

*Readings for May 5, 2024*

*United Church of Strafford In Person and Zoom Service*

**Responsive Reading** *adapted from Joel 2 & Acts 2*

**Leader:** In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,

**People:** **And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,**

**Leader:** And your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams.

**People:** **Even on those you would least expect,  
in those days, I will pour out my spirit,  
and they shall prophesy.**

**Leader:** And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

**People:** **The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,  
before the coming of that day.  
Those who turn to the Spirit  
shall find the way through those days.**

*John 7:37-39a; 14:12a, 15-20, 25-27; 16:13*

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive.

"Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these....

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you

of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

“When the Spirit of truth comes, it will guide you into all the truth; for it will not speak on its own, but will speak whatever it hears, and it will declare to you the things that are to come.”