



May 12, 2024

Morning Worship and Children's Programs at 10:00

United Church of Strafford

230 Justin Morrill Highway
PO Box 124, Strafford, Vermont 05072
802-765-4585

Email: unitedchurchofstrafford@gmail.com
rev.thomas.cary.kinder@gmail.com
Website: unitedchurchofstrafford.com

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

May 12, 2024

Seventh Sunday of Easter

MH=Methodist Hymnal; PH=Pilgrim Hymnal

“The work, my friends, is peace. More than an end of this war—an end to the beginnings of all wars. Yes, an end, forever, to this impractical, unrealistic settlement of the differences between governments by the mass killing of peoples.” *The Last Speech of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt*

“You are here today as trustees of mankind—charged...with the ultimate duty of abolishing war forever from the world.... The first essential element in winning the world freedom from war is to control and abolish the means by which nations destroy each other.... Humanity can stall no longer....” “Mankind must put an end to war or war will put an end to mankind.” *John F. Kennedy in 1961 Addresses to the UN General Assembly*

Gathering Music “Crazy Fingers” Robert Hunter/Jerry Garcia
Erik Reimanis

Silent Prayer of Invocation Pastor Tom Kinder

Prelude “Your Song” Elton John

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.

Introit “Amazing Grace” John Newton/William Walker

Welcome, Announcements and Call to Worship *page one*

Mother's Day Proclamation of 1870 by Julia Ward Howe
read by women of this church and community

***Hymn** God and Earth and Love Are Crying *hymn folder*

Silent Confession, Lord's Prayer and Assurance of Pardon

Anthem "Let It Be" John Lennon/Paul McCartney

Scripture Excerpts from Philippians 2 and the Writings of John
Debby Richie, Reader

Sermon Spiritual Disarmament

***Hymn** MH #437 This Is My Song *verses 1 & 2 only*

Sharing of Joys, Concerns, Prayer Requests and Reflections
Reflection Questions: Why not call for universal disarmament and the abolition of war, and work for it? What inner obstacles block us?

Time of Prayer

Call to Offering

***Hymn** PH #489 I Would Be True

***Benediction**

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

Postlude "Wildflowers" Tom Petty
**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!***

page two

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

Combined Seeking Spirit and Story Sunday May 19th We are excited for another Seeking Spirit and Story Sunday! The **Seeking Spirit** portion: Dr. Ray Chin is a therapist who has worked with children in many local schools and private practice. He specializes in neurodevelopmental disorders, cognitive behavioral therapy, trauma, and mindfulness. He will speak to us on "Brothers in the Beloved Community: The Friendship of Martin Luther King and Thich Naht Hahn." The **Story Sunday** portion: Early in the service Beth Randall will share a book with the children, *Somewhere Today, a Book of Peace*, by Shelley Moore Thomas then two of us will go with them to the Parish Hall for discussion, fun activities, and a snack. We enthusiastically welcome all to join us and look forward to seeing you. With love, Danette Harris, Joey Hawkins, Beth Randall and Christina Robinson

Pastoral Care: Pastor Tom Kinder is available and eager to talk with you. Please speak with him after worship to set up a time, or email rev.thomas.cary.kinder@gmail.com or call him at 333-9967.

Volunteer or Paid Opportunities Please consider helping out with the streaming and recording of worship services, and with administrative tasks like copying bulletins. These positions could be volunteer or paid. If you are interested in possibly helping with any of this, please be in touch with Tom.

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. FOV usually meets the first Tuesday evening of every month. Please contact Kate Reimanis with any questions or ideas.

page three

Mission Committee Update: Helping Stock the New Resource Closet for Foster Families in Orange and Windsor Counties

We have been very excited to work with Nicci Maynard. The new closet is located in East Thetford and is taking donations of gently used and new children's clothing (ages 0-18) and items such as diapers. We have provided many items from Nicci's "most needed" list. You are welcome to reach out to Nicci to donate or to offer help at the closet at nicci.maynard@gmail.com. Please let us know if you have any ideas for mission work. With gratitude and love, Danette Harris, Maggie Hooker and Cameron Speth

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.

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"

Church Calendar:

Sun. May 12	Mother's Day Proclamation in worship*
Thurs. May 16	Heartfulness Circle 7:00 PM Meditation*
Sun. May 19	Seeking Spirit and Story Sunday*
Sun. May 26	Celebration of Pentecost
Sat. June 8	Bushnell Memorial Service 11:00 AM
Sun. June 9	Seeking Spirit and Story Sunday*

**see the announcement about this*

Haiku by Mel Goertz

Green grass sprouting up.
What a treat for young chickens
pecking at the leaves.

Mother's Day Proclamation, 1870 Julia Ward Howe

Arise then...women of this day!

Arise, all women who have hearts!

Whether your baptism be of water or of tears!

Say firmly:

"We will not have questions answered by irrelevant agencies, our husbands will not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause.

Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience.

We, the women of one country, will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs."

From the bosom of a devastated Earth a voice goes up with our own. It says: "Disarm! Disarm!

The sword of murder is not the balance of justice."

Blood does not wipe out dishonor, nor violence indicate possession.

As men have often forsaken the plough and the anvil at the summons of war,

let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel.

Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead.

Let them solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace...

Each bearing after his own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God—

In the name of womanhood and humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality, may be appointed and held at someplace deemed most convenient and at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace.