

United Church of Strafford, Vermont
September 5, 2021
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
MH=Methodist Hymnal; PH=Pilgrim Hymnal

Gathering Music Annemieke McLane

Silent Prayer of Invocation Pastor Tom Kinder

Prelude Prelude in B Minor, Op. 28 No. 6 F. Chopin

Welcome and Announcements

Introit “Benedictus” Adam Gumpelzhaimer

Call to Worship

***Hymn** Community of Christ *hymn folder*

Children’s Time and Lord’s Prayer Mark 7:24-30

Anthem “Una Espiga” Cesareo Gabaraín

Readings from Psalm 146; James 2:1-8, 13b-17 John Echeverria

Sermon Happy and Blessed

***Hymn** MH #581 Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

Future Directions Vision as a Unison Reading

Spiritual Reflection Together

“If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion.” *The Dalai Lama*

“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*)

One of the scribes came near and...asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” *Mark 12:28-31*

Questions: Who is our neighbor? What is their need asking of us? What works of mercy, compassion and love is God calling us to do?

Sharing of Joys and Concerns and Prayer Requests

Prayers and Benediction

Benediction Response MH #667 Shalom Chaverim

Postlude Waltz in C Sharp Minor, Op. 64 No. 2 F. Chopin

** 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:

Each drop of rain
brings up a blade of grass
until the meadow is full.

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



September 5, 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.*