

United Church of Strafford, Vermont
August 22, 2021
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
MH=Methodist Hymnal; PH=Pilgrim Hymnal

Gathering Music Annemieke McLane

Silent Prayer of Invocation Pastor Tom Kinder

Prelude Prelude in C J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Introit “Rise up, O Flame” C. Praetorius

Call to Worship Genesis 32:22-31

***Hymn** O God, Whom Jacob Wrestled *hymn folder*

Children’s Time and Lord’s Prayer

Anthem Hava Nashira, shir halleluja

Readings Psalm 121 KJV; Luke 18:1-8 Annemieke McLane

Sermon The Will to Struggle, and the Right Struggle

***Hymn** Like Jacob I Have Wrestled You *hymn folder*

Spiritual Reflection Together

“The work, my friends, is peace. More than an end of this war—an end to the beginnings of all wars. Yes, an end, forever, to this impractical, unrealistic settlement of the differences between governments by the mass killing of peoples.” *The Last Speech of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt*

“Life has meaning only in the struggle. Triumph or defeat is in the hands of the gods, so let us celebrate the struggle.” *Swahili Song*

“My poetry is, or should be, useful to me for one reason: it is the record of my individual struggle from darkness toward some measure of light.” *Dylan Thomas*

Questions: What have you learned and how has your life been shaped by passing through times of struggle? What kind of struggle does humanity need to accept and undertake now to save our world?

Sharing of Joys and Concerns and Prayer Requests

Prayers and Benediction

Benediction Response MH #519 Lift Every Voice and Sing

Postlude Invention 8 in F J.S. Bach

** 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

Sign up for **weekly emails** about upcoming worship and other news
at 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.

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 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!

Poem by Herbert Goertz:

If you know the magic word
all of nature starts to sing:
there is a song in everything.

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



August 22, 2021

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

United Church of Strafford

230 Justin Morrill Highway

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Website: unitedchurchofstraftford.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.*