



October 30, 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 30, 2022

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost All Saints Day Sunday

Reformation and Reconciliation Sunday

*MH=Methodist Hymnal; PH=Pilgrim Hymnal*

"I don't follow or understand everything in our worship services and I'm agnostic about other things, but what I appreciate is that this church calls on each of us to be a better person and calls upon the community to be a better community, and it's the only institution that fulfills this purpose in Strafford, and if it didn't exist there would be an enormous hole." *Said in worship during Joys and Concerns by a member of the congregation, October 23, 2022*

**Gathering Music**

Becky Bailey

**Silent Prayer of Invocation**

Pastor Tom Kinder

**Prelude**

**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** "We Are One in the Spirit" P. Scholtes

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

**Responsive Reading** *from Psalm 32* Ingrid Webb

Leader: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

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**People:** While I kept silence, my body wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.

**Leader:** Then I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not hide my iniquity;  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to God,"  
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

**People:** Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;  
at a time of distress,  
the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

**Leader:** You are a hiding place for me;  
you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

**People:** I will instruct you  
and teach you the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

**Leader:** Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,  
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,  
else it will not stay near you.

**People:** Many are the torments of the wicked,  
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in God.  
Be glad in God and rejoice, O righteous,  
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

**\*Hymn** PH #363 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

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

**Anthem** "What Does the Lord Require of You" J. & J. Strathdee

**Scripture** Micah 6:6-8; Amos 5:21-24; Luke 19:1-10

**Sermon** Reforming and Reconciling

**\*Hymn** Saints Are Those Who Keep Reforming *hymn folder*

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

*Reflection Questions:* What are you grateful for that the saints of this congregation and our spiritual tradition have handed down to us? What do you think needs to be reformed in our congregation in order to continue to offer what individuals, this community and the world need from a church?

### **Time of Prayer**

### **Call to Offering**

### **\*Benediction**

**\*Hymn** PH #306 For All the Saints

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

### **Postlude**

**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!*

**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*

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**Lord's Acre 2022** is well underway! We are still unable to hold a sitdown supper and show, but the online auction is alive and well! Bidding will run from November 18-28, just in time for unique holiday shopping (and supporting the church). If you have anything you would like to donate - an item, a service (like baking or raking), a gift certificate - or anything else, including being a sponsor - please let us know. We would love to hear from you! Lord's Acre Team: June Solsaa, Ingrid Webb, Danette Harris, Joey Hawkins

**Mission Committee Update: Food, Glorious Food!** Thanks to everyone who put food in the basket at the back of the church recently! We delivered 20 pounds of food and hygiene products to the Sharon Food Shelf and some items went home with food shelf guests right away. Please keep the donations coming as higher food prices make it difficult for many families. Donations of soups, cereals, snacks, hygiene products, laundry detergent and coffee/tea are very welcome and so appreciated! Thank you, thank you! With love and gratitude, Danette Harris, Maggie Hooker and Cameron Speth

**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). 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.

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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.

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. The vision we are fulfilling is our Future Directions Statement that you can find on the pew card or Welcome page of our website. **Next Meetings:** *Tuesday, November 1 at 7:00 PM In Person and by Zoom* will be a planning meeting. *Tuesday, November 15 at 7:00 PM* we will participate in a webinar: **"Experiencing a Transgender God—How does believing in a God who lives within the transitions of gender identification and expression help us to increase our faith and hope? How can we manifest this expansive understanding of The Divine through the ways we dialogue, pray, and worship? At a time when people of transgender and nonbinary experience have been targeted by a campaign of hatred in many states, your congregation's understanding of this growing community will help you be more effective in mission, ministry, and advocacy."** Please consider participating! For more information and zoom links, please speak with Kate Reimanis or email her at kreimanis@gmail.com.

**Haiku by Mel Goertz:**

Three deer in the orchard.  
They let me pass  
as if I were one of them.

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