

The Congregational Church of Laconia

United Church of Christ

18 Veterans Square

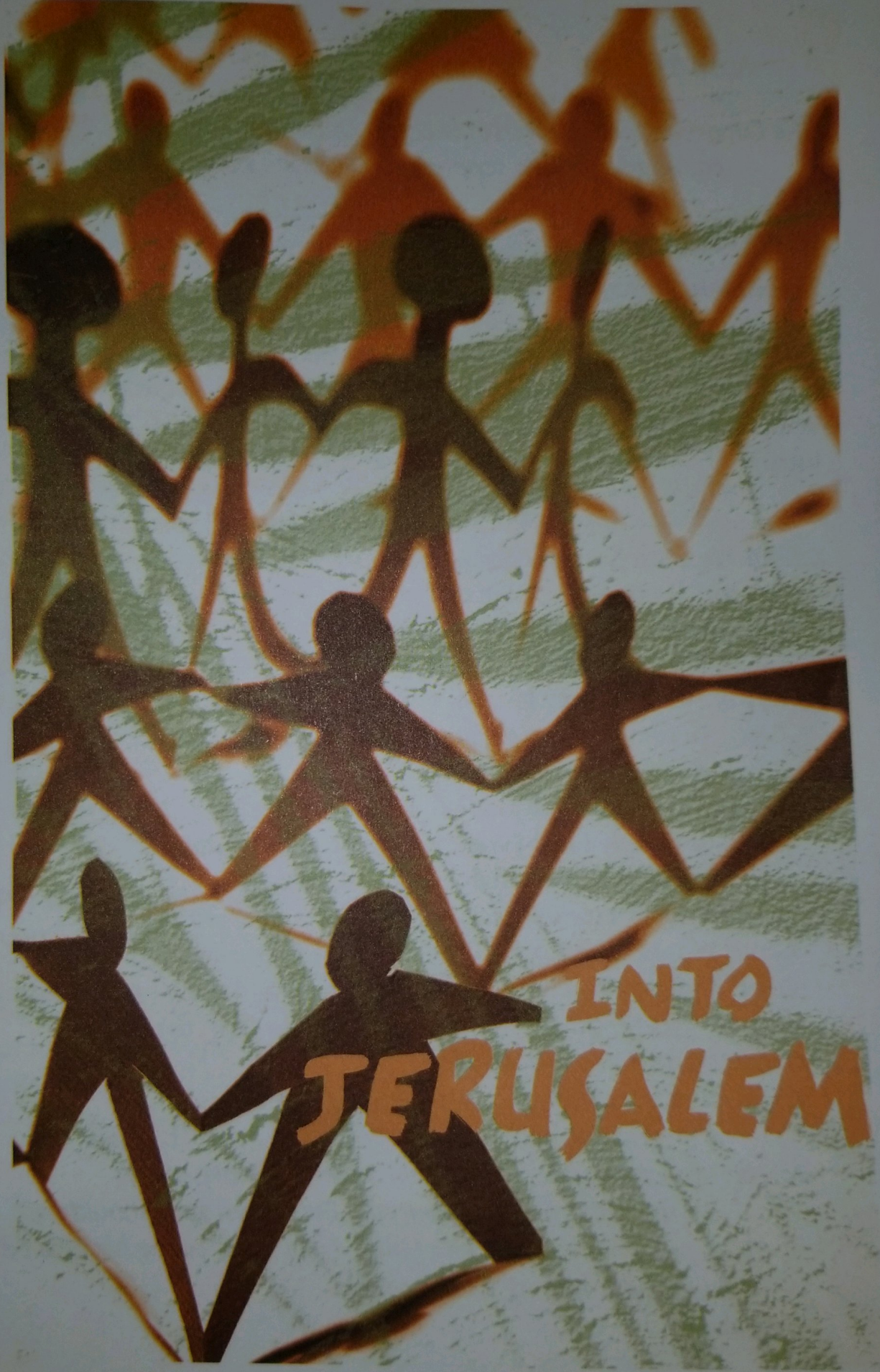
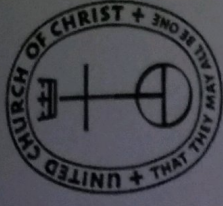
Laconia, NH 03246-3425

Rev. Neil H. Wilson, Senior Pastor

Rev. Paula B. Gile, Associate Pastor

K. Robert Bengtson, Director of Music

(603) 524-0668



INTO
JERUSALEM

Gathering ~ for Worship

April 14, 2019

9:30 a.m.

The Congregational Church of Laconia, United Church of Christ, is a welcoming Christian community with a scriptural foundation seeking Justice and peace for all

Preparing

Organ Prelude

K. Robert Bengtson

Meditative Thought *"When Christ entered into Jerusalem the people spread garments in the way: when He enters into our hearts, we pull off our own righteousness, and not only lay it under Christ's feet but even trample upon it ourselves."*

— Augustus Toplady 1740 – 1778 Anglican cleric and hymn writer

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

Chancel Choir

Praising

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

Pastor: Who comes this way?

Congregation: I wonder who is he?

Choir: They say he is the Christ.

Pastor: That means Messiah,

Cong: That means the Anointed One, the Savior, the...

All: KING

Choir: Who comes this way?

**Cong: Is it really him? I want him to beat the Romans
and save us from poverty and hunger.**

Pastor: Is he victorious? Is he powerful? Is he scary?

Choir: Where is he from? Greece? Rome? Jerusalem? Gilford? Laconia?

Cong: They say he comes from Bethlehem and grew up in Nazareth and Galilee.

Pastor: "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?"

Cong: Who comes this way?

Choir: Who is he? Why are we cheering him on?

Is he good or bad? He must be rich to get such praise.

Pastor: Stop waving that branch in my face! Move away!

Let me see around this parade. Put me on your shoulders.

I need a higher glimpse of him. I just want to see his face and then

I will know who he is, let me see...

Cong: Wait!

Choir: Wait!

Cong: It is only a man.

Choir: And he is just on a donkey, no conquering steed.

Pastor: It is only a man, what is so great about him?

Cong: Hosanna! Hosanna in the Highest!

Choir: Hosanna means "save us" and "we pray"

Pastor: But who is this man that will save us?

All: WHO COMES THIS WAY?

***Procession of the Palms** "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

216

Invocation (unison) **Merciful God, as we enter Holy Week and gather at your house of prayer, turn our hearts again to Jerusalem, to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, that united with Christ and all the faithful we may one day enter in triumph the city not made by human hands, the new Jerusalem, eternal in the heavens, where with you and the Holy Spirit, Christ lives in glory forever. Now O, Lord hear us as we pray together *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.***

Musical Offering "Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!"

Chancel Choir

The Sacrament of Baptism Isabella Grace Elliott Parents: Kristin Judd, John Elliott

Invitation

Questions of the Parents and Godparents

Congregational Assent (All who are able are invited to stand.)

Leader: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love support and care to the one about to be baptized, as she lives and grows in Christ?

All: We promise our love, support, and care.

Baptismal Prayer

Baptism

A Prayer of Blessing

Prayer

A Moment with Our Children

*Passing of the Peace & the Gloria

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

Rev. Paula Gile

Reflecting & Praying

Scripture Reading

Luke 19:28-42

Sermon

"Caught in the Crossfire (Of Blessing)"

Pew Bible p. 957

Meditative Moment

Rev. Neil Wilson

Prayer Preparation

"Spirit of the Living God"

283

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

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

Prayer Response

"Amen"

Chancel Choir

Committing

Stewardship Invitation

Offertory

"Ah, Holy 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

The Passion Gospel

Luke 23:1-24

Pew Bible p. 962

Going to Serve

*Closing Hymn

"Journey to Gethsemane"

219

*Pastoral Benediction

Benediction Response

"There is a Green Hill Far Away"

Cancel Choir

Organ Postlude

*Rise, if able and moved.

This Week's Committee Meetings and Gatherings

Today, Palm Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Bell Choir Practice

4:00 p.m. Channel 25 Worship Broadcast

9:30 p.m. Channel 25 Worship Broadcast

Monday, April 15 - 4:00 p.m. Channel 25 Worship Broadcast

Tuesday, April 16 - 7:00 p.m. Stitches of Love Knitting Circle

Maundy Thursday, April 18 - 5:30 p.m. Deacons Service & Supper

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Good Friday, April 19 - 3:00 p.m. Easter Vigil Begins

Easter Sunday, April 21 - 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

Some Announcements

Deadline Good Friday, April 19 or Sooner

Option 1 Anyone who wants to put potted Easter tulips, lilies, hyacinths, or even pansies on the altar to create a beautiful Easter garden may do so. Please deliver the plants to the sanctuary by 11:00 a.m. on Good Friday. Also, you need to let Camille know - via email churchoffice@laconiaucc.org or call - who the flowers are dedicated to / or in memory of; and whether you would like to donate your plant to a shut-in.

Option 2 Easter plants have been purchased by the Altar Guild. You can donate \$15 to the plant fund and dedicate a plant to someone you love. Let Camille know your intentions by Good Friday by - via email churchoffice@laconiaucc.org or call . These plants will be available to shut-ins and / or planted around the church.

Hands Across the Table

Tuesday, April 16

Drop off your food item at the church by this date

Wednesday, April 17

2:00 p.m. Cooks need to arrive for meal prep at the church hall kitchen

4:15 p.m. Servers need to arrive at St. Andre Bessette Parish House

April 14, 2019

Luke 19:28-40

Into Jerusalem

Palm Sunday is a Sunday of possibility and expectancy. There's a colt and cloaks on the road, people shouting and a lot of excitement. Jesus is coming! There's a party atmosphere with neighbors that don't like the noise and tell Jesus to keep his followers quiet. But Jesus replies, "Even if everyone was quiet the stones would shout." Can you imagine feeling so much hope and joy at the entrance into your city or town of someone who represents not a political, military or sports victory, but the coming of peace itself?

The day after Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, he went to the temple and turned over the tables of people who were buying and selling and changing money. He drove them out saying, "my house shall be a house of prayer; but you have made it a den of robbers" (Luke 19:46). The economic injustice of the money-changers' profiteering in the temple infuriates Jesus and this is one of the few times we witness his righteous anger.

At that time, following Jesus meant making choices about whose side you were on. Christians still make those kinds of choices. But we followers of Jesus have not done such an excellent job of understanding his message of compassion and love. Instead, for two thousand years, we've often been part of the same kind of brutal power systems as the one in Jerusalem long ago. And all of this time, the God of compassion and love must have wept.

This week, as we stumble toward Jerusalem, we can rely on God's grace to carry us every step of the way and trust the unknown future to the God who works good in every circumstance and in every holy week of our lives.

Work this week for peace and economic justice. Here are some ideas:

- Start a prayer and meditation group in your church with a focus on peace.
- Find ways to use your voice in solidarity with others who may not always be heard.
- If there are ways in which you are serving the master of money in your life, free yourself!
- Put love into action: right some wrongs with an organization seeking economic justice.

