

Readings for August 7, 2022

United Church of Strafford Hybrid In-person and Zoom Service

Responsive Reading *adapted from Psalm 139*

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.

**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.

Proverbs 3: 1-8

My child, do not forget my teaching,
but let your heart keep my commandments;
for length of days and years of life
and abundant welfare they will give you.

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Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you;
bind them around your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart.
So you will find favor and good repute
in the sight of God and of people.
Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.
Do not be wise in your own eyes;
fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.
It will be a healing for your flesh
and a refreshment for your body.

Luke 12:16-22, 31-34

Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

He said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear.... Instead, strive for God’s realm, and these things will be given to you as well. “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is God’s good pleasure to give you that realm. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.