



December 10, 2023

Morning Worship and Children's Programs at 10:00 AM

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.*

United Church of Strafford, Vermont

December 10, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent, Pageant Sunday

Sunday of Joy

MH=Methodist Hymnal; PH=Pilgrim Hymnal

“Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is
come to pass.” *Luke 2:15, KJV*

Gathering Music

Becky Bailey

Welcome

Pastor Tom Kinder

Anthem “Children, Go Where I Send Thee”

African-American Spiritual

A Nativity Puppet Show Rachel Guaraldi

Please remain seated for the following carols.

MH #230 O Little Town of Bethlehem vv 1, 2 & 3

MH #238 Angels We Have Heard on High vv 1, 2 & 3

MH #254 We Three Kings of Orient Are vv 1 & 5

Reflection

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

*Please see your pew card for the Lord's Prayer. We will read the
New Version this week.*

Passing the Joy

Welcome, Announcements & Call to Worship

page one

*Hymn PH #110 O Come, O Come Emmanuel *verses 2 & 3*

Joys and Concerns and Prayer Requests

Time of Prayer

Call to Offering

Congregational Benediction

May You Be Blessed with Mary's Joys (*see page four*)

Silent Prayer

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

Postlude

** Those who are comfortably able may stand.*

***We are an Open and Affirming Congregation.
Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!***

Past sermons are available on the back table
and **video recorded services** are on our website.

See us on **Facebook** at United Church of Strafford

Look for updates on our **website**: unitedchurchofstrafford.com

Sign up for **weekly emails** about upcoming worship and other news
at unitedchurchofstrafford@gmail.com

Thank You to Rachel Guaraldi and Becky Bailey!

Pastoral Care: Those in need can reach out to Deacons Becky Bailey (rbailey@sover.net), Debby Richie (dc.richie@hotmail.com), and Cameron Speth (cece@speth.com) or call the church number.

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Advent, Christmas & Epiphany Services & Events Calendar

Sun. Dec. 10 Third Sunday of Advent and Pageant Sunday

During the 10:00 AM service Rachel Guaraldi will present a puppet pageant with an opportunity for children to participate and for the congregation to sing carols. Afterward, Tom will lead a brief Advent service and we will light the candle of Joy.

Fri. Dec. 15, 7:00 PM Noël Concert here with Annemieke McLane, Jeremiah McLane, Julie Ness and Tim Cummings

Sat. Dec. 16 Winter/Holiday Open House Here 11:00AM-2:00PM

Sun. Dec. 17 Fourth Sunday of Advent, Mary Sunday

Lighting the candle of Love and celebrating Mary, the mother of Jesus, and the model she serves for our spiritual lives; Cantornote Church Musicians

Sun. Dec. 24 NO 10:00 AM Service

Sun. Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service 5:30 PM

Picture excited and awe-filled children, a sanctuary lit entirely by candles, beloved lessons and carols and gorgeous instrumental and choral music provided by Annemieke McLane, our choir and friends, in a service timed to allow you to have all your other Christmas Eve traditions as well.

Sun. Dec. 31 Sunday after Christmas, 10:00 AM Zoom-only gathering to read aloud a beloved Christmas story for all ages, hear some beautiful music, share our joys, concerns, prayer requests and reflections and say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to one another.

Sun. Jan. 7 Epiphany Sunday The Magi follow the star...

Sun. Jan. 14 Story Sunday and Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday

Next Concert Held on Fridays, 7:00-8:15 PM. Admission by donation, 20% goes to the church's Manheim Fund for the Arts.

December 15 Noel Concert with Annemieke McLane, Jeremiah McLane, Julie Ness and Tim Cummings

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Winter / Holiday Open House Here All are welcome to a Winter / Holiday Open House, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM in the Parish Hall, featuring:

- * Warm drinks, soup, bread, and cheese.
- * Cookies to decorate and cookies to eat!
- * Cards to decorate and send!
- * Chairs to sit in and rest your weary feet!
- * And best of all, friends, new and old, to catch a breath with during this sometimes harried season.

Questions? email christina.m.robinson@dartmouth.edu or call me at 802-369-4680

May You Be Blessed with Mary's Joys

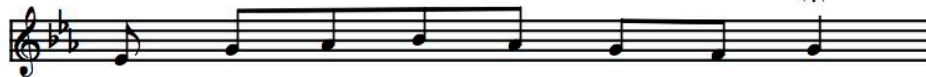
text: Thomas Cary Kinder, 2008, 2015
tune: CONDITOR ALME,, L.M., Sarum Plainsong



May you be blessed with Mar - y's joys: A hope no grief or
With - in the dark - ness serve light's cause. Find joy in liv - ing



pain de - stroy's; A peace that grows; a light to bear;
Christ's great laws: Love God, love all, with all you are.



A heart that knows the gift to share.
Go forth and shine, the an Ad - vent star.

Haiku by Mel Goertz:

I sing to shed light
into darkness,
to find my way to the Spirit.

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Mission Committee Update: Medical Care and Food for Our Brothers and Sisters in War Zones On behalf of our church, the Mission Committee is honored to donate to two hard-working organizations who are lovingly caring for people around the world who are trying to survive in war zones. Doctors Without Borders is providing medical care for those in need and World Central Kitchen is serving hot meals. Bless their hard, compassionate work. Please let one of us know if you have other ideas for mission work. With love, Danette Harris, Maggie Hooker and Cameron Speth

Mission Committee Update II: Toys for Children in Ukraine

This month, the Mission Committee also made a donation to send toys to children in Ukraine who have been displaced by the war.

Fulfilling Our Vision Committee Update: You can find the Future Directions Vision we are working to fulfill printed on the pew card. Our Native American Reparations Fund has been established, with a generous start-up donation from a member of our congregation. If you would like to contribute, please make your donation to The United Church of Strafford and indicate "Reparations." We are exploring various ways to use this fund. Our first intent is to support Abenaki needs and wishes here in Vermont. We will provide periodic updates, although confidentiality will be needed in some cases, as with the Deacons Fund. We are also working to fulfill the Implementation Plan for our Open and Affirming Covenant. You can find the link to both the covenant and the plan near the top of the Welcome Page of our website. Keep your eyes and ears open for welcoming language, fresh signs, community building, and active kindness in our church space and beyond! FOV meetings will resume the first Tuesday evening of every month, beginning in February. Please contact Kate Reimanis with any questions or ideas.

Daily Meditation Sessions Our Heartfulness Circle offers an informal meditation gathering on Zoom every evening from 7:30 to 8:10 PM. On Thursdays we have an extended session starting at 7:00 PM. See our website Welcome page for the Zoom link and details.

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