

***United Church of Strafford, Vermont***

September 19, 2021

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, Annual Meeting Sunday

*MH=Methodist Hymnal; PH=Pilgrim Hymnal*

“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*

“No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.... Strive first for the realm of God and its right way of being, and all these things will be given to you as well.” *Matthew 6:24, 33*

“All the evils that people cause each other because of certain desires or opinions or religious principles are rooted in ignorance. [They all will come to an end] when the earth is flooded with the knowledge of God.” *Maimonides*

“You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it.” *Pirkei Avot 2:21*

**Gathering Music** Annemieke McLane

**Silent Prayer of Invocation** Pastor Tom Kinder

**Prelude** French Suite VI: Courante J.S. Bach

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Introit** “With You, O Lord” Taizé

**Call to Worship**

**\*Hymn** PH #436 O God of Earth and Altar

**Children’s Time and Lord’s Prayer**

**Anthem** “Oh Had I a Golden Thread” Pete Seeger arr. Peter Amidon  
“How Could Anyone” Libby Roderick arr. Peter Amidon

**Readings** Ezekiel 33:7-8; James 3:13; 3:16-4:1; 4:7-8a;  
Mark 9:30-37 Jane Prescott

**Sermon** To Save Life, Part II

**\*Hymn** God, You Have Set Us *hymn folder*

**Spiritual Reflection Together**

Annual Meeting Sunday is like a birthday for the church, a time for looking back over the past year and looking ahead to the next. What are you grateful for when you think about the past year for this congregation? What are your hopes or dreams for the congregation for the coming year?

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

**Prayers and Benediction**

**Benediction Response** MH #89 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

**Postlude** French Suite IV: Air 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](http://unitedchurchofstrafford.com)  
Sign up for **weekly emails** about upcoming worship and other news  
at [unitedchurchofstrafford@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchofstrafford@gmail.com)

**Annual Meeting** Here today at Noon, in person or by Zoom!

**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.

**Sept. 24** "Feel into It" with Chopin and Scriabin, Annemieke McLane, piano

**Save these concert dates: 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.

**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 rain, the rain, it raineth down.  
It wets my head  
and it wets the town.

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



September 19, 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.*