

Readings for June 30, 2024

United Church of Stratford In Person and Zoom Service

Call to Worship *from Psalm 137*

Leader: By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down
and there we wept when we remembered Zion.

People: **On the willows there we hung up our harps.
We would play them no more.**

Leader: For there they that carried us away captive
demanded of us a song,
and our torturers asked for mirth,

People: **Saying, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion.”
How could we?**

All: **How could we sing the Spirit’s song
in that strange land?**

Verses from I Corinthians Chapters 12 through 14

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit... To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit...to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it....

Strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing...

Pursue love and strive for the spiritual gifts, and especially that you may prophesy.... Those who prophesy speak to other people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.... If...I do not know the meaning of a sound, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. So with yourselves; since you are eager for spiritual gifts, strive to excel in them for building up the church....

What then should I do? I will pray with the spirit, but I will pray with the mind also; I will sing praise with the spirit, but I will sing praise with the mind also.

What then should be done, my friends? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.