

United Church of Strafford, Vermont
September 12, 2021
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
MH=Methodist Hymnal; PH=Pilgrim Hymnal

Gathering Music Carol Rousseau

Silent Prayer of Invocation Pastor Tom Kinder

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” K. Medema

Call to Worship

***Hymn** For the Healing of the Nations *hymn folder*

Children’s Time and Lord’s Prayer

Anthem “Thuma Mina”

Readings Psalm 116:1-9; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-36
Deadra Ashton

Sermon To Save Life

***Hymn** PH #442 Thou Judge by Whom Each Empire Fell

Spiritual Reflection Together

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” *Micah 6:6-8*

“If you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly act justly one with another, if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, and the

widow, or shed innocent blood...and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt, then I will dwell with you.... When people fall, do they not get up again? If they go astray, do they not turn back? Why then has this people turned away in perpetual backsliding? They have held fast to deceit, they have refused to return.” *Jeremiah 7:5b-7a; 8:4b-5*

“In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.” *Isaiah 35:15*

“For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it.” *Luke 9:24*

Questions: What would it look like for a nation or all humanity to lose life to save life? If you were a Hebrew prophet, what death would you call humanity to undergo, what would you be calling humanity to stop being and stop doing? And what new life would you prophesy, what does God need humanity to evolve to be and do?

Sharing of Joys and Concerns and Prayer Requests

Prayers and Benediction

Benediction Response “Pues si vivimos” *hymn folder*

Postlude

** 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:

When bumblebees
burrow into the pollen,
the whole tree hums and hums.

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



September 12, 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.*