

Readings for November 26, 2023

United Church of Strafford Hybrid In-person and Zoom Service

adapted from Romans 12:1-2, 13:11-12

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, to present your whole lives as a living, holy offering dedicated to the God of love. The gift of your life to serve God's love is a grateful response to the gift of life the Spirit gave you. It is what you were created to do. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of the Spirit, and what you can do with your life to grow toward the perfection of human goodness and love....

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For...the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and take up what we need to do in order to serve the light.

Mark 13:28-29, 33-37

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.... Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.

“It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.

“And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”