



October 16, 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***

October 16, 2022

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, World Communion Sunday  
*MH=Methodist Hymnal; PH=Pilgrim Hymnal*

The challenge, then, is to recognize that the world is about two things: differentiation and communion. The challenge is to seek a unity that celebrates diversity, to unite the particular with the universal, to recognize the need for roots while insisting that the point of roots is to put forth branches. What is intolerable is for differences to become idolatrous. No human being's identity is exhausted by his or her gender, race, ethnic origin, national loyalty, or sexual orientation. All human beings have more in common than they have in conflict, and it is precisely when what they have in conflict seems over-riding that what they have in common needs most to be affirmed. *William Sloane Coffin*

**Gathering Music**

Becky Bailey

**Silent Prayer of Invocation**

Pastor Tom Kinder

**Prelude** "Turn, Turn, Turn" Pete Seeger

**Blessing and Lighting the Candles**

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** "Hallelujah" Korean, arr. John L. Bell

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

**Responsive Reading** *from Psalm 104* Danette Harris, Reader

Leader: Bless God, O my soul.

O God, my God, you are very great.

**People: You stretch out the heavens like a tent,  
You set the earth on its foundations.  
You make springs gush forth in the valleys  
giving drink to every wild animal.  
The earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.**

Leader: O God how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.

**People: They all look to you  
to give them their food in due season;  
when you give to them, they gather it up;  
when you open your hand,  
they are filled with good things.**

Leader: When you hide your face, they are dismayed;  
when you take away their breath,  
they die and return to their dust.

**People: When you send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the ground.**

Leader: May your glory endure forever;  
may you rejoice in your works!

**People: I will sing to you as long as I live;  
I will sing praise to you while I have my being.  
May my meditation be pleasing to you,  
my God, in whom I rejoice.**

**\*Hymn** God Made from One Blood *hymn folder*

**Children's Time and Lord's Prayer**

**Anthem** Shalom Chaverim/Hineh Ma Tov (medley)

**Scripture** from Acts 17:26-30; Galatians 3:28; Timothy 4:1b-5;  
and from John 17:20-23

*page two*

**Sermon** No East or West

**\*Hymn** MH #548 In Christ There Is No East or West

**Sharing of Joys, Concerns, Prayer Requests and Reflections**

*Reflection Questions:* Have you ever found a way to oneness with a person or group with whom you have strong differences? Have you experienced an enemy becoming an ally or friend? How has oneness happened? Are there lessons for the world in this?

**Time of Prayer**

**Call to Offering**

**Communion Invitation**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Hymn** When We Can See As God Can See *hymn folder*

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

**Postlude** Sonate II for Blockflöte, First Movement  
Amber Wylie, recorder

*Please join us on the front lawn of the church after the postlude to share communion.*

**Video recorded services, bulletins and newsletters** are available  
on our website [unitedchurchofstrafford.com](http://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](mailto:unitedchurchofstrafford@gmail.com)

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

*page three*

**Covid Precautions at Church** We continue to require that everyone wear an effective mask while in the church building, but we take them off when we gather outside. Thank you for helping the church be a safe and healthy place for all! *from The Steering Committee*

**Spiritual Exploration and Childcare for the Children** We welcome children of all ages to the United Church of Stratford! 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 younger, if they prefer). We are exploring what kinds of spiritual exploration programs for children could work in the coming months.

**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.

**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.

- October 14<sup>th</sup> Violinist Alicia Casey and pianist Annemieke McLane, "Music from our Youth" including Brahms' Sonata No. 1 for piano and violin and music by Schumann, Rachmaninov, Chopin, Price and Joplin
- November 18<sup>th</sup> "960" Sonatas by Schubert etc, Annemieke McLane, pianist
- December 2<sup>nd</sup> "Noel" 5th year! Music for Advent Soprano Julie Ness, Bagpiper Timothy Cummings, Accordionist Jeremiah McLane, Pianist Annemieke McLane

**Fulfilling Our Vision** The Fulfilling Our Vision committee depends on people joining in when they are interested in specific projects. We are continuing our focus on anti-racism and becoming officially Open to and Affirming of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Climate and other environmental issues 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 consider participating! We meet the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM. For more information, please speak with Kate Reimanis or email her at kreimanis@gmail.com.

**Mission Committee Update: Supporting Children Near and Far!** The Mission Committee gave its annual donation to the Health Hub that helps to support Stratford children with services such as dental check-ups, physical exams, lab work, prescriptions, mental health counseling and immunizations. We are proud to play a part in helping to keep Stratford children healthy and happy! In the near future, our friends David and Ingrid Webb will be traveling to work in the Life School in Panajachel, Guatemala. We are proud of them and are happy to send them off with a donation from our church for school supplies for the children. Safe travels, dear Ingrid and David! Please let us know if you have ideas for mission work! With love and gratitude, Danette Harris, Maggie Hooker and Cameron Speth

**Food Shelf Support** Our church delivered 28 pounds of food to the Sharon Food Shelf last month and thanks to a special donation we will deliver cases of soup soon! We thank you and ask that you kindly continue to fill that white basket in the back of the church with non-perishable foods such as hearty soups, hygiene and baby products, non-perishable snacks, cereal and juices. Thank you!

**Haiku by Herbert A. Goertz:**

A shower of leaves  
welcomes me as I set out  
on my morning walk.