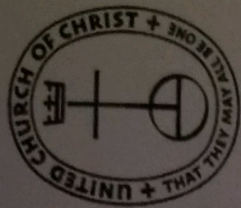
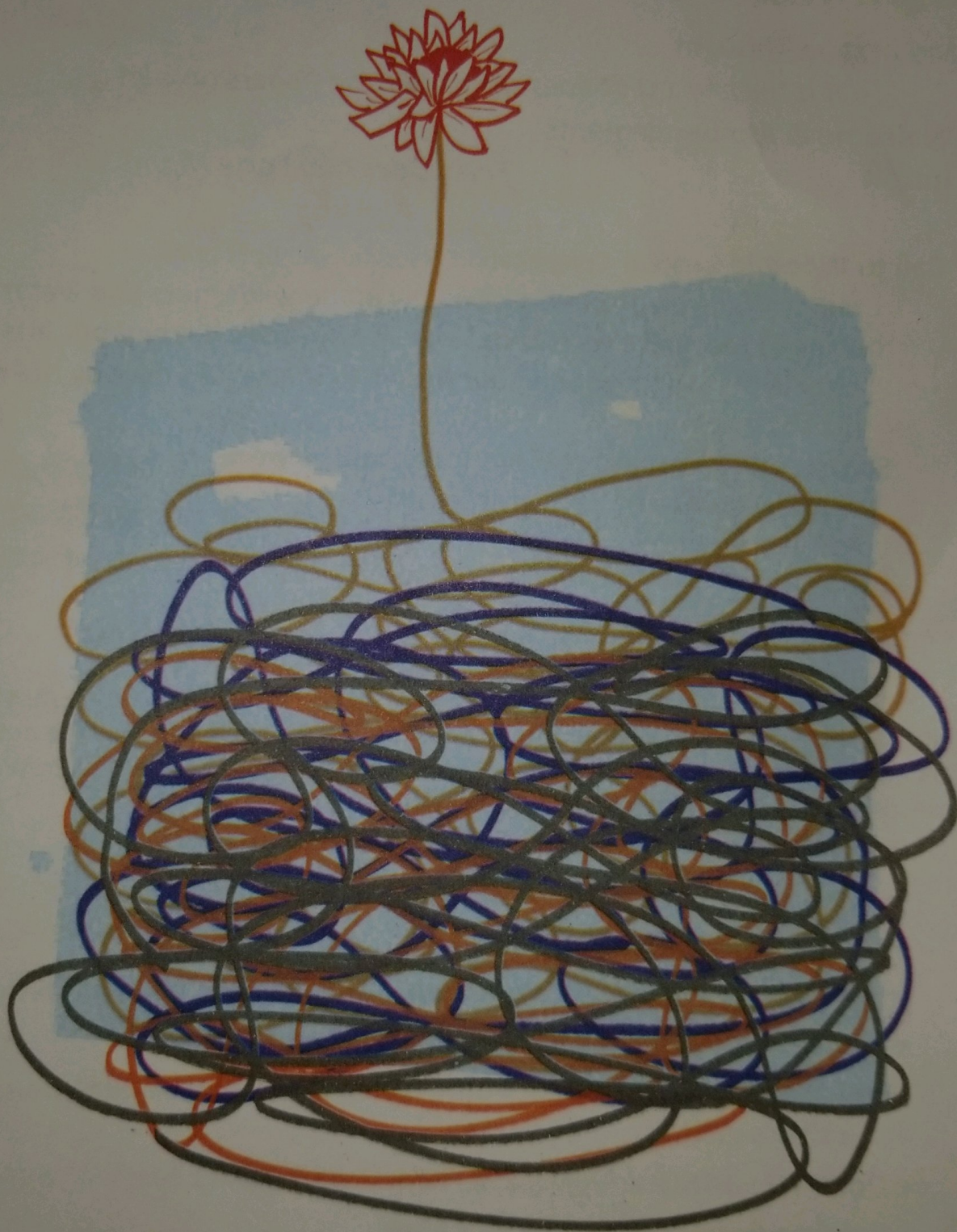


The Congregational Church of Laconia
United Church of Christ
18 Veterans Square
Laconia, NH 03246-3425

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



Something New



Gathering ~ for Worship

April 7, 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

"It is the heart that does the giving; the fingers only let go." - Nigerian saying

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

"Forty Days and Forty Nights"

Chancel Choir

Praising

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

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness and water the desert.

Help us to recognize your hand working miracles beyond our imagining.

Today in our worship, open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing,

So that our lives may proclaim today and always,

the extravagance of your love for all,

And its presence in Jesus Christ.

Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

224

Invocation Through Lent we are using a different translations of the Prayer of Jesus commonly known as "the Lord's Prayer" as our Invocation. Today we will be using the prayer in the Aramaic language(the language Jesus spoke), read for us in sections by Stan Brallier. We will respond to each section with a suggested translation in English.

+ O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos,

+ Focus your light within us—make it useful:

+ Create your reign of unity now-

+ Your one desire then acts with ours, as in all light, so in all forms.

+ Grant what we need each day ion bread and insight.

+ Loose the cords of mistakes binding us, as we release the strands we hold of other's guilt.

+ Don't let surface things delude us,

+ But free us from what holds us back.

+ From you is born all ruling will, the power and the life to do,
the song that beautifies all, from age to age it renews.

+ Truly power to these statements— may they be the ground
from which all my actions grow:

+ Amen.

Musical Offering

"Ave Verum"

Chancel Choir

A Moment with our Children

Rev. Paula Gile

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

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

Reflecting & Praying

Scripture Reading

John 12: 1– 8

Pew Bible p. 980

Sermon

"What a Waste!"

Rev. Neil Wilson

Meditative Moment

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

"Hold Us in Your Grace"

Chancel Choir

Committing

Stewardship Invitation

Offertory

"As we Gather at Your Table"

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 Sacrament of Holy Communion

Going to Serve

***Closing Hymn**

"A Woman Came Who Did Not Count the Cost"

206

***Pastoral Benediction**

Benediction Response *"O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns Be Rising"* Chancel Choir

Organ Postlude

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

This Week's Committee Meetings and Gatherings

Today, Apr. 7 - 10:45 a.m. Bell Choir Practice
11:00 a.m. How to Sit for Easter Vigil
Noon Confirmation Class
4:00 p.m. Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
9:30 p.m. Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
Monday, Apr. 8 - 4:00 p.m. Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
Tuesday, Apr. 9 - 7:00 p.m. Property & Finance Mtg
Stitches of Love Knitting Circle
Wednesday, Apr. 10 - 6:30 p.m. Deacons Mtg
Thursday, Apr. 11 - 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice
Friday, Apr. 12 - noon Organ Recital
Next Sunday, Apr. 14 - 9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship

*An Invitation to Spiritual Practices from the Deacons
~ for more information see April Tower Tidings ~*

Sunday, April 7

11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
How to Sit for the Easter Vigil
Small Chapel in Sanctuary

Thursday, April 18

5:30 p.m.
Maundy Thursday Supper & Service
Church Hall (*sign up sheets are in Narthex*)

Friday, April 19 through Sunday, April 21

from 3:00 p.m. to Easter Sunrise 6:00 a.m.
Good Friday Easter Prayer Vigil
Sanctuary

Friday, April 19

7:00 p.m.
Good Friday Service
Sanbornton Congregational Church

Sunday, April 21

Easter Coffee Hour
Church Hall

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

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. 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 Greeter today is Donna Wilson

Today's Ushers are Brad Geltz, Dan Tinkham, Kay and Ray Vercoe

The Altar Flowers today are *In loving memory of Ellis Howard*, given by his wife, Betty; and, the 2nd arrangement is from the Howard children, Elizabeth, Peter and Janice, Jim and Anne, to celebrate spring, April Birthday's and their mother, Elizabeth Howard.

Special Roses on the Altar today are in honor of Betty Howard's 98th Birthday. Happy Birthday Betty!

Sound the Flute!

Now, it's mute.

Birds delight

Day and Night;

Nightingale

In the dale,

Lark in sky,

Merrily,

Merrily, Merrily, to welcome in the Year. ...

From "Spring" by William Blake

April 7, 2019

Isaiah 43:16-21

Something New

Exodus and Exile: the most momentous experiences in ancient Israel's life. In each hour of need, God heard the cry of the people and sent prophets--Moses in Egypt, and prophets like Isaiah to the people in Babylon. For Israel, exile was being lost, homesick, divided, unmoored, rootless except for memory. It must have been hard to resist the temptation to settle down, fit in, sell out, and forget the story that had held them together. After all, what good had all that done them? Into that heartache and doubt stepped a poet-prophet to sing a new song about ancient things, and the new thing that the God of old was about to do.

General Synod 32

You're invited to the United Church of Christ's Thirty-Second General Synod that will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 21-25, 2019!

The theme for the 32nd General Synod is based on the scripture Matthew 5:16 "In the same way let your light shine before others . . ."

"When we light just one candle in the darkness, it illuminates dimly, but when many candles are lit, and all let their lights shine, together we can bring brightness to the world." — The Rev. Franz Rigert, Wisconsin Conference Minister.

Always an extraordinary event in the life of the Church, delegates and visitors will experience dynamic workshops, generative plenary sessions, inspirational worship, engaging youth activities, special banquets, and luncheons. Delegates will conduct the business of the denomination and set priorities for our ministries. Keynote speakers will offer illumination and insight into challenges that face our congregations and communities. And delegates and visitors alike will stand up for issues that demand a faithful witness, worship together, and participate in local community service projects.

Find out more at www.synod2019.org and plan to attend.

