



United Church of Strafford, Vermont

May 28, 2023

Pentecost

MH=Methodist Hymnal; PH=Pilgrim Hymnal

When the Spirit of truth comes, it will guide you into all truth; for it will not speak on its own, but will speak whatever it hears, and it will declare to you the things that are to come. *John 16:13*

“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.” *Acts 2:4*

English: Praise God

Hebrew: Baruch Atah Adonai

Greek: Aineo Theos

Dutch: Prijs God

Spanish: Alabado sea Dios

French: Louez Dieu

German: Gelobt sei Gott

Arabic: Hamd'Allah

Latin: Laudate Domino

May 28, 2023

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.

Gathering Music

Lisa Willems

Silent Prayer of Invocation

Pastor Tom Kinder

Prelude *Komm Gott Schopfer, heiliger Geist*

(Come God, Creator, Holy Ghost)

Johann Pachelbel 1653-1706

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.

Introit “Come Down, O Love Divine”

Bianco of Siena c. 1367

Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

page one

Responsive Reading *from Psalm 104* John Echeverria

Leader: Bless the Spirit of God, O my soul.
O Creator of all, you are very great.
You are clothed with honor and majesty,
wrapped in light as with a garment.

People: **You make the winds your messengers,
fire and flame your ministers.**

Leader: O Spirit of Creation, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

People: **They all look to you
to give them their food in due season;
when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand,
they are filled with good things.**

Leader: When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return to their dust.

People: **When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.**

Leader: May your glory endure forever;
may you rejoice in your works!

People: **I will sing to you as long as I live;
I will sing praise to you while I have my being.
May my meditation be pleasing to you,
my Creator, in whom I rejoice.**

***Hymn** PH #68 I Sing the Mighty Power of God
And everywhere that we can be, Thou, God, art present there.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Grace

Children's Time and Lord's Prayer

page two

*The Lord's Prayer: Maori & Polynesia
from the New Zealand Book of Prayer*
Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;
The way of your justice be followed
by the peoples of the world;
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.

Anthem "Come Holy Ghost" Thomas Tallis c.1505-1585

Scripture Acts 2:1-17, 40-47

Sermon Declaring the Things That Are to Come

***Hymn** Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness *hymn folder*

Sharing of Joys, Concerns, Prayer Requests and Reflections
Reflection Questions: Pentecost is a day to see visions and dream
dreams and to prophesy what new thing God is about to do. What
vision or dream is the Spirit giving you, what new thing may it be
about to do, or do you fervently hope it will help you or us do?

Time of Prayer

Call to Offering

page three

***Benediction**

***Hymn** When Christ Left Earth *hymn folder*

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

Postlude Komm Heiliger Geist, Herre Gott
(Come Holy Ghost, Lord God) Andreas Nicolaus Vetter 1666-1734

** Those who are comfortably able may stand.*

Please stay for refreshments and neighborliness in the Parish Hall.

Past sermons are available on the back table.

Video recorded services, sermon texts and bulletins
are available on our website 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

*Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

Thank you to Lisa Willems, our organist and choir director today!
Lisa lives in Pomfret and is the former Music Director/Organist at Saint Denis Catholic Church in Hanover. She studied Organ Performance at Sweelinck Conservatorium, Amsterdam.

Next Story Sunday All ages are welcome to join us on "Story Sundays" led by Rachel Guaraldi. Rachel uses stories, as well as song, movement, and shared conversation to help everyone from youngest children to oldest adults explore some of the great spiritual questions. Please pass the word about this to anyone who might be interested of any faith or age. Story Sundays are held the second Sunday of the month. The next is June 11th: "Gifts of the Spirit."

Heartfulness Contemplative Training Circle gathers on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM by Zoom and offers an informal meditation all other evenings at 7:30 PM by Zoom. You are invited to be part of the circle. See our website Welcome page for details. *page four*

Fulfilling Our Vision The Fulfilling Our Vision committee is continuing our focus on exploring the question of whether our congregation will become officially Open to and Affirming of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. The vision we are fulfilling is our Future Directions Statement that you can find on the pew card or on the Welcome page of our website.

Video and Resources Available: Understanding Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sexual Orientation Christa Wurm led this interactive workshop. Please email the church for the link to the video and resource document.

Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and the Law: A talk by Rod Smolla, President of Vermont Law and Graduate School You can find the video from this presentation on the Welcome page of our website. This gives useful background to current stories in the media.

Pastoral Care: Pastor Tom Kinder serves only one-third time and counseling, visits and funerals are not included in his ministry. Those in need can reach out to Deacons through Becky Bailey (rbailey@sover.net), Debby Richie (dc.richie@hotmail.com), and Cameron Speth (cece@speth.com) or call the church number.

Church Calendar:

Thurs. June 1	Heartfulness Circle Zoom 7:00 PM*
Sat. June 3	Bill Williams Memorial Service 2:00 PM
Fri. June 9	Annemieke McLane Piano Concert 7:00 PM
Sun. June 11	Story Sunday 10:00 AM*
Sun. June 11	Farewell to Denise Cote after Worship

** there is an announcement about this in this bulletin*

Haiku by Mel Goertz:

What a gift!
Hummingbirds and a fuschia
red blossoms and wings whirring