



November 13, 2022

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

***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***

November 13, 2022

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost, Advent Preparation Sunday

*MH=Methodist Hymnal; PH=Pilgrim Hymnal*

***Advent Calling***

Somebody has to love the candlelight.  
Somebody has to show the poor some care.  
Somebody has to keep the star in sight.  
Somebody has to hope, expect, prepare.  
It might as well be you, if you are willing.  
Some things will have to be left sacrificed—  
the Advent task is emptying, then filling,  
like Mary's "Let it be" to bearing Christ.  
Somebody has to do it or the earth  
may wake from Herod's fearful greed too late.  
It might as well be you to give Christ birth  
by giving time to pray and watch and wait.  
Come, tend the flame of love. Let light increase.  
It might as well be you to bring earth peace.

**Gathering Music**

The Cantornote Church Musicians

**Silent Prayer of Invocation**

Pastor Tom Kinder

**Prelude** Concerto in A minor by Georg Philipp Telemann, Adagio

**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** Stonet Sizyi Golubechek traditional tune  
with variations by Sarah Cantor

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## Welcome and Announcements

### Call to Worship

**Responsive Reading** *from Isaiah 60, Mark 1 & 13, Luke 1*  
*Danette Harris, Reader*

Leader: Jesus said, "Beware, keep alert...  
What I say to you I say to all: keep awake."

**People:** **Isaiah said, "Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you  
and his glory will appear over you."**

Leader: Zechariah said, "By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,  
to give light to those who sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

**People:** **Mark said, "See, I am sending my messenger...  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.'"**

Leader: Mary said, "He has brought down the powerful  
from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors."

**People:** **We say as Mary said,  
"Here am I, the servant of the Lord;  
let it be with me according to your word."**

### \*Advent Hymn Sing

PH #104 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People vv 1 & 3 only

PH #114 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates vv 2 & 3 only

PH #105 Hail to the Lord's Anointed vv 2 & 3 only

PH #108 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying v. 1 and 2 only

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## Children's Time and Lord's Prayer *on the pew card*

**Anthem** Ce Jour de l'an by Guillaume Dufay

**Scripture** Isaiah 40:1-11

**Sermon** Prepare the Way

**\*Hymn** PH #110 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

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

What kinds of ideal Advent moments would you like to experience this year? What transformation, large or small, would you wish this Advent for yourself, this church or this world?

### Time of Prayer

### Call to Offering

### \*Congregational Sung Benediction

May You Be Blessed on Advent's Way *(see page 4)*

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

### Postlude

Concerto in A minor by Georg Philipp Telemann, Allegro

*\* Those who are comfortably able may stand.*

**Past sermons** are available on the back table.

**Video recorded services, sermon texts and bulletins**  
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)

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## May You Be Blessed on Advent's Way

text: Thomas Cary Kinder, 2018  
tune: CONDITOR ALME, L.M., Sarum Plainsong



May you be blessed on Ad - vent's way. Like shep - herds, wait and  
May Ad - vent give you gifts to bear, Your life a man - ger  
May Ad - vent lead you to the birth Of God with us, trans -  
May you be filled with Ad - vent light To shine, a can - dle



watch and pray. Like Ma - gi on their star - lit tower  
you pre - pare, Like Ma - ry, all she sac - ri - ficed  
form - ing earth, All now div - i - ded, rec - on - ciled,  
in the night. Sing out with an - gels from a - bove,



Seek guid - ing light and high - er power.  
To o - pen to the gift of Christ.  
All chil - dren seen as God's own child.  
Fill earth with hope, peace, joy and love.

**Thank you to the The Cantornote Church Musicians,** including Sarah Cantor, Brian Warnock, Sally Kolodokin, Edward Cipullo, Rachel Kurland, Susan Hodges and Amber Wylie!

**Covid Precautions at Church** We continue to require masks while in the church building. Thank you for helping the church be a safe and healthy place for all! *from The Steering Committee*

**Pastoral Care:** Rev. Deadra Ashton, who has been providing valuable pastoral care for the past year, finds that she needs to step away from this position. Currently, the church council is looking for someone to fill that important position.

## **Upcoming Special Services & Events Calendar**

**Sun. Nov. 20 Thanksgiving Sunday** 10:00 AM in worship here with cherished hymns and music provided by Emerson Gale.

**Thurs. Nov. 24 Strafford Interfaith Thanksgiving Service** 10:00 AM in our sanctuary again this year. Bring a poem, story or song and abundant gratitude to share.

### **Sun. Nov. 27 First Sunday of Advent**

Advent begins with the beautiful rituals of bringing in the greens and lighting the Advent candle of Hope, plus beloved Advent hymns and other music provided by The Cantornote Church Musicians.

**Fri. Dec. 2 "Noël" Concert** 7:00 PM with Julie Ness, Timothy Cummings, Jeremiah McLane and Annemieke McLane

**Sun. Dec. 4 Second Sunday of Advent** The candle of Peace.

**Fri. Dec. 9 7:00 PM Thetford Chamber Singers concert** here

### **Sun. Dec. 11 Third Sunday of Advent and Pageant Sunday**

During the 10:00 AM service Rachel Guaraldi will present a puppet pageant with an opportunity for children to participate and for the congregation to sing carols. Afterward, Tom will lead a brief Advent service and we will light the candle of Joy.

### **Sun. Dec. 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent, Mary Sunday**

Lighting the candle of Love and celebrating Mary, the mother of Jesus, and the model she serves for our spiritual lives.

### **Tues. Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service 5:30 PM**

Picture excited and awe-filled children, a sanctuary lit entirely by candles, beloved lessons and carols and gorgeous instrumental music provided by The Cantornote Church Musicians, in a service timed to allow you to have all your other Christmas Eve traditions as well.

### **Sun. Dec. 25 Christmas Day, 10:00 AM Zoom-only gathering**

On Christmas morning we will gather by Zoom to read aloud a beloved Christmas story for all ages and to say Merry Christmas to one another.

**Sun. Jan. 1 Epiphany Sunday Zoom-only Worship Service** The Magi follow the star...

**Sun. Jan. 8 Baptism of Christ Sunday**

**Sun. Jan. 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday**

**Mission Committee Update: Holiday Food Baskets for the Sharon Food Shelf**

Our friends at the Sharon Food Shelf do a particularly wonderful thing this time of year: they provide lovely holiday food baskets for folks who sign up, including Strafford residents. The Thanksgiving basket includes a turkey and all the fixings for a Thanksgiving meal. The Christmas basket has traditionally included the choice of a turkey or a ham with lots of goodies for the Christmas dinner. We are honored and proud for our church to chip in and help with this labor of love. If you or someone you know is in need of a basket, please contact the Sharon Food Shelf or one of us. With love, Danette Harris, Maggie Hooker and Cameron Speth

**Childcare** 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.

**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. See our website Welcome page for details.

**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

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

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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

**Sunday January 22<sup>nd</sup> 4:00 PM** "New Hopes"

**Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup> 4:00 PM** "With Love"

**Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup> 4:00 PM** "Masterworks"

**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 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:**

Over an inch of rain.  
The brook is flowing again.  
Deer are drinking.

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