

**Readings for October 3, 2021**  
**United Church of Strafford In-Person and Zoom Service**

*Adapted from Psalm 8*

Creator God, how majestic is your presence in all the universe!  
You unfold your glory in the spinning galaxies.  
You bring out of the mouths of babes and infants  
truths sufficient to silence those who go against your sacred way.  
When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have established;  
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
mortals that you care for them?  
Yet you have made them a little lower than gods,  
and crowned them with glory and honor.  
You have allowed them dominion  
over the works of your hands;  
you have given them all things to steward,  
all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,  
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,  
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.  
Yet it is you, O God, you alone,  
who create and rule all the earth,  
and all your creations are as one  
in your majestic name.

*Mark 9:38-41*

John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.”

*John 10:14-16*

“I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”