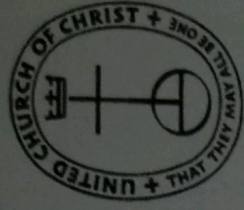


The Congregational Church of Laconia
United Church of Christ
18 Veterans Square
Laconia, NH 03246-3425

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



The Way Forward



Gathering ~ for Worship

May 5, 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 *"Some go to church and think about fishing,
others go fishing and think about God." — Tony Blake*

Welcome & Announcements

Introit *"Surely The Presence of The Lord is in This Place"* Chancel Choir

Praising

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

Living Creator, the world teems with your beauty
and abounds with your artistry and grace.

We sing your praises, Lord, as we celebrate the risen Christ.

Celebrate the risen Christ who walks with us
as we traverse the joys and fears of our lives.

We sing your praises, Lord, as we celebrate the risen Christ.

***Opening Hymn** *"Rejoice, Give Thanks And Sing"* # 303

Invocation (unison)

God of truth and love, we do rejoice in your name and give thanks that we
can gather in this sacred space and hour to worship the risen Savior!
It is his presence we invoke and seek through our various acts of worship.
So hear us as we pray in the manner in which our Savior taught: *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 de-
liver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory for-
ever. Amen.*

Musical Offering *"Christ Has No Hands But Ours"*

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, Hall-lu-jah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah*

Reflecting & Praying

Scripture Reading

John 21:1-14

Pew Bible p. 989

Sermon

"I'm Goin' Fishin'!"

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

"Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"

Chancel Choir

Committing

Stewardship Invitation

Offertory

"Living Bread"

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

Invitation to Communion

As we come to the table of God's heavenly feast, let us prepare our hearts anew to be in communion with one another and with the risen Christ. As Jesus on the lake shore fed the disciples, so too has the Holy One given us fish and bread for a lifetime. Through our offerings we share from our bounty, that through our gifts, God's will may be done. Let us now share the table with one another that we may know the fullness of God's bounty and Christ's love.

We come, ready to partake of bread and cup; ready to commune with one another and with the living God.

Communion Prayer

Sharing of the Elements (We invite you to hold the bread and we will eat together as a symbol of our unity in Christ. With the cup take a moment to reflect on its meaning and drink as you feel lead.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, we give thanks that through Christ, we live in your favor.

We give thanks that through Christ,

we come to the table of grace partaking heavenly food and the gift of salvation.

Like the great company of witnesses who came to this table before us, we are filled with gratitude and joy for your many blessings.

We come before you in praise and thanksgiving,
as we commit ourselves again as members of the living body of Christ.

Going to Serve

*Closing Hymn

"You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore"

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Pastoral Benediction

Benediction Response

"Go in Peace"

Organ Postlude

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

This Week's Committee Meetings and Gatherings

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Today, May 5 - 10:45 a.m. | Bell Choir Practice |
| 11:00 a.m. | Maine Mission Info Session |
| 12:00 p.m. | Confirmation Class |
| 4:00 p.m. | Channel 25 Worship Broadcast |
| 9:30 p.m. | Channel 25 Worship Broadcast |
| Monday, May 6 - 4:00 p.m. | Channel 25 Worship Broadcast |
| Tuesday, May 7 - 6:30 p.m. | Membership Committee Mtg |
| 7:00 p.m. | Stitches of Love Knitting Circle |
| Wednesday, May 8 - 6:30 p.m. | Deacons Mtg |
| Thursday, May 9 - 7:00 p.m. | Choir Practice |
| Saturday, May 11 - 9:30 a.m. | NHCUCC Women's Spring Gathering |
| Today, Mother's Day - 9:30 a.m. | Sunday Worship |

Some Announcements

Please welcome to our worship the Confirmation Class of the Union Congregational Church of North Reading, MA along with the Rev. Dr. Rick Hughes and Gayle McGlaflin, their Director of Christian Ed.

Today after worship there will be a special gathering in the library for anyone interested in participating or supporting the summer mission trip to Maine.

Faith Formation is completing their fund-raising for Clean and Close Water through World Vision. We've collected over \$700 and our goal is to raise \$1000 by June 9. Please bring in your coins on any Sunday and we'll try to fill up the water jug for the third time!

Welcome & Information

Please join us for Rev. Neil Wilson's installation
and reception on May 19, 3:00 p.m.

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. Please speak to one of our ushers if you have any concerns.

Our Greeters today are Mary-Ellen Azem

Today's Ushers are Ila Mattila, Doug Teegarden, Mary-Ellen Azem, Brad Geltz

The Altar Flowers today are *In loving memory of Nina Heald and Avis Vercoe* given by their daughter and son, Kay and Ray Vercoe.

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

May 5, 2019

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)

The Way Forward

"Saul got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength." Acts 9:20

"Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Feed my sheep....'" John 21:17

In an act of compassionate faith, the followers of the risen Christ share a meal with Saul, their former persecutor. Sharing food is a ritual long associated with peace-making. More than simple nutrients, food is imbued with the legacy of local soil, the people's covenant with the land, and the just or unjust practices of the community. Each morsel is laden with the culture, identity, and values of the communal body and the spirit of those who have gathered, grown, prepared and offered it. When Christians share food, we share the blessing and power of the body of Christ.

This has been true for Rev. Randy Mayer, pastor of Good Shepherd United Church of Christ in Sahuarita, Arizona, who welcomed an asylum-seeking family escaping domestic and gang violence in Honduras into his home in 2018. This was at the time the Department of Justice began changing the rules indicating that domestic and gang violence may not qualify families for asylum. "Having an Asylum Family sitting at your dinner table and on your couch watching TV in your living room is quite the experience as you are listening to the evening news," Mayer said. "Maybe that is the best way to get through an experience like this — having the stranger sitting right in front of you, loving her family and proving right before your eyes that the ugly rhetoric and hate filled comments have nothing to do with the truth."

As you walk in faith this week, consider taking the following acts to welcome others into the circle of God's grace:

- Meet your neighbors and invite them to enjoy a meal together.
- Work through your church to plan an immigrant welcoming dinner.
- Lift up in prayer those who seek asylum and those who would turn them away.
- Prepare food from a culture that is new to you and share with friends.

