

**United Church of Strafford, Vermont**  
**October 22, 2023**  
**The Rev. Mary Thompson, Worship Leader**

**Gathering Music**

Rebecca Bailey

**Welcome and Announcements**

Danette Harris

**Prelude** *Brother James Air*, w: 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, m: James Bain (1840-1925)

**Blessing and Lighting the Candles**

Adapted from *New Zealand Prayerbook*

**Leader: O God of many names,  
We pray for peace in our hearts and homes,  
in our nations and our world;**

*All: The peace of your will,  
The peace of our need.*

**Leader: In our hearts and our world,**

*All: The peace of your will,  
The peace of our need.*

**\*Hymn** MH #103. *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

**First Reading** Psalm 96

by Chris Brown, in *Psalms in Ordinary Voices*

**Lord's Prayer (new version).**

**Anthem** *Nada Te Turbe*, w: St. Teresa de Avila, m: J. Berthier (1923-1994)

**Reading** Psalm 18 by Sheila Pelz Weinberg, in *Psalms in Ordinary Voices*

**Meditation** *Breathe in Spirit; Breathe Out Fear*

**Time of Silence**

**Sharing of Joys, Concerns, Prayer Requests, and Reflections**

**\*Hymn** *The Peace of the Earth*

Guatemalan trad., arr. by John Bell

The peace of the Earth be with you, the peace of the heavens, too;  
The peace of the rivers be with you, the peace of the oceans, too;  
Deep peace falling over you;  
God's peace growing in you.

**Benediction** *A Prayer for the World* by Rabbi Harold Kushner

*As you are able, please stand and face towards the center, so that we might bless each other with this prayer.*

**L:** Let the rain come and wash away  
the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds  
held and nurtured over generations.

**R: Let the rain wash away the memory  
of the hurt, the neglect.**

**L:** Then let the sun come out and  
fill the sky with rainbows.

**R: Let the warmth of the sun heal us  
wherever we are broken.**

**Let it burn away the fog so that  
we can see each other clearly.**

**L:** So that we can see beyond labels,  
beyond accents, gender or skin color.  
Let the warmth and brightness  
of the sun melt our selfishness.  
So that we can share the joys and  
feel the sorrows of our neighbors.

**R: And let the light of the sun  
be so strong that we will see all  
people as our neighbors.**

**ALL:** *Let the earth, nourished by rain,  
bring forth flowers  
to surround us with beauty.  
And let the mountains teach our hearts  
to reach upward to heaven. Amen.*

**Postlude** *Lone Wild Bird*, m: Cwafon/Philip James, w: Henry Mc Fadyen

**Haiku by Mel Goertz**  
Frigid night.  
A Fuchsia fills the kitchen  
red buds, blossoms opening.

