



September 29, 2024

*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***

September 29, 2024

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*MH=Methodist Hymnal; PH=Pilgrim Hymnal*

"The thing that saved us was the music ... it was part of liberating ourselves... [South Africa's anti-apartheid struggle was the] first revolution ever to be conducted in four-part harmony." *pianist and composer Abdullah Ibrahim in the film Amandla: A Revolution in Four Part Harmony*

"We Sang Our Way to Freedom: The Singing Revolution of Estonia"  
*title of an article by Christine Karren*

Sweet sounds, oh, beautiful music, do not cease!

Reject me not into the world again.

With you alone is excellence and peace,

Mankind made plausible, his purpose plain....

Music my rampart, and my only one.

*from a sonnet by Edna St. Vincent Millay*

*"On Hearing a Symphony of Beethoven"*

**Gathering Music** The Cantornote Musicians and Trio Tanto Tempo

**Silent Prayer of Invocation**

Pastor Tom Kinder

**Prelude** "Ave Maria" Josquin des Prez (1440-1521)

*David Bor, Lydia Brosnahan, Edward Cipullo, Jean Kieffer,*

*Michael Lauer, Brian Warnock, Kim Wass*

**Blessing and Lighting the Candles**

**Leader:** In Christ 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.

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## Welcome and Announcements and Call to Worship

**Responsive Reading** *adapted from Psalm 95* Danette Harris

Leader: O come, let us sing to our Creator;  
let us make a joyful noise  
to the rock of our salvation.

**People:** Let us come into its presence everywhere  
with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise with songs of praise!

Leader: For the creative force in the universe  
is the greatest force, a great God  
above all gods.

**People:** In its Spirit's hands are the depths of the earth;  
the heights of the mountains, also.

Leader: The sea belongs to the holy one  
who created it, to the vast hands  
that formed the dry land.

**People:** O come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel humbly before the Spirit  
that sparked life into being and nurtured it,  
that evolved human beings, and made us.  
Let us sing to our Creator!

**\*Hymn** PH #68 I Sing the Mighty Power of God *Revised last line:*  
“And everywhere that we can be, Thou, God, art present there.”

## Introduction to the Anthem

**Anthem** “Lift Up Your Voice” Michael Lauer

**Scripture Readings** *selected verses about music*

**Sermon** “The Thing That Saved Us Was the Music”

**\*Hymn** God's Love Is in Each Song *hymn folder*

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

*Reflection Questions:* What role has music played in your life?  
What gifts has it given you? Has it ever changed or saved you, or  
comforted, guided or empowered you? Why do you think music  
evolved? How does it serve life on earth?

## Time of Prayer

## Call to Offering

**\*Hymn** Siyahamba *hymn folder*

## \*Benediction

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

**Postlude** Improvisation Nicola Canzano

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

*Please stay for refreshments and neighborliness in the Parish Hall.*

*We are an Open and Affirming Congregation.  
Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*

**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)

**Thank you** to Sarah Cantor, The Cantornote Musicians and Trio  
Tanto Tempo and the choir for the music today!

**Pastoral Care: Pastor Tom Kinder is available and eager** to talk with you. Please speak with him after worship to set up a time, or email rev.thomas.cary.kinder@gmail.com or call him at 333-9967.

**Church Calendar:**

Sun. Sept. 29 Special Cantornote Church Musicians Service  
Sat. Oct 5 Stuart Saunders Smith Memorial (see p. 5)  
Sun. Oct. 6 World Communion Sunday  
Fri. Oct. 11 Annemieke McLane, piano solo “New season”

**Please remember to support the Food Shelf!** The white basket in the back of the sanctuary is for donations of non-perishable items to the Sharon Food Shelf, open to Strafford residents. Thank you!

**Daily Meditation Sessions** Our **Heartfulness Circle** offers an informal meditation gathering on Zoom every evening from 7:30 to 8:10 PM. On Thursdays we have an extended session starting at 7:00 PM. See our website Welcome page for the Zoom link and details.

**Be a Part of Our Outreach Ministry** We are looking for people to play various roles in our service streaming and recording ministry that enables more people to experience our services. There are different tasks for team members and the jobs can be paid or volunteer. Please speak with Glenn Wylie if you are interested in exploring this for yourself or someone you know. Thank you!

**Mission Committee Update: Supporting the Movement Against Malnutrition and a Green Mountain Conservation Camper** We sent a donation to the International Rescue Committee's new initiative: the Movement Against Malnutrition, to make sure that globally NO child dies of hunger. Donations are being matched five to one so that even more children can be saved from completely preventable and treatable malnutrition. Also, we proudly sponsored one Strafford youth to attend Green Mountain Conservation Camp. Please let one of us know if you have a suggestion for mission work. Our committee donates to vetted non-profits. With love,  
Danette Harris, Maggie Hooker and Cameron Speth *page four*

**Videos of All Four Election Presentations** You can find recordings of each of the events in our Election 2024: What Is at Stake? series by going to the Welcome Page of our website.

**Memorial for Stuart Saunders Smith October 5, 2024**

This is a two part event, and you are invited to either or both: 2:00 PM on Lent Road, burying and planting; 4:00 PM Concert in the United Church of Strafford sanctuary. It was Stuart's wish to have his ashes buried on our land and a pine tree planted on the site. I have picked out a place at the top of a slope that I can see from the deck. Stuart loved flowers. Near the tree, I can envision a thousand spring flower bulbs all along the slope. The 2:00 PM ashes and tree planting gathering will be followed by a gathering at the Church at 4:00 PM, where Jude Traxler will give the first performance of Stuart's "Five Books," solo for orchestra bells, followed by food and conversation. If you would like to take part in the memorial by sending some spring flower bulbs, we will plant them for you, any kind, any color. But not tulips – deer will eat them as soon as they come up. If you would like us to purchase some flower bulbs for you, we can do that, too. Tell us what you would like – what kind, favorite colors. Sylvia Smith, 54 Lent Road, Sharon, VT 05065

**Next Concerts** Held on Fridays 7:00-8:15 PM. Admission by donation, 20% goes to the church's Manheim Fund for the Arts.  
Oct. 11 Annemieke McLane, piano solo “New season”  
Nov. 8 Annemieke McLane, piano solo “Diving in”  
Dec. 13 NOEL, “Hope, love, peace, joy” with Julie Ness, Jeremiah McLane, Eric Boodman, Annemieke McLane

**Haiku by Herbert A. Goertz**  
Yellow maple leaves  
dance on the wings of the wind  
yet they are falling.