

Readings for February 5, 2023
United Church of Strafford In Person and Zoom Service

Responsive Reading *from Isaiah 58*

Leader: Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their wrongs!

**People: They pride themselves in knowing my laws,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ways of their God.**

Leader: Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

**People: Look, you fast and then turn around and quarrel,
and strike with a wicked fist.**

Leader: Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to let the oppressed go free?

**People: Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house?**

Leader: Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly.
Your light shall rise in the darkness.

**People: Then you shall cry for help,
and God will say, Here I am.**

Leader: God will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water that never fails.

**People: Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations
of many generations; you shall be called
the repairer of the broken,
the restorer of towns and of the earth.**

I Corinthians 2:12-16

Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. "For who has known the mind of God so as to instruct them?" But we have the mind of Christ.

continued on next page

Matthew 5:13-16, from the Sermon on the Mount

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”