



November 6, 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

November 6, 2022

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

MH=Methodist Hymnal; PH=Pilgrim Hymnal

Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Is it not in your sight as nothing? Yet now take courage...all you people of the land, says the Lord. Work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts, according to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My spirit abides among you. Do not fear. *Haggai 2:3-5*

Gathering Music

Silent Prayer of Invocation

Pastor Tom Kinder

Prelude "That Lonesome Road" James Taylor, sung by the VTones

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 "Deep River" Traditional Black American song

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Responsive Reading *from Luke 6, Psalm 51, Jeremiah 29,
Matthew 5, Jeremiah 31, Ezekiel 36* Christina Robinson, Reader

Leader: The good person
out of the good treasure of the heart
produces good.

People: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put in me a new and right spirit.

Leader: Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

People: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Leader: Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

People: When you search for me, you will find me,
God says, if you seek me with all your heart.

Leader: I will put my law within you,
and I will write it on your hearts;
and I will be your God, and you shall be my people,
for you shall all know me.

People: A new heart I will give you,
and a new spirit I will put within you;
and I will remove from your body the heart of stone
and give you a heart of flesh.
I will put my spirit within you.

***Hymn** MH #378 Amazing Grace *verses 1-4 and 6*

Children's Time and Lord's Prayer

Anthem "The 23rd Psalm" Bobby McFerrin

Scripture Luke 21:5-12, 28

Sermon An Urgent Call to the Way of the Heart

***Hymn** The Heart That Empties *hymn folder*

Sharing of Joys, Concerns, Prayer Requests and Reflections

Reflection Questions: Here are the four steps of the spiritual path in ancient Christian tradition, one flowing naturally into the next, repeated many times a day in small ways, and deepening over a

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lifetime, a path for individuals and for communities and for humanity as a whole, a path that leads to sustainable and harmonious life:

- *Kenosis:* Self-emptying, letting go of the ego's attachments, making room for the Spirit to fill us and lead us toward...
- *Metanoia:* Transformation of consciousness in the direction of having the heart and mind of Christ, an expanding heart-perspective of oneness that results in...
- *Agape:* compassionate, unconditional love for all, because loving actions are what the Spirit flowing through the heart and mind of Christ in us wants to do; and the direct result is
- *Koinonia:* the realm of God's beloved community forming around us as we do acts of love and justice, preserving, creating or restoring community, so earth may live as one...

Jesus offered this path as an urgently needed way out of trouble. Do you see ways in which this path could help your life, or help humanity in the social and environmental challenges on earth today?

Time of Prayer

Call to Offering

*Benediction

***Hymn** MH #431 Let There Be Peace on Earth

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

Postlude "Ain't-a That Good News"

Traditional Black American song, arr. William Dawson

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

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

Thank you!!! Thank you to the VTones for singing today, and thank you to VTones member Da-Shih Hu for playing piano!

Covid Precautions at Church The VTones are testing before singing today. Otherwise 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*

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: 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.

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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.

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 18th "960" Sonatas by Schubert etc, Annemieke McLane, pianist

December 2nd "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 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:

The trees were full of apples.
I felt love
as I hugged the Duchess tree.

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