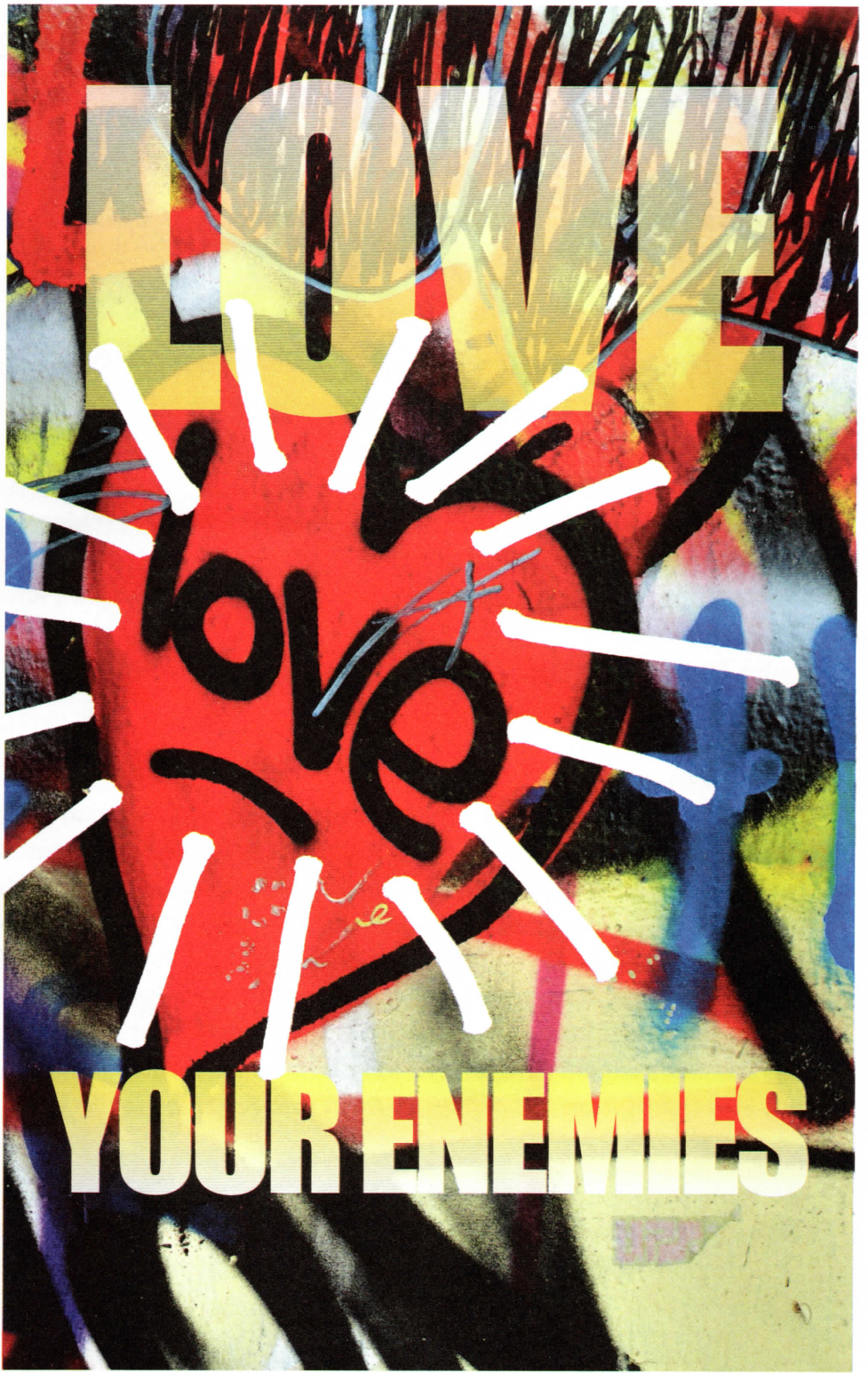


The Congregational Church of Laconia  
United Church of Christ  
18 Veterans Square  
Laconia, NH 03246-3425

Rev. Neil H. Wilson, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Paula B. Gile, Associate Pastor  
K. Robert Bengtson, Director of Music  
(603) 524-0668



# Gathering ~ for Worship

February 24, 2019

9:30 a.m.

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## Preparing

**Organ Prelude**

K. Robert Bengtson

**Meditative Thought** *"The Christian faith is bread for daily use,  
not cake for special occasions."* ~ unknown

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Introit** *"Awake, My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve"* Chancel Choir

## Praising

**Call to Worship** (seated Congregation respond with bold print.)

Let us praise God the Creator,  
**who is filled with glory and power—with holiness and splendor;**  
Let us worship God the Savior,  
**who is filled with love and compassion—with justice and peace;**  
Let us experience God the Spirit,  
**who fills us with faith and joy—with love and eternal life.**

**\*Opening Hymn** *"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"* # 1

**Invocation** (unison)

**Glorious God, we give you our complete adoration. Your marvelous love planned the way of salvation. Tender God, we kneel and ask for pardon. Your gracious forgiveness restores our souls. Triumphant God, we proclaim your praise. Your victorious power defeats death and give life abundant and eternal. We pray in the name of the one who is the fullness of your nature in human form, Jesus the Christ who taught us to pray: *Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen***

**A Moment with our Children**

LuAnn Mussari

**\*Passing of the Peace & the Gloria**

*Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-jah, Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-jah, Halle,  
Halle, Halle-lu-jah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah*



**Musical Offering**

*"Joyful, Joyful"*

Bell Choir

### **Reflecting & Praying**

**Scripture Reading**

Matthew 6:5-9a

Pew Bible p. 881

**Sermon**

*"Pray Then in This Way . . ."*

Rev. Neil Wilson

**Meditative Moment**

**Prayer Preparation**

*"O, Lord, Hear My Prayer"*

Taize

*O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; when I call answer me.*

*O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.*

**Pastoral Prayer**

(Yellow prayer cards may be placed in the offering plate.)

Response: **May Your Kingdom come.**

**Prayer Response**

*"Amen"*

Chancel Choir

### **Committing**

**Stewardship Invitation & Response**

**Offertory**

*"I Will Arise and Go to Jesus"*

Chancel Choir

**\*Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;*

*Praise God above, you heavenly host: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.*

**\*Prayer of Consecration/Dedication** (unison)

**Knowing that many voices clamor and compete, we pray that these offerings given may become symbolic of our decision to follow in the way of Jesus, and to serve you, the one God. Amen.**

### **Going to Serve**

**\*Closing Hymn**

*"O Jesus, I Have Promised"*

# 493

**\*Pastoral Benediction**

**Benediction Response**

*"Go in Peace"*

**Organ Postlude**

**\*Rise, if able and moved.**

## **This Week's Committee Meetings and Gatherings**

Today, Feb. 24 - 10:45 a.m. Bell Choir Practice  
4:00 p.m. Channel 25 Worship Broadcast  
9:30 p.m. Channel 25 Worship Broadcast  
Monday, Feb. 25 - 4:00 p.m. Channel 25 Worship Broadcast  
Tuesday, Feb. 26 - 7:00 p.m. Stitches of Love Knitting Circle  
Thursday, Feb. 28 - 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice  
Next Sunday, Mar. 3 - 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship  
10:45 a.m. Membership Gathering

## **Announcements**

**March 3 10:45 a.m. Special Membership Gathering** Please join Pastor Neil and the Membership Committee if you are interested in church membership. It will be a time to ask questions and become better acquainted. For more information, please call Ruth Gill 528-6608 or Pastor Neil 524-0668. All are welcome.

**Tuesday, March 5 Noon and/or 6:30 p.m.** Final gathering for Book Club Discussion is "*Canoeing the Mountains*". Feel free to attend one or both sessions.

**Sharing a Legacy - Planning Series** The Stewardship Committee has organized a series of three information sessions which address important components of legacy planning and sharing. These information sessions will be held on the second Sunday of the months of February, March, and April. The talks will be held in the Church Library at 11:00, immediately following coffee hour. Each session will last about one hour. We invite you to attend. **March 10** - Funeral Planning with Craig Beane

**April 14** - Medical Planning with Oriana Filiault

**July 14 to 19 Summer Mission/Work trip** We are planning on one this summer to work with the Maine Seacoast Mission Home Rehabilitation Program in Cherryfield, ME. Interested? To find out more, speak to Pastor Neil anytime, or via email [neil@laconiaucc.org](mailto:neil@laconiaucc.org) or call 524-0668. More info to come.

## Welcome & Information

*Welcome to our service of worship! Please introduce yourself to those sitting near you & use a pew rack card to inform us of requests.*

**Wireless hearing** assistance devices, back cushions, large print bulletins & children's bulletins are available; please ask an usher.

**Faith Formation:** After the Moment with our Children, children/youth in grades 1-8 are invited to meet across The Bridge in the Yellow Room. We are currently learning about the Love of Neighbor through a variety of experiences and service projects. Confirmation students are welcome to join in the fun and assist the younger kids.

**Children's Offering:** With great enthusiasm the children are collecting money to donate to World Vision to provide clean water to communities in need. Many Church members are contributing by donating coins in the Change for the Church containers available at each door. Place filled containers in the offering plate or give them to one of the young people.

**Nursery & Child Care:** Children younger than 1st grade are welcome in the Nursery before the service begins or following the Moment with our Children. Please escort your child to the Nursery room across The Bridge and pick them up after the service. Visitors are always welcome!

**Yellow prayer request cards** are available in pews. Write your request(s) and place them in the offering plate. Our prayer disciples will pray during the week.

**Our Service** is video recorded and published. If you have any concerns, please speak to one of our pastors.

**Our Greeters** today are Donna Wilson, Ray Vercoe

**Today's Ushers** are John Gill, Brad Geltz, Dan Tinkham, Dave Emond

**The Altar Flowers today** are given in loving memory of George Slayter, father of Diane Wells by Diane Wells.

**Join us** for a time of fellowship downstairs following the service for refreshments served by the Music and Worship Committee. Fair Trade is served in biodegradable cups. We are a *Just Peace Church* caring for our environment.



## Love Your Enemies

### *Seminary Sunday / Church Vocations Sunday*

It's Seminary Sunday! Yay! Have you planned a church vocations party? What? You haven't? Well, maybe next year.

In general, church attendance may be down across the country, it's also probably true that most people think the basic code of compassionate living espoused by we followers of Jesus is worth preserving. What about you? Do you think that loving your enemies and showing mercy to the whole world is a way of living that is, at the very least, worth preserving for the future of the world? You probably do. So, why don't we celebrate church vocations more loudly?

Without new leaders, trained leaders, and leaders who can inspire others and help us learn new ways of articulating this ancient faith tradition our churches will starve spiritually. The 21st century is already a century that looks like it is going to need a hopeful word and a compassionate agenda. We need to raise up leaders who will feel called to empower that agenda and we need to install them ASAP.

Where do you think the next generation of clergy and lay leaders will come from? Do you think seminaries manufacture them or find them going door to door? No. They come from the local church. They come because you see among you those who have gifts for this kind of work and you invite them into a process of discernment that may lead them to seminary or another path toward ministry. The larger church needs all of us to pay attention to those in our pews who could help the church and spread the gospel and change the world.

Aspiring clergy begin in discernment with your pastor and your church leadership. It is up to you to bring them to your Conference for further work and discernment. It is part of our job as congregations to encourage the gifts of our members and to develop them. There are many seminaries around the country that are particularly affiliated with the UCC. See if one is near you. Some of them have lay leader programs, some allow for auditors and all would be glad to give you a tour. They are:

**Andover-Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, MA; [www.ants.edu](http://www.ants.edu)**

**Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL; [www.ctschicago.edu](http://www.ctschicago.edu)**

**Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO; [www.eden.edu](http://www.eden.edu)**

**Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, PA; [www.lancasterseminary.edu](http://www.lancasterseminary.edu)**

**Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA; [www.psr.edu](http://www.psr.edu)**

**United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, New Brighton, MN;  
[www.unitedseminary.edu](http://www.unitedseminary.edu)**

