

**Readings for November 28, 2021**  
**United Church of Strafford In-Person and Zoom Service**

*from Isaiah 60:1-2, 5a-b, 18-20*

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.  
Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice.  
Violence shall no more be heard of in your land,  
devastation or destruction within your borders;  
you shall call your walls Salvation,  
and your gates Praise.  
The sun shall no longer be your light by day,  
nor for brightness shall the moon  
give light to you by night;  
but the Lord will be your everlasting light,  
and your God will be your glory.  
Your sun shall no more go down,  
or your moon withdraw itself;  
for the Lord will be your everlasting light,  
and your days of mourning shall be ended.

*Mark 13:24-37*

“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is

like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake--for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."