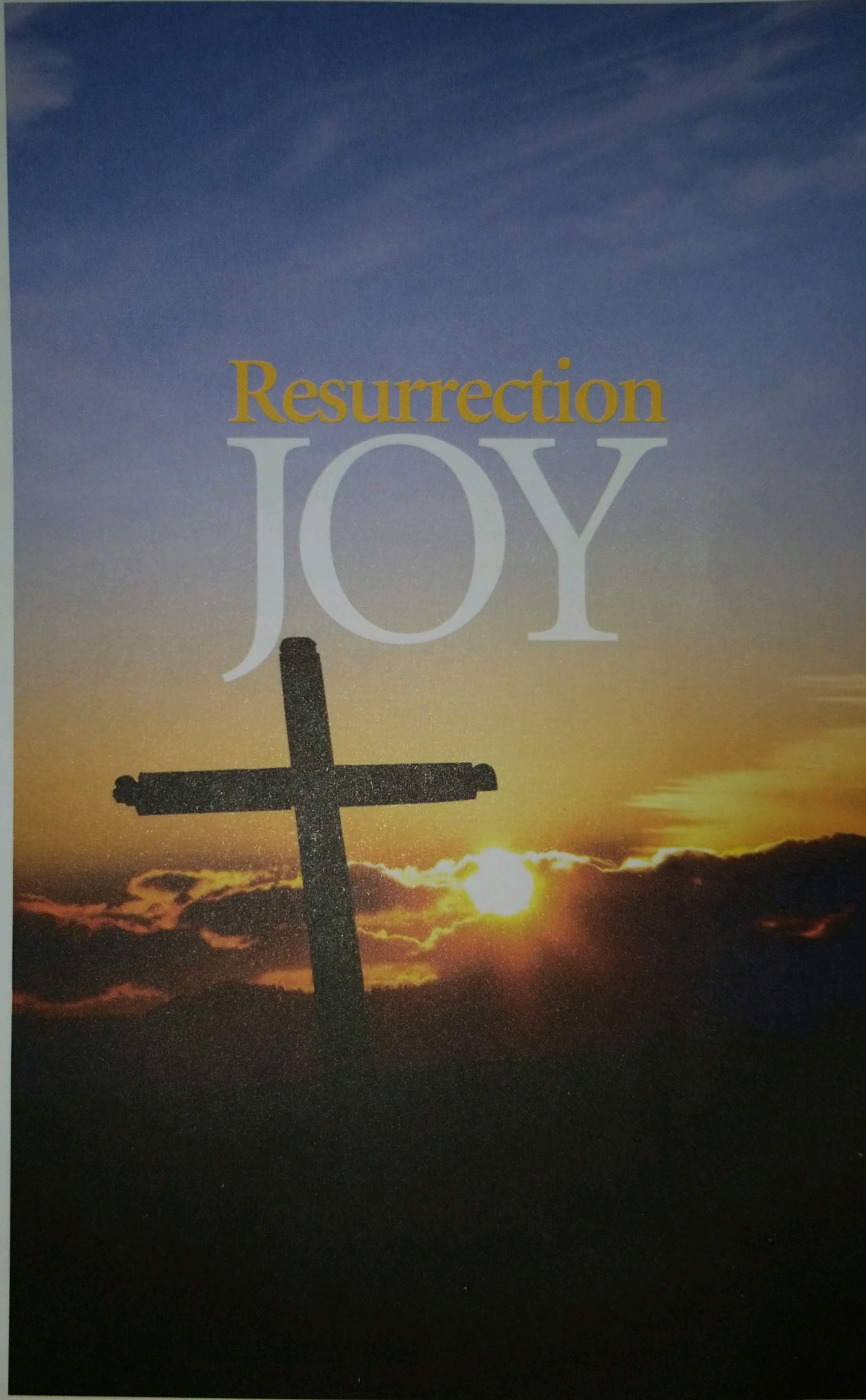
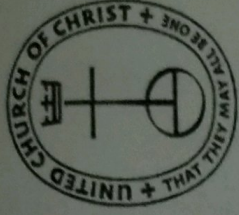


The Congregational Church of Laconia  
United Church of Christ  
18 Veterans Square  
Laconia, NH 03246-3425

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



## Gathering ~ for Worship

April 21, 2019

www.laconiaucc.org

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** *"Jesus' resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about."* — N.T. Wright

#### Welcome & Announcements

#### Introit

*"Christ Triumphant, Ever Reigning!"*

Chancel Choir

### Praising

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

We are not eye-witnesses to an event, as were Mary and the disciples;  
we have not journeyed through a dangerous city to seek answers or consolation.  
We have not seen angels gathering at the rim of this day,  
or wept in the garden this morning because we could not find Him.

**But we are here to attest to a story that has not lost its power  
during twenty centuries of change and conflict.**

We are here because those before us carried this story as if it were precious gold;  
**Cherished it as if it were the key to a hidden wisdom.**

Sisters and brothers in Christ, take your places here today in celebration and in awe.  
What you are about to hear again, has the capacity to change the world.  
Your very presence attests to the rising up of life  
from the tomb of despair, and to the uncontrollable power of God.

**It is Easter morning again: and we will celebrate.**

#### \*Opening Hymn

*"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"*

# 233

#### Invocation (unison)

Holy and Living God, like a tomb's darkness that gives way to light,  
open us this day to newness of life;  
open us to your love, to your acceptance, to your forgiveness, to your peace;  
open us to one another, and to the possibilities you have in store for us.  
Give us hope for the future and a passion for life here and now.  
We pray in the name of the One who destroyed death,  
and provided for us this example of prayer: *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** *"Thine Is The Glory"* Santus Bells with piano  
**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,  
Hall-lu-jah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah*

**Reflecting & Praying**

**Scripture Reading** 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 Pew Bible p. 1048

**\* Hymn** *"The Day of Resurrection"* # 245

**The Gospel Reading** Luke 24:1-12 Pew Bible p. 964

**Sermon** *"What Is There to Say?"* 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.)

**Prayer Response** *"Amen"* Chancel Choir

**Committing**

**Stewardship Invitation**

**Offertory** *"Alleluia Fugue"* 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**

**Going to Serve**

**\*Closing Hymn** *"Yours Is the Glory"* # 253

**Pastoral Benediction**

**Benediction Response** *"Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day"* Chancel Choir

**Organ Postlude**

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

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

Today, Easter 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 22 - 4:00 p.m. Channel 25 Worship Broadcast  
Tuesday, April 23 - 7:00 p.m. Stitches of Love Knitting Circle  
Thursday, April 25 - 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice  
Saturday, April 27 - 6:00 p.m. Spring Celebration Potluck & Sharing  
Sunday, April 28 - 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

## **Some Announcements**

**April 27, Saturday 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

**Spring Celebration Potluck & Sharing**

Sign up today. Bring a dish to share and if you wish bring a hobby, craft, painting, writing, photography. We may be in for some surprises! For more information, contact Ruth Gill, Membership Committee Chair 528.6608 or Maurine Bastille 293.0353.

**April 27, Saturday 1:30 p.m.**

Installation service for Rev, Gordon Rankin our New Hampshire Conference Minister Wolfeboro Congregational UCC. Everyone is welcome.

**May 2, Thursday 7:30 a.m.**

National Day of Prayer Breakfast. Tickets are available in the church office for \$12.00. All proceeds to benefit Memorial Day Field of Flags project of the Greater Laconia Ministerial Association. Please make checks out to National Day of Prayer.

## 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:** We will not be meeting today. The children/youth are encouraged to stay in worship.

**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:** The Nursery will not be staffed today but will be open for you to take you little ones to the nursery if you should wish to. But know that you little ones are welcome in worship with all their enthusiasm and chatter! The Nursery room is across the Bridge, turn right, last room on the right.

**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.

**Our Greeters** today are Ila Mattila, Dave Smith

**Today's Ushers** are Matt Fink, Bill Gile, Ted Tunnicliff, Andy Giovanni

**Easter Flowers** adorn the altar and are given in memory and in honor of our loved ones. Please see insert for names and contributors.

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

# E A S T E R

April 21, 2019

John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

## Resurrection Joy

### Scripture Reading

*Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.*

*But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her. John 20:1-18*

### Facing the "Tombs" of our Lives

When we face life's losses, disappointments, heartbreaks, and failures, Jesus shares those with us. He also shares new life and new hope with us - resurrection. It isn't a one-time thing, but the dawning of a new day, and new life. Jesus is risen!

No matter what things look like now, this Easter morning says, "Wait. We are part of something greater than ourselves, and our lives are lived in a new age of hope."

"Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of Christ risen."

— Mother Teresa

