

Readings for August 14, 2022

United Church of Strafford Hybrid In-person and Zoom Service

Responsive Reading *from Psalm 138*

Leader: I give you thanks, O God, with my whole heart;
before the gods, I sing your praise;

**People: I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name
for your steadfast love and faithfulness;**

Leader: For your name and your word
are exalted above everything.

**People: On the day I called, you answered me,
you increased my strength of soul.**

Leader: Even the kings of the earth shall praise you,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.

**People: All shall sing of your ways, for great is your glory,
for though you are on high, you are with the lowly,
while the haughty keep you at a distance.**

Leader: Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies.

**People: You stretch out your hand,
and your right hand delivers me.
O God, fulfill your purpose for me.**

Leader: Your steadfast love endures forever.

People: You will not forsake the work of your hands.

Luke 11:1-13

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Rabbi, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”

He said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.”

And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. “So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and

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everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then...know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"