

United Church of Strafford, Vermont
August 29, 2021
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
MH=Methodist Hymnal; PH=Pilgrim Hymnal

Gathering Music Annemieke McLane

Silent Prayer of Invocation Pastor Tom Kinder

Prelude Etude Tableau in C, S. Rachmaninoff

Welcome and Announcements

Introit “Living Water/Send Your Spirit” Barbara Bridge

Call to Worship

***Hymn** PH #397 Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

Children’s Time and Lord’s Prayer

Anthem “Silver Rain” by Henderson/Amidon; Zimmerman/Amidon

Readings Psalm 1:1-3; James 1:17-22, 25-27;
Mark 7:1-2, 5-8, 14-15, 21-23 Herbert Goertz, Reader

Sermon The Implanted Word That Has the Power to Save

***Hymn** To Be a Doer of the Word *hymn folder*

Spiritual Reflection Together

“The kind of work God usually calls you to is the kind of work (a) that you need most to do and (b) that the world most needs to have done.... The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness meets the world’s deep hunger.” (Frederick Buechner, from *Wishful Thinking*)

“It’s not just global warming.... It’s not just soil erosion. It’s not just chemical contamination of our land and water... And it’s not just all of those. The deterioration of the environment of our planet is an outward mirror of an inner condition. Like inside, like outside. And that’s a part of the Great Work.” (Wes Jackson of the Land Institute in the film *The 11th Hour*.)

According to the scriptures, the Spirit that flows through all life has implanted its word in us each as our own unique expression and manifestation of the Spirit’s sacred way, and that word in us each has the power to save us and save the world if we become “doers of the word.”

So if we look at what the Spirit has implanted in us, what is the word that it would have you do as an individual, or what is the word that the Spirit would have this church do? If you had all the money and time and energy you needed, or if we as a church did, what word would you or we do to save what is now threatened?

Sharing of Joys and Concerns and Prayer Requests

Prayers and Benediction

Benediction Response “Mayenziwe” *hymn folder*

Postlude Variationen zur Gesundung von Arinuschka, A. Part

** 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.

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:

The crickets were chirping.
I went off to bed
with their song in my head.

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



August 29, 2021

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

United Church of Strafford

230 Justin Morrill Highway

PO Box 124, Strafford, VT 05072

802-765-4585(church) 765-2710(parsonage)

Email: unitedchurchofstraftford@gmail.com

rev.thomas.cary.kinder@gmail.com

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.*