



United Church of Strafford, Vermont

June 4, 2023

First Sunday after Pentecost, Trinity Sunday
MH=Methodist Hymnal; PH=Pilgrim Hymnal

Unclutter your heart
Unclutter your mind
Make room for the spirit to enter
Then at last you will find
The Tao, the Way, the deep Center.

Herbert A. Goertz

June 4, 2023
Morning Worship and Children's Programs at 10:00

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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

Annemieke McLane

Silent Prayer of Invocation

Pastor Tom Kinder

Prelude Waltz, Opus 39 No. 3 J. Brahms

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 "This is the Day" Les Garrett

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Responsive Reading from Psalm 8 Christina Robinson, Reader

Leader: O Creator Spirit, maker of all things,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.

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People: **Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark to defend the earth,
to silence all who oppose or attack your creation.**

Leader: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established,

People: **What are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?**

Leader: Yet you have made them almost as powerful as you,
and crowned them with glory and honor.

People: **You have given them dominion
over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,**

Leader: All sheep and oxen, the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

People: **O Creator Spirit, maker of all things,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

All: **What are human beings to you?**

***Hymn** O How Glorious, Full of Wonder *hymn folder*

Children's Time and Lord's Prayer

Anthem "You are the seed/ Sois sa samilla" Cesáreo Gabarain

Scripture Romans 8:5-17

Sermon What Are Human Beings?

***Hymn** God, What Are We Human Beings? *hymn folder*

Sharing of Joys, Concerns, Prayer Requests and Reflections

Reflection Questions: Humanity is unleashing Artificial Intelligence that has the potential to misinform, oppose and overpower humanity and shape our future against our will. At the same time, we are allowing the study of the humanities to diminish. The humanities

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are the body of creative arts, knowledge and wisdom collected over thousands of years that have addressed questions of right and wrong, goodness and evil, and the most ethical ways to live in relation to one another and the earth. How do you feel about what is happening, and what do you hope will happen?

Time of Prayer

Call to Offering

Invitation to Holy Communion

Hymn MH #64 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

Words of Institution and Prayer of Consecration

Sharing of the Elements *remaining seated*
(All are welcome to this feast of love. We all eat the bread and drink the cup together. We serve gluten-free crackers as well as gluten bread, and we serve juice, not wine, so that all may partake.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving *unison*

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Please strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives by following the way of Christ with joy. May it be no longer we who live, but Christ who lives in us, our truest and best self. Amen

***Benediction**

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

Postlude "Butterfly" from Lyric Pieces, Opus 43 E. Grieg

** Those who are comfortably able may stand.*

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*Please stay for refreshments and neighborliness in the Parish Hall.
If you would like to provide refreshments sometime,
please speak with Christina Robinson.*

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!*

Welcome back, and thank you, Annemieke McLane, for providing
our music today!

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.

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.

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**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.

Next Concerts Admission by donation, 20% goes to the church's
Manheim Fund for the Arts. Featuring pianist Annemieke McLane:

Friday, June 9th, 7:00 PM

Friday, July 28th, 7:00 PM Piano Classics I

Friday, August 25th, 7:00 PM Piano Classics II

Friday September 22nd, 7pm

October 20th, 7pm “Connecting with Cage” w/Sylvia Smith

November 3rd, 7pm

Church Calendar:

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:

a Swallowtail

I wonder if he's tasted
the Lilac's purple wine

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