

## Readings for May 21, 2023

### United Church of Strafford In Person and Zoom Service

#### **Responsive Reading** *adapted from the Gospels*

Leader: No one can serve two masters.

You cannot serve God and mammon.

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

Leader: Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life,  
what you will eat or what you will drink,  
or about your body, what you will wear.

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

Leader: Strive first for the realm of God  
and its right way of being,  
and all these material things will be given to you as well.

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

Leader: Those who want to save their life will lose it,  
and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.  
What will it profit them if they gain the whole world  
but forfeit their life?

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

Leader: When they bring you before the authorities  
do not worry about what you are to say.  
The Spirit will teach you at that very hour  
what you ought to say.

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

Leader: Unless you change and become like children,  
you will never enter God's realm.  
Whoever becomes humble like a child  
is the greatest in the realm of God.

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

#### *John 14:15-21, 25-27*

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you

*continued on back*

will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them....

“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”