



August 7, 2022

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

United Church of Strafford

230 Justin Morrill Highway
PO Box 124, Strafford, VT 05072
802-765-4585(church) 765-2710(parsonage)
Email: unitedchurchofstrafford@gmail.com
rev.thomas.cary.kinder@gmail.com
For Pastoral Care: revdeadra@gmail.com
Website: unitedchurchofstrafford.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.*

United Church of Strafford, Vermont

August 7, 2022

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

MH=Methodist Hymnal; PH=Pilgrim Hymnal

"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived."

Henry David Thoreau, Walden

"Remember that nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all that you do with love." *St. Theresa de Lisieux*

Gathering Music

Annemieke McLane

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

Silent Prayer of Invocation

Pastor Tom Kinder

Prelude "Les Barricades Mystérieuses" F. Couperin

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" T. Merton/W. Burhans

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Responsive Reading *adapted from Psalm 139* Danette Harris

Leader: O God, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

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People: You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue, O God, you know it completely.

Leader: You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

People: Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

Leader: If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

People: If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,” even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Leader: For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

People: You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

Leader: O God, wonderful are all your works.

People: Lead us in the way everlasting.

***Hymn** MH # 292 What Wondrous Love Is This

Children's Time and Lord's Prayer

Anthem Ubi Caritas O. Gjeilo

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Scripture Proverbs 3: 1-8; Luke 12:16-22, 31-34

Sermon Darkness Is as Light to You

***Hymn** The Light Is in the Summer Sun *hymn folder*

Sharing of Joys, Concerns, Prayer Requests and Reflections

Reflection Questions: “Go forward with courage. When you are in doubt, be still, and wait; when doubt no longer exists for you, then go forward with courage.” *Chief White Eagle* Annemieke chose this for our reflection, and she is modeling it for us as well. How does it speak to you in terms of humanity, the church, your life or hers?

Time of Prayer

Call to Offering

*Benediction

***Sung Benediction Response** Dona Nobis Pacem

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

Postlude “La Cathédrale Engloutie,” Prelude X C. Debussy

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

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

Haiku by Mel Goertz:

A very windy summer,
an aspen tree came down
its leaves quaking.

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While Tom Is Away Pastor Tom Kinder will be away from the church from August 15th to October 12th. Pastoral Care will continue to be provided by the Rev. Deadra Ashton. We are blessed to have three gifted spiritual directors and teachers in our midst to lead worship. Deadra will be in the pulpit August 21st and 28th and October 2nd, and Rachel Guaraldi on September 4th and 18th and October 9th, and Mark Kutolowski on September 11th and 25th.

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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Mission Committee Update: Helping the Victims of Flooding in Kentucky...With Meals! Once again, we are thankful for the quick response and action of World Central Kitchen. Last week, you may have seen the photos of the damage from the "1 in 1,000 year rainstorm" that caused devastating flooding in eastern Kentucky. Right away, World Central Kitchen arrived and started cooking. On their first day of service, they fed our neighbors in Kentucky 1,000 plates of food. We are proud and honored to support their work on behalf of the church and welcome you to join us in supporting their labor of love._With love, Danette Harris, Maggie Hooker and Cameron Speth

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.
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

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.

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