. *Romans 12:2*

We need a wiser way to live, and even greater wisdom to convince people to live that way. Who has been both wise and influential in your life or in the world? What did they do that convinced people to follow their wisdom?

**Sharing of Joys and Concerns and Prayer Requests**

**Prayers and Benediction**

**Benediction Response** “God Be In My Head” PH #543

**Postlude** Suite V, HWV 430, Air con Variazioni G.F. Handel

*\* Those who are comfortably able may stand.  
Please stay for refreshments and neighborliness outside,  
weather permitting.*

**Past sermons** are available on the back table  
and **video recorded services** are on our website.

See us on **Facebook** at United Church of Strafford

Look for updates on our **website**: [unitedchurchofstrafford.com](http://unitedchurchofstrafford.com)

Sign up for **weekly emails** about upcoming worship and other news  
at [unitedchurchofstrafford@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchofstrafford@gmail.com)

**Next Concerts** Held on Fridays (except where noted), 7:00-8:15 PM. Admission by donation, 20% goes to the church’s Manheim Fund for the Arts.

**Today at 4:00 PM** “Treasure Hunt,” Family Concert  
Jeremiah and Annemieke McLane

**Save these concert dates: 9/24, 10/15, 11/5 and 12/3 (Noel!)**

**Sing with the Choir** Weekly choir for ages 12-92. Gather at 8:50 AM-ish. Rehearsals start 9 AM. All are welcome.

**Heartfulness Contemplative Training Circle** gathers weekly on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall. You are invited to be part of the circle anytime in person or by Zoom. See our website

**Childcare Today** Thank you to Emma Moore and Simone Prescott for providing childcare during the service!

**Pastor Tom Kinder is available** to talk with you. Please email him at [rev.thomas.cary.kinder@gmail.com](mailto:rev.thomas.cary.kinder@gmail.com) or call him at 765-2710.

**Thank you Justin Wylie**, Recording Engineer and Zoom Master!

**Justin's Assistants** Please consider volunteering to assist Justin on Sunday mornings. Talk with Tom if you are interested in helping in any way, small or large. Thank you!

### **Upcoming Sundays**

September 19 Annual Meeting Sunday

**Ice Cream!** Please join us for refreshments and neighborliness on the front lawn after worship, weather permitting. Masks are optional outside. Thank you to those stocking the freezer with ice cream sandwiches or providing other treats!

### **Haiku by Mel Goertz:**

Mother bear and two cubs  
slept inside a tree,  
a cozy den for three.

*Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*



August 15, 2021

*Morning Worship and Children's Programs at 10:00 AM*

### ***United Church of Strafford***

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Website: [unitedchurchofstrafford.com](http://unitedchurchofstrafford.com)

### ***Our Church Covenant***

*We gather together with freedom of conscience  
in a community of love and inquiry.*

*All are welcome, without exception.*

*We practice Christianity with faith and compassion.*

*We covenant with one another to embody the love of Christ,  
to nurture contemplation and action,  
and to offer our gifts, talents and energies as we are able.*