



April 14, 2024

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

**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**

April 14, 2024

Third Sunday of Easter

*MH=Methodist Hymnal; PH=Pilgrim Hymnal*

*Seeking Spirit in Quiet Places*

**Gathering Music** Becky Bailey

**Introduction, Welcome and Announcements** Joey Hawkins

**Prelude**

**Blessing and Lighting the Peace Candle**

**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.

**Congregational Song** "This Little Light of Mine" *see page three*  
Henry Dixon Loes

*Children and families are now invited to come to the front  
of the church.*

**Children's Story Time** *The Quiet Place* by Douglas Wood  
Beth Randall

*Children go to the Parish Hall for further discussion of the story,  
activities, music fun and a snack.*

**Responsive Reading** *from various scriptures*

**Leader:** Be still, and know that I am God.

**People:** **In returning and rest you shall be saved;  
in quietness and trust shall be your strength.**

*page one*

Leader: Whenever you pray, go into your inner room  
and shut the door and pray  
to the one who is hidden in that stillness  
and listen for the still, small voice of their silence.

People: **I wait for you, God, my soul waits,  
and in your word I hope;  
My soul waits for God more than those  
who watch for the morning,  
more than those who watch for the morning.**

Leader: O God, my heart is not lifted up,  
my eyes are not raised too high;  
I do not occupy myself with things too great  
and too marvelous for me.  
But I have calmed and quieted my soul,  
like a weaned child with its mother;  
my soul is like the weaned child that is with me.

People: **Come, behold the works  
of the Spirit of the universe,  
the Spirit of love.  
They make wars cease to the end of the earth;  
they break the bow, and shatter the spear;  
they burn the shields with fire.**

All: **Be still...and know that I am God.**

Reading “1990 Poem VI” from *A Timbered Choir* by Wendell Berry

### **Five Minutes of Silent Reflection and Meditation**

### **Introduction to “The Christmas Truce”**

Reading “The Christmas Truce”            Joey Hawkins and friends

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

### **Benediction**

Closing Song    MH #239    “Silent Night”

***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.  
Video recorded services, sermon texts and bulletins  
are available on our website [unitedchurchofstrafford.com](http://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](mailto:unitedchurchofstrafford@gmail.com)

### **This Little Light of Mine**

This little light of mine, I’m going to let it shine.  
Oh, this little light of mine, I’m going to let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I’m going to let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

All around the neighborhood, I’m going to let it shine.  
All around the neighborhood, I’m going to let it shine.  
All around the neighborhood, I’m going to let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel? No! I’m going to let it shine.  
Hide it under a bushel? No! I’m going to let it shine.  
Hide it under a bushel? No! I’m going to let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Don’t let anyone blow it out! I’m going to let it shine.  
Don’t let anyone blow it out! I’m going to let it shine.  
Don’t let anyone blow it out! I’m going to let it shine.  
Let it shine, let shine, let it shine.

This little light of mine, I’m going to let it shine.  
Oh, this little light of mine, I’m going to let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I’m going to let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

**Mission Committee Update:**

**Honoring World Central Kitchen Workers and Help for Haiti**

We gratefully received an anonymous donation given in memory of **Ken and Marcia Bushnell**. We will use it to spread the love and kindness that Ken and Marcia showed to all.... The death of seven **World Central Kitchen** workers who were delivering desperately needed meals in Gaza was heartbreaking. On behalf of the church, we sent a donation in honor of those heroes as well as to honor *all* of the brave WCK workers who serve in dangerous areas.... The violent and disturbing situation in Haiti has also been on our minds. We made a donation to **Partners in Health**, providing care for so many in Haiti. Before this conflict, one in five children was starving but this number is likely larger now. PIH makes a peanut based nutritional supplement to restore malnourished children to health. They know the starving child will be okay when they finally smile.

**Please let us know** your ideas for mission work. With gratitude, Danette Harris, Maggie Hooker and Cameron Speth

**Fulfilling Our Vision Committee Meeting** You can find the Future Directions Vision and the Open and Affirming Covenant we are working to fulfill on our website. We also are discussing the issue of Native American Reparations. FOV usually meets the first Tuesday evening of every month.

**In April FOV will meet on the 16<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 PM. 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.

**Church Calendar:**

Tues. April 16	Fulfilling Our Vision meeting 7:00 PM*
Thurs. April 18	Heartfulness Circle Zoom 7:00 PM*
Sun. April 21	Good Shepherd and Earth Day Sunday
Fri. May 10	Annemieke and Jeremiah McLane 7:00 PM*
Sun. May 19	Story Sunday and Seeking Spirit
Sun. May 26	Celebration of Pentecost

*\* there is an announcement about this on this insert*

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

*Friday evening at 7:00 PM:*

May 10th with Jeremiah McLane

June 21 "Summertime"

**New Children's Story Program** We are excited for another Story Sunday on **April 14**. Early in the service Beth will read *The Quiet Place* by Douglas Wood, wondering about finding that quiet place inside each of us. Then we will go to the Parish Hall for discussion, painting with water colors, stocking a "kids basket" for the sanctuary, some music fun, and a snack. **Story Sunday in May will be on the 19<sup>th</sup>**. We enthusiastically welcome all to join us and look forward to seeing you. With love, Danette Harris, Joey Hawkins, Beth Randall and Christina Robinson

**Haiku by Mel Goertz**

During the Eclipse  
all the birds rushed into  
the dark woods for the night.

After the Eclipse  
they all came out of the woods  
singing and singing.