



July 3, 2022

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.*

United Church of Strafford, Vermont

July 3, 2022

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Independence Day Sunday

MH=Methodist Hymnal; PH=Pilgrim Hymnal

“We have no government, armed with power, capable of contending with human passions, unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge and licentiousness would break the strongest cords of our Constitution, as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” *President John Adams*

“The fact that the church of our country (with fractional exceptions) does not esteem ‘the Fugitive Slave Law’ as a declaration of war against religious liberty, implies that that church regards religion simply as a form of worship, an empty ceremony, and not a vital principle, requiring active benevolence, justice, love, and good will towards man.... A worship that can be conducted by persons who refuse to give shelter to the houseless, to give bread to the hungry, clothing to the naked, and who enjoin obedience to a law forbidding these acts of mercy is a curse, not a blessing to mankind.” *Frederick Douglass, from “What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?”*

Gathering Music

Annemieke McLane

Silent Prayer of Invocation

Pastor Tom Kinder

Prelude Moment Musical, Opus 94 No. 1 F. Schubert

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 “Litany of Peace” Francis of Assisi/Barbara Bridge

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Responsive Reading *adapted from Psalms 16*

Leader: Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
You are my God. I have no good apart from you.

People: **Holy ones can still be found in the land**
upholding the law of love.
They are springs of delight in a desert.

Leader: Those who bow down before the false gods
of selfishness, greed and ambition
create suffering and sorrow in this world.
They sacrifice the blood of the earth
to their own gain.

People: **O God, you are my chosen portion,**
I sacrifice all I have to your service.
I place my life in your hands.

Leader: The boundary lines fall in pleasant places for me—
a goodly heritage in you and in all that is holy.

People: **You give me counsel, O God, and I thank you;**
in the night my heart instructs me.

Leader: I keep you always before me;
because you are at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

People: **Therefore my heart is glad,**
and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.

All: **You show me the path of life.**
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

***Hymn** MH #519 Lift Every Voice and Sing

Anthem “This Land Is Your Land” Woody Guthrie

Scripture Galatians 5:1, 13-14, 16-25, 6:10a; Luke 9:51-62

Sermon What “Live Free” Means

***Hymn** PH #425 Men, Whose boast It Is

Sharing of Joys, Concerns, Prayer Requests and Reflections

Reflection Questions: Democracy and freedom are directly related in our country. What can we celebrate about them this year on Independence Day? And what flaws, attacks or threats to democracy and freedom are weighing on your heart? What can we pledge our lives to do, as individuals and as a church, for their sake?

Time of Prayer

Call to Offering

*Benediction

*Sung Benediction Response

Variations on “America the Beautiful” *hymn folder*

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

Postlude Impromptus, Opus 90 No. 4 F. Schubert

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

Change for Annemieke Our beloved church musician and choir director, Annemieke McLane, is stepping down from that position. Her last Sunday will be August 7th. She writes: "Dear wonderful Strafford community, After 7 years of playing for services at the United Church of Strafford...I am sorry that I cannot continue with this work. This community is precious, awake, alert, and loving. Deep gratitude and many thanks for all you do.... [I] will keep the concerts going. With much love, Annemieke McLane"

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. Climate and environmental concerns have also consistently been part of our concern. The vision we are fulfilling is our Future Directions Statement that you can find on the pew card or Welcome page of our website. Please speak with Tom if you are interested in participating.

Heartfulness Contemplative Training Circle gathers 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.

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.

Spiritual Exploration and Childcare for the Children We 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).

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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.
July 15th pianist David Feurzeig, climate awareness concert, <http://playeverytown.com/>
August 12th, organist Jack Langdon "Nocturnes in Strafford"
August 19th, Stuart and Sylvia Smith, benefit for Strafford Library
September 16th, Cellist Emily Taubl with music by. Brahms, Dvorak
October 14th, Violinist Alicia Casey
November 18th, Piano solo, Annemieke McLane
December 2 "Noel" Concert

Jack Langdon Organ Concert 7:00 PM August 12th Langdon's approach to performance investigates the unique qualities of individual organs. Jack is a proponent of contemporary organ music and regularly creates new work. Jack lives in East Thetford on the unceded land of the Abenaki and is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. This program, Strafford Nocturne, features three works which encourage us to contemplate the quiet, beautiful moments of life, including a chorale prelude by Johann Gottfried Walther, and a work Langdon composed as a tribute to his time spent in and around Strafford featuring an intimate interplay between the sound of the organ and four field recordings taken at various locations in and around Strafford.

Covid Precautions at Church We continue the mask requirement in church for the time being with every other pew roped off and refreshments outside. *from The Steering Committee*

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

Haiku by Herbert A. Goertz:
Fireflies at night
Dancing galaxies of light—
The joy of being.

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