

Readings for April 30, 2023

United Church of Strafford In Person and Zoom Service

Responsive Reading *compiled from the Gospel of Thomas 24, 70, 77 and 113*

Leader: The disciples asked Jesus,
“Show us where you will be so we can seek you.”

**People: Jesus said to them, “Let those who have ears listen!
There is light within a person of light,
and it shines on the whole world.
If it does not shine, it is dark.”**

Leader: “If you bring forth what is within you,
it will save you;

**People: “If you do not find and bring forth what is within you,
it will destroy you.”**

Leader: “I am the light that is within and around all things.
I am all: from me all came forth
and to me all came and found their being in me.

People: “Split a piece of wood; I am there.

Leader: “Lift up a stone, and you will find me there.”

**People: “The realm of God will not come by watching for it.
Rather, it is spread out upon the earth,
and people do not see it.”**

John 14:1-17

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”

Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words

that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

“Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

”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.”