# 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!)

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

<u>Heartfulness Contemplative Training Circle</u> 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

<u>Childcare Today</u> Thank you to Emma Moore and Simone Prescott for providing childcare during the service!

<u>Pastor Tom Kinder is available</u> to talk with you. Please email him at rev.thomas.cary.kinder@gmail.com or call him at 765-2710.

### **Upcoming Sundays**

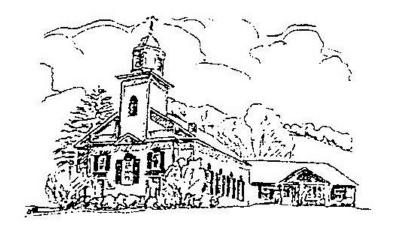
September 19 Annual Meeting Sunday

**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

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#### 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.