



May 15, 2022

Morning Worship and Children's Programs at 10:00 AM United

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.*

United Church of Strafford, Vermont

May 15, 2022

Fifth Sunday of Easter

MH=Methodist Hymnal; PH=Pilgrim Hymnal

Gathering Music

Annemieke McLane

Silent Prayer of Invocation

Pastor Tom Kinder

Prelude French Suite IV, Allemande, J.S. Bach

Blessing and Lighting the Peace Candle

Leader: In him was life, and the life was the light of the world.

People: **The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness does not overcome it.**

Leader: Let us pray for peace and the things that make for peace
as we light the peace candle.

Introit "Moved by Love" Rev. Will Burhans

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

First Scripture Reading Revelation 21:1-7 Annemieke McLane

***Hymn** Wade in the Water *hymn folder*

Children's Time and Lord's Prayer

Anthem "Teach Me, O Lord" T. Attwood

Second Scripture Reading Acts 11:1-18; John 13:34-35

Sermon The Metanoia That Leads to Life

***Hymn** Our Great Dreams Are Gifts from God *hymn folder*

Sharing of Joys, Concerns, Prayer Requests and Reflections

Reflection Questions: Here are the four steps of the spiritual path in ancient Christian tradition, one flowing naturally into the next, repeated many times a day in small ways, and deepening over a lifetime, a path for individuals and for communities and for humanity as a whole, a path that leads to life:

- *Kenosis:* Self-emptying, letting go of the ego's attachments, making room for the Spirit to fill us and lead us toward...
- *Metanoia:* Transformation of consciousness in the direction of having the heart and mind of Christ, an expanding perspective of oneness that results in...
- *Agape:* compassionate, unconditional love for all, because loving actions are what the Spirit flowing through the heart and mind of Christ in us wants to do; and the direct result is
- *Koinonia:* the realm of God's beloved community forming around us as we do acts of love and justice, preserving, creating or restoring community, so earth may live as one...

Does this path make sense to you? Have you seen this progression happen in ways large or small? Do you have questions about it?

Time of Prayer

Call to Offering

***Benediction**

***Sung Benediction Response**

MH #431 Let There Be Peace on Earth

Silent Prayer *We invite you to end the service in a spirit of prayer.*

Postlude Arabesque R. Schumann

Video recorded services, bulletins and newsletters are available on our website unitedchurchofstrafford.com.

See us on **Facebook** at United Church of Strafford

Sign up for **weekly emails** about upcoming worship and other news at unitedchurchofstrafford@gmail.com

Mission Committee Update:

Supporting Rebels of the Moon and Willing Hands

Many of you may remember Katrina Alden, who grew up in Strafford and in this church. Katrina has traveled around the world and has done all sorts of amazing things and she is the founder of a Vermont camp called Rebels of the Moon where youth are welcomed to find their voice, their community and "radical self-love". We are proud to support Rebels of the Moon on behalf of the church and welcome you to explore their

website: <https://www.rebelsofthemoon.com>

We are hoping that Katrina can come to speak about the camp at church soon and we will be talking with her about other ways that we can offer support!

We are proud of you, dear Katrina!

We also recently made a donation on behalf of the church to Willing Hands, which helps to supply 80 social service organizations in the Upper Valley with food, feeding about 30,000 people annually. We encourage you to visit the website to learn more about this hard-working organization: <https://willinghands.org>

Please let one of us know if you have ideas for mission work. Thank you.

With love,

Danette Harris, Maggie Hooker and Cameron Speth

Spiritual Exploration and Childcare for the Children

The Spiritual Exploration time for children is over for the year, but we still welcome children of all ages to the United Church of Strafford! Childcare is available during the church service, provided by teens and adults for children second grade and younger. Older children are welcome to stay with their families during the service itself (as are youngers, if they prefer).

Mission Committee Good News and THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for all of the generous donations to World Central Kitchen which is helping to feed Ukrainian refugees and citizens still in Ukraine. We sent a total of \$3,015 from our church and community to help with World Central Kitchen's heroic efforts. Many thanks to all!

Pastoral Care The Rev. Deadra Ashton is now our Pastoral Care Provider. If you are in need of spiritual direction or of individual, couples or family pastoral counseling, please be in touch with Deadra at revdeadra@gmail.com or by leaving a message on the church phone at 765-4585.

Heartfulness Contemplative Training Circle gathers weekly on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM in person and by Zoom and offers an informal meditation all other evenings at 7:30 PM. You are invited to be part of the circle anytime. Please see our website Welcome page for details and the different Zoom links for the two standing events.

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.

June 17th Hanover Highschool talents Ian Goldberg, clarinet,
Miriam Herron, cello
August 12th Jack Langdon, organ recital

Would You Like to Be a Reader? Please let Jane Prescott or Tom know if you would like to read during worship in person or on Zoom.

Update on Mask Wearing at Church The Steering Committee keeps an eye on what is happening with Covid numbers in our community and area. Unfortunately, the numbers are still ticking up in the latest surge. We feel we need to be cautious, so we recommended to the church Council to **continue the mask requirement in church for the time being**. Every other pew will continue to be roped off for now. We also recommended that we resume having **refreshments outside after church** as we did last summer and fall, weather permitting! *from The Steering Committee*

Fulfilling Our Vision The Fulfilling Our Vision committee depends on people joining in when they are interested in specific projects. We are resuming our focus on anti-racism and becoming officially Open to and Affirming of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. The vision we are fulfilling is our Future Directions Statement that you can find on the pew card or Welcome page of our website. It says in part, "The United Church of Strafford aspires to be a community of open hearts and minds embracing differences and diverse traditions, extending faithful Christ-like love and support to all, reaching out especially to those in need. We intend to be a force, not merely a presence, effecting positive social change for peace, justice and the care of God's creation." Please speak with Tom if you are interested in participating.

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

Haiku by Mel Goertz:

Standing in the shade
of a tree trunk a May day
ninety-one degrees.