

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

193 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301

Celebrating 200 years in the heart of Brattleboro!

Office Hours: M - F: 8:30am - 12:30pm

Church Office: (802) 254-4730 / centrechurch@centrechurchvt.org

Website: www.centrechurchvt.org

Facebook: [Centre Congregational Church-Brattleboro](https://www.facebook.com/Centre-Congregational-Church-Brattleboro)

Current news and information in the larger UCC Community:

VT Conference: www.vtcucc.org / National: www.ucc.org

CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

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Music Director

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Sextons

Gary and Paul Smith

Administrative Assistant

Hilary Farquhar: hilary@centrechurchvt.org

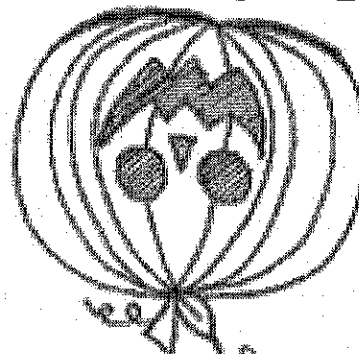
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Matt Kennedy

Treasurer / Clerk

Holly Kennedy / Constance Bresnahan

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OCTOBER

BRATTLEBORO, VT 05301

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193 Main Street Brattleboro, Vermont 05301

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

OCTOBER 2016

*Holy Communion
celebrated

SUNDAY

MONDAY






TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

						1 8 ⁰⁰ -AAUW Book Sale
2 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study Sunday School 10 ⁰⁰ Worship* 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	3 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl	4 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Search Committee 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	5 12 ⁰⁰ Brown Bag Lunch	6 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal 7 ³⁰ Bread & Puppet Theater	7 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Moment for Peace 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	8
9 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study Sunday School 10 ⁰⁰ Worship / FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	10 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl 7 ³⁰ AA District 8	11 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ Meeting Night 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	12	13 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	14 Centre Bells Deadline 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	15 9 ⁰⁰ Bratt Literary Fest 5 ³⁰ Spaghetti Dinner Silent Auction
16 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study/ Sunday School 10 ⁰⁰ Worship / FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 1 ⁰⁰ Bratt Literary Fest 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	17 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl	18 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Search Committee 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	19 12 ⁰⁰ BAIL	20 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	21 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	22
23 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study/ Sunday School 10 ⁰⁰ Worship / FIA Silver Bells Sunday 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 11 ³⁰ Luncheon / Lecture 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	24 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl 7 ⁰⁰ Spiritual Conversations	25 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ Church Council 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	26 Mail Centre Bells	27 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	28 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Jumble Sale 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	29 8 ⁰⁰ Jumble Sale 7 ³⁰ BMC Concert
30 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study/ Sunday School 10 ⁰⁰ Worship / FIA Guest minister: Matt Wollam-Berens 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	31 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl					

BIRTHDAYS

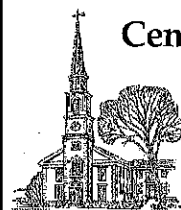
- 2 Steve Fecto
- Alice Carrier
- 4 Dorothy Atomanuk
- 5 Duo Xi
- 9 Kare Marshall
- 12 Peter Jameson
- 16 Jeanne Reuter
- 24 Edith Cay
- 29 Nancy Clarke

ANNIVERSARIES

- 24 Laura & Terrence Slate
- 31 Lynn & George Herzog



Centre Bells is published monthly by
Centre Congregational Church, UCC



News items and articles, address changes, or requests to be added or removed from the *Centre Bells* mailing list should be submitted to the church administrator at: 802-254-4730/centrechurch@centrechurchvt.org

ORDER *This Jewel on Main Street*

The history of Centre Congregational Church published for our bicentennial year, is available for sale every Sunday during coffee hour. For those who do not intend to be in the area and wish to buy a copy of this remarkable book, you may purchase it by sending a check for \$20.00 to cover the book and shipping, made out to Centre Church. Please send your orders to:

Marion Daley
PO Box 445
Putney VT 05346

Dot Vander Meulen will be happy to autograph the book before they are packed and mailed to you.

PEOPLE



A word of good cheer would be warmly received by church members and friends who are in nursing homes, assisted living centers, or housebound as of September 29.

JEANNE RUETER

Thompson House, 80 Maple St.,
Brattleboro, VT 05301 254-4977

NANCY CLARKE

Holton Home, 158 Western Ave.,
Brattleboro, VT 05301 254-5005

WANDA GODFREY

Vernon Hall, 13 Greenway Dr.,
Vernon, VT 05354 254-2444

PHYLLIS HICKOK

1520 Little Blue Stem Ct.
Ames, IA 50014 (515) 292-9196

ROBERT & JANE REED

461 Grafton Rd., #201
Townshend, VT 05353 (802) 221-4213

Please let Hilary know if we've missed someone.



WOMEN'S SPIRIT...

Women's Spirit is just finishing the book ZEALOT, and by the time you read this, the book TRIBE by Sebastian Junger will be the new adventure in reading and discussion. TRIBE is very new and based on the human grouping of persons and its ramifications on

relationships. The author was struck with the returning service persons who were feeling lost after their close relationships with fellow military acquaintances in crucial times and out of that observation wrote TRIBE. This group meets each Thursday at 4:30 in the library and welcomes anyone who would like to participate. Owning the book is not necessary as it is read together as a group.

Friends of **Marjorie Sprague** who would like to contact her family may write to her son, Chuck Sprague, at 1508 Burlington Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118.

A LOVE LETTER, FROM US TO YOU

Over the past summer, it has become very clear to me that the community of Faith Allen and I belong to is "family" in a deeper sense than I ever imagined. I have often referred to our church as a family, but until this summer, my understanding of what was meant was less than what it is now. Yes, I felt comfortable as a member of this church. I fit in comfortably sitting in that lovely sanctuary during worship services with my fellow members. I was comfortable participating in various committees, writing the church history, and participating in many of the "good works" that most churches do. All in the name of being a member of this church family.

All that was good, and it gave me a warm and fuzzy feeling. What has expanded that view of what it takes to be a member of a church family happened this summer when both Allen and I, experiencing medical difficulties, ended up being admitted to Pine Heights Rehab Center for almost a month. The vision of "family" became very personal!

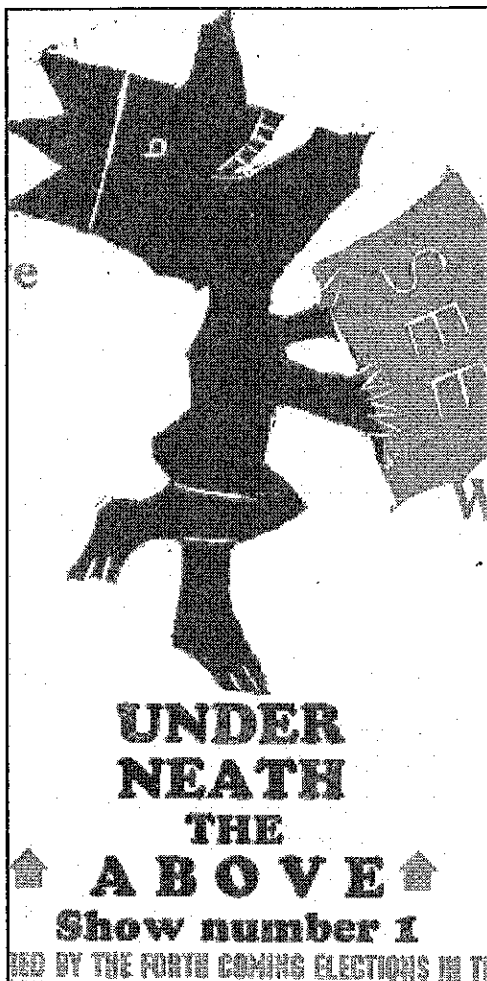
We have felt cherished. We have felt loved. Many of you came to see us, and sincere offers of help were given to us. We were mentioned in the prayers during church services. We were cheered during this dark time. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank all of you for your loving and caring, for prayers, visits, friendship and your concerns. How blessed we are! All of you are definitely what make our church this "jewel" on Main Street.

Blessings on all of you.

Dot and Allen (back home and loving it!)

BROWN BAG GROUP

Bring your sandwich and an amusing story about yourself or someone else and join this group that meets at noon on the first Wednesday of the month which will be October 6 at the church. A beverage will be provided as well as lots of conversation. **Everyone is welcome.**



Bread & Puppet Theater comes to Centre Church on **Thursday, October 6, at 7:30 p.m.** with a brand new giant puppet show inspired by the forthcoming elections in the greatest country in the history of the universe.

Written and directed by B&P founder Peter Schumann, "**The Underneath the Above Show #1**" takes place in a distant, mountainous country much different from ours, where successive unsuccessful cardboard kings reign with fleeting promise over an over-life-size, technicolor cardboard electorate operated by a hardhat workforce prone to coffee breaks, until the eternally-hopeful population installs a jolly old god in the highest office of the land. It's a hilarious, timely antidote to the election-themed entertainment on TV. Schumann: "It's a puppet show contribution to the ongoing U.S. presidential election campaign ...[T]he normally .3-D electorate is reduced to its proper election year cardboard two-dimensionality. Hardhat workers ...demonstrate the ... dissatisfaction of this electorate and its desire for a new king who will promote life, health, home, and general protection from evil."

After the performance Bread & Puppet will serve its famous free sourdough rye bread with aioli to the public, and its Fiddle Band will welcome the audience. This show is appropriate for all ages, but contains some loud noises.

Suggested donation of \$10; no one turned away for lack of funds. For more info, please visit www.breadandpuppet.org

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Everyone is invited to the
MOMENT for PEACE

Friday, October 7, 5:30-6:00PM,
Centre Church Parlor

In keeping with our 2016 theme on "Pilgrimage," for the October 7 Moment for Peace Duncan Hilton, a graduate from Harvard Divinity School, will lead the meditation on his pilgrimage to Bolivia, where he has been studying Spanish at a Catholic monastery to prepare himself to serve communities of Latino people in Springfield and elsewhere.

Hilton will return from Bolivia on September 27 and he hopes to be ordained soon for ministry in the Episcopal Church.

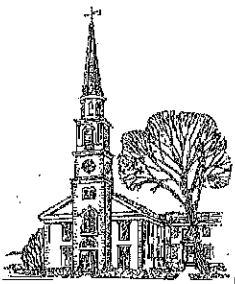
As always everyone is welcome!

WINDHAM-UNION ASSOCIATION FALL MEETING

Sunday afternoon, October 23, at United Church of Bellows Falls, **Amila Merdzanovic**, Director of the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program and a Bosnian Muslim refugee who fled the Yugoslav civil war, will be the primary speaker. His talk is on "Syrian Refugee Resettlement: Background, Understanding, and local Church Involvement."

PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR AND PLAN TO ATTEND. We can learn about the vetting process in place for all refugees and concrete opportunities for our church, with others, to become involved in supporting resettled refugees in Vermont. Talk with Dee and Bob Keller for more information.





SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23

Alive!!!...for 200 Years and Counting

10 a.m. Worship...The way it was in 1816/The way it is now

-Potluck after worship...old time?...old recipes...new tastes

12:30 p.m. Presentation by Dr. Glenn Andres:

Centre Church's Sanctuary Then & Now: Sacred Space, Sacred Place

Sunday, October 23 will be a special day in the life of Centre Church...beginning with our worship at 10 a.m. We will sing, pray, listen and respond in ways that connect us to our origins as a household of faith. What were our forbearers thinking about and concerned about two hundred years ago? How did they express their faith in 1816? What's the same in 2016; what's different. The sermon that morning may be a little different from what we're used to, but it probably will not be as long as it might have been in 1816...but who knows? Come prepared to be surprised as well as engaged. You might even want to dress up as you might have if you were going to church in 1816. If you do you won't be the only one.

An Old Time Pot Luck will follow worship, in Memorial Hall. Be alert to recipe suggestions coming your way that might have been on the table two hundred years ago. And be prepared to drink lots of cold water. Do you know about "the Cold Water movement?"

Following the Pot Luck we will gather in the parlor or sanctuary to hear Dr. Glenn Andres' presentation on Centre Church's Sanctuary building...its architectural origins, its uniqueness and its role/identity as a New England Meeting House. Dr. Andres is Professor Emeritus of History of Art and Architecture at Middlebury College. He is a recognized authority on New England meeting houses, especially those in Vermont. His presentation is expected to include both visual and verbal descriptions of these sacred places and spaces, using our sanctuary building (first erected on the Brattleboro Common in 1816 and subsequently moved to its current location in 1843) as reference point.

Guests and visitors are invited and expected at all of these events. Be here! Invite/bring friends/family.

BOARD FOR MEMBER CARE

Supper Groups 2016-2017

October is the month Member Care posts a sign up sheet on the big bulletin board in the main hallway. This is the board that is for church news about members and activities.

At our September planning meeting the question arose "Should we organize these informal supper groups again?" They have been in operation for many years. Usually there are 8 -10 people in each group. They typically meet 4 or more times from December to mid-summer.

Jenifer Ambler told us that years ago, when her daughter Kate was young, there was a group of adults with young kids who met at the church for shared meals. The children had plenty of room to play while the adults were socializing. We wondered if some of the parents with young children would be interested in such a group. (Maybe some grandparents whose grandchildren live far away would like to be a part of such a group.)

A sign up sheet will be posted on that bulletin board to sign up---singles, couples, or parents with young children. If we get enough participants we'll make a couple of groups.

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE



Saturday, October 15, 5:30

Spaghetti Supper & Quilt Silent Auction in Memorial Hall.

All are welcome!

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Search Committee has been working hard on developing surveys for different groups of our church family. Our first group was handed a survey at the September Meeting Night. Each Committee was handed the same few written questions and asked to answer them for us by the October Meeting Night. We have already received a completed survey! We worked on separate surveys for Pastoral Relations and Council. We plan to deliver these surveys before September ends.

Please mark your calendars! We are holding a Cafe after church on October 16th! Our committee will provide soups, breads etc. We are planning to have 6 to 8 tables set up in the Parlor. Each table will have a Search Committee member and few survey questions for this groups input! These questions are different to all the other questions sent out in the prior surveys. Please plan to join us and assist in building our Church Profile! *Anne Fecto*

From the Treasurer, HOLLY KENNEDY:

I am pleased to announce the introduction of an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking or savings account. Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and donation consistency for the church. You will no longer need to remember to write out a check to bring to church on Sunday mornings! When travel, illness, or other circumstances prevent you from attending worship, e-giving will allow your offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

There are two easy ways to sign up for e-giving: by completing a paper authorization form or signing up online. Beginning in October, an authorization form, instructions for signing up, and a "Frequently Asked Questions" flyer will be available in the church office or electronically from our administrative assistant, Hilary. I will have a table set up in the parlor during coffee hour in October to answer questions and assist those interested in signing up.

BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Hello at Centre Church!

The Christian Education Committee has a new plan for this church year to keep our children engaged and excited about the church community and the gospel this year. Starting on September 18th, the children will spend two Sundays per month in the worship service, taking on a number of leadership roles. The older children will act as acolytes, greet parishioners and newcomers at the door, and help with the offering. On the alternating Sundays the children will be with Abi Healey and another volunteer carrying on their Faith in Action program from last year. However, because of the consistency of having the same person with them during those weeks, they'll be able to focus on longer-term projects and themes. As always, if you'd like to volunteer to be with our children, or have ideas about ways they can help the church community, please share your thoughts with someone on the CE committee.

We look forward to working with the kids and creating a vibrant and engaging experience for the children of the church.

The Christian Ed Committee

Logan Lefebvre, James Cera, and Abi Healey

ADULT EDUCATION OFFERINGS

BOOK STUDY: an adult group book study currently reading *The Meaning of Human Existence* by Edward O. Wilson

Sunday mornings, 9:00-10:00AM

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS: Led by the Rev. Sandy Daly, a group of adults gather in Chesterfield, NH at Hallelujah Farm to discuss how and where God is moving in our lives and what we are being called to be and do. Directions to Hallelujah Farm are in the church office.

Fourth Monday of each Month, 7:00-8:30PM

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION @ CENTRE CHURCH

Sunday School every Sunday from 9:00 to 9:45 for ages 4+; nursery care is provided during this time for ages 0-4.

Faith in Action during the worship service for ages 5+; nursery care provided during the service for ages 0-5. Every Sunday except Communion Sunday, the 1st Sunday of the month.

October Lectionary Texts:

- 2 Lam 1:1-16 ■ Lam 3:19-26 or Ps 137 or
Hab 1:1-4, 2:1-4 ■ Ps 37:1-9 ■ 2 Tim 1:1-14 ■
Luke 17:5-10
- 9 Jer 29:1, 4-7 ■ Ps 66:1-12 or 2 King 5:1-3, 7-15c ■
Ps 111 ■ 2 Tim 2:8-15 ■ Luke 17:11-19
- 16 Jer 31:27-34 ■ Ps 119:97-104 or Gen 32:22-31 ■
Ps 121 ■ 2 Tim 3:14-4:5 ■ Luke 18:1-8
- 23 Joel 2:23-32 ■ Ps 65 or Sirach 35:12-17 or
Jer 14:7-10, 19-22 ■ Ps 84:1-7 ■
2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18 ■ Luke 18:9-14
- 30 Hab 1:1-4, 2:1-4 ■ Ps 119:137-144 or
Isa 1:10-18 ■ Ps 32:1-7 ■ Thess 1:1-4, 11-12 ■

From Council Chair, MATT KENNEDY:

October is here, which means summer is over, and it also means that the end of our bicentennial celebration is also near. As you can see on the calendar, October is filled with many bicentennial events, concluding with the October 23rd historical worship service. I don't know if there will be any fire and brimstone that day, but I do know there will be bow-ties, top-hats, and bonnets.

October also means that Christian Education is back at full stride, and this fall brings some changes to CE. Abi, James, and Logan have been hard at work revamping and revitalizing the CE program. Two Sundays a month will be "Participation Sundays," where the children will acolyte, greet at the doors, and help with the offering during worship. Two Sundays a month the older children will be volunteer doing Faith in Action. On any 5th Sunday of a month the children will cook for the Overflow Shelter or Loaves and Fishes.

Lastly, you may have noticed on the calendar that the Council meeting has been moved from the 3rd Tuesday to the 4th Tuesday. At our August meeting Council made the decision to try, on a trial basis, a few changes to the way we do some things. The major change is that Council is going to shift to devoting a majority of its meeting time each month on addressing one or two big/key issues, rather than going through the lengthy agenda for-

mat. As a part of this change we are forgoing the normal liaison report out and have instead asked each committee to send to Council the minutes of their meeting to review. The moving of the Council meeting date was done to allow the committees time to get their minutes to Council with sufficient time for us to review them before our meeting.

As you can see, we've all been a bunch of busy bees lately. Just make sure to shake the bees out of your bonnets before you wear them to church on the 23rd!

From Music Director, MARY MILKEY-MAY:

As the month of September is flying by, the choir has been busily preparing several anthems for your enjoyment during services on Sundays. As I am always looking for new music to learn, please feel free to let me know if you have any "favorites" you've heard over the years, including the last year. Centre Church has a very extensive music library, and though I've only found a few anthems that everyone in the choir happens to know, I'm sure there are more out there.

I am continuing to nudge folks out in the congregation to join us in the choir. We really could use more singers!! If we had more voices on a part, it would open up a wider option of selections from which to choose. Please consider singing with us. We are a fun group and promise to welcome you wholeheartedly!

Meanwhile, as the seasons rapidly move along, I'm already looking at Christmas music! Yikes! We have choir folks who will be away during the Christmas services so we could REALLY use some help. Please prayerfully consider how you might be a part of the music program as we sing to the Glory of God!

CENTRE BELLS

The Newsletter of
Centre Congregational Church, UCC
October 2016

INTERIM MINISTER'S COLUMN Rev. Bert Marshall

SCARLET AND WOOL

We wake up at our house on these beautiful late summer/early autumn mornings in the gathering darkness of shorter days. Soon after we rise, the light begins to quicken in the East and dawn breaks upon the bright leaves which cover the ground and still cling to the trees and then indescribable shades of light and color fill the air. It is as if the air itself is bathed in an other-worldly illumination, like an aura moving around the Earth just ahead of the rising Sun.

Isaiah says, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool." [1:18]. This is a startling poetic image in which the prophet speaks of sin having color and texture. And God is somehow able to transform the colors and textures of our sins. Not cancel them out; change them! Into what? Like the changing colors of an autumn sunrise. Like the unfolding textures of the very air we breathe as the rising dawn works its magic before our unbelieving eyes. Like Mrs. Turpin's vision at the end of Flannery O'Connor's great story, "Revelation": as she sees the great band of people marching up the highway into heaven, watching blacks and poor whites go in first followed by everyone else – all the 'respectable' people like herself – she observes that "even their virtues are being burned away." Even their virtues burned away! Sin like scarlet becoming like snow. Crimson becoming wool. Our true essences as children of God becoming real and visible as all our prior humanity, all the traits and follies that have hidden us from ourselves, are kindled and swept away in the fire of God's gathering redeeming love.

Sin, by the way, in both biblical Hebrew and Greek, means "to miss the mark or to miss the path of right; perhaps also to fall short of the mark." Sin has been described as our estrangement from God, our separation both from the divine Spirit and from our true selves. Paul reminds us that we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. It has been said that the Church is not a club of saints, but rather a community of sinners.

There are days when I long for a vision like Mrs. Turpin's. There are days when I cry out to God to

show us another path. For I know this much: As long as we continue to glorify and trust in our own violent power and might to provide safety and security, we will never be safe or secure; as long as we continue to send our children out to kill each other in order to make peace, we will never have peace; as long as we continue to hoard and waste a grossly disproportionate share of the world's wealth and resources, we will never overcome our fears and we will always have enemies; as long as we continue to seek world domination and supremacy, we will never secure our survival; as long as we continue to tolerate the racism that lies deeply-imbedded in the heart of our culture, we will never be free. The lies and mean-spiritedness that often pass for our national discourse sometimes pale in comparison to the lies we are telling ourselves.

I think of the "rosy-fingered dawn" in the Odyssey of Homer. I wonder if he was gazing through an early autumn morning light show of leafy color and textured air. I wonder if those chill mornings inspired him to write of the tragedy and futility of warfare in The Iliad. I wonder how many autumns must rise and fall, rise and fall, fade into cold winter's grasp, before we recognize our estrangement from God. We are living in exile. We have chosen our own glory. We worship our own power. We dwell comfortably in our own affluence. We are blind to the scarlet sins of our time, unable to be transformed, unable to lift up the poor and the brokenhearted, unable to resist our own acts of aggression and oppression, unable to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, quench the thirsty, care for our children, our workers, our elderly – unable and woefully unwilling to embrace our fellow pilgrims all around the world as sisters and brothers, children of God. We have chosen intimidation and destruction over peaceableness and reconciliation. We have already voted. May God have mercy on us.

