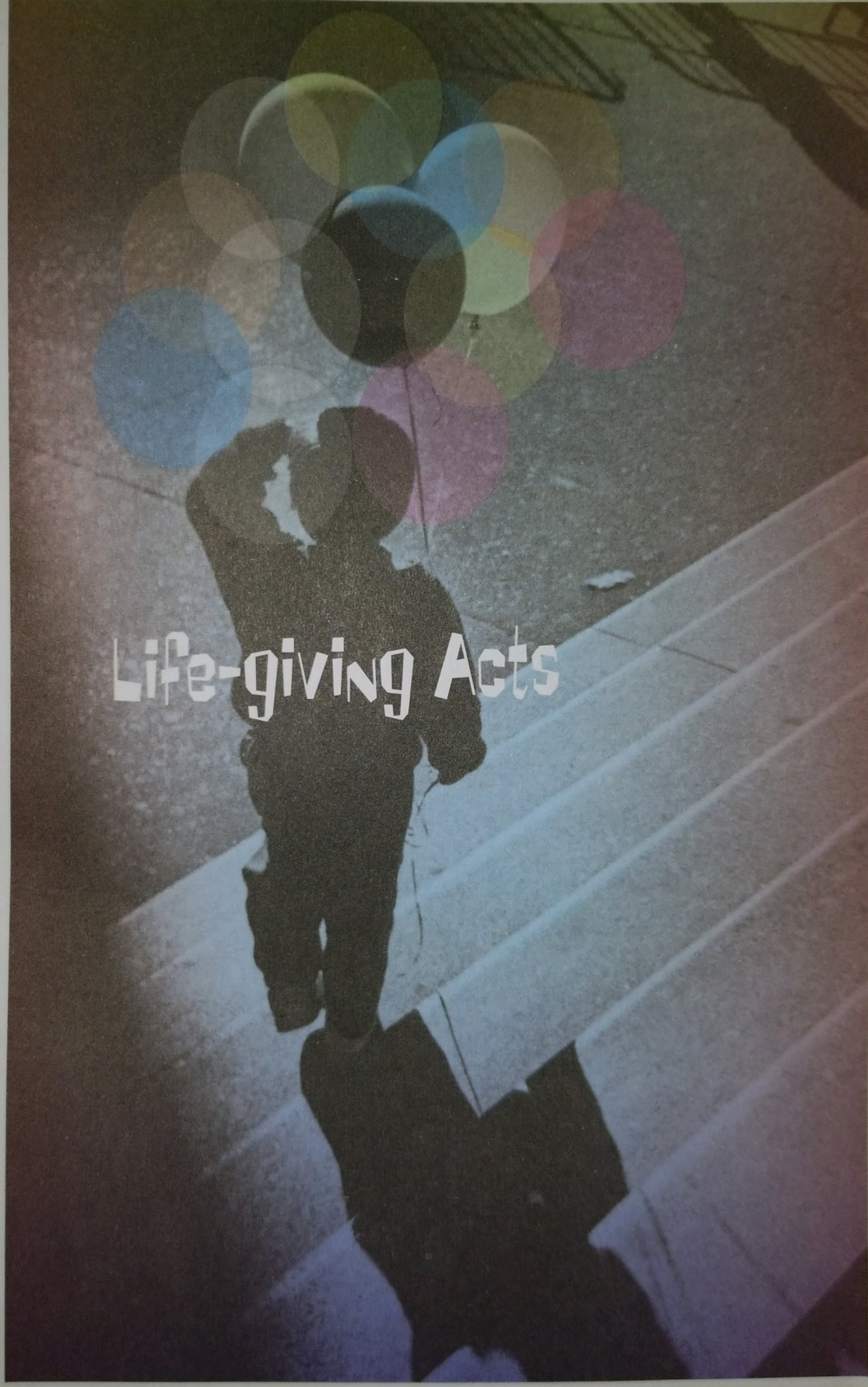


The Congregational Church of Laconia  
United Church of Christ  
18 Veterans Square  
Laconia, NH 03246-3425

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

May 12, 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** *"Miracles... seem to me to rest not so much upon... healing power coming suddenly near us from afar but upon our perceptions being made finer, so that, for a moment, our eyes can see and our ears can hear what is there around us always."*  
- Willa Cather, Death Comes for the Archbishop

### Welcome & Announcements

#### Introit

*"This Is a Day of New Beginnings"*

Chancel Choir

## Praising

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

Each day is a precious gift. Let us use them to serve and praise God!

**Through Christ, even death is no longer a mystery, but a new beginning.**

So we are called to serve the Lord without fear and to be faithful to God.

**For the powers of this world, even death, are no match for God.**

Let us lift our voices in praise for the redeeming love of Christ.

**Blessed be the name of our God!**

#### \*Opening Hymn

*"Come, O Font of Every Blessing"*

# 459

#### Invocation (unison)

Gentle...yet powerful. Lowly...yet almighty. Shepherd...yet King.

In Your gentleness, guide us. In Your power, strengthen us.

In Your lowliness, strip from us our selfish pride which only destroys us.

In Your greatness, lift us up that we might aspire to greater things.

As a shepherd, call us to be Your servants. As a King, call us to be Your royal priesthood. Seeking to be all we can for the sake of our Savior, we pray in the manner which Jesus 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 deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

**Musical Offering**

*"Sing Alleluia, Sing"*

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**

Acts 9:36-43

Pew Bible p. 1001

**Sermon**

*"Superglue in a Humpty Dumpty World"*

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.)

**A Blessing of Mothers and Mothering Persons**

**Prayer Response**

*"Hold Us In Your Grace"*

Chancel Choir

**Committing**

**Stewardship Invitation**

**Offertory**

*"Brother James's Air (Marosa)"*

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**

*"My Faith, It Is an Oaken Staff"*

# 418

**Pastoral Benediction**

**Benediction Response**

*"Praise God for Love"*

Chancel Choir

**Organ Postlude**

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

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

Mother's Day, May 12 - 10:45 a.m.	Bell Choir Practice
4:00 p.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
9:30 p.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
Monday, May 13 - 4:00 p.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
Tuesday, May 14 - 6:30 p.m.	Membership Committee Mtg
7:00 p.m.	Stitches of Love Knitting Circle
Wednesday, May 15 - 6:30 p.m.	Deacons Mtg
Thursday, May 16 - 7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Today, May 19 - 9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship

## **Some Announcements**

*Pretty please return any church keys you may have borrowed and are not in need of. If you just happen to have them on you today, it would be great if you could give them to Rev. Neil. Big thanks!*

**One Minute of Sharing** The Stewardship Committee is asking you to share one minute of your time! Starting in May, we will be helping every other Sunday with the Introduction to the Offering. This will be a chance for you to share a brief description of why the Church is important to you and especially why it is important for you to give to the Church. How does your generosity impact your faith? What is the Mission that inspires you to give more? What does it mean to support the big stone Church on the corner? Please consider sharing a part of your faith journey with all of us. The palette is empty, so help us fill it up! If you would like to learn more or are ready to sign up for one minute of your time, speak with Pastor Neil, Bill Gile, or Dan Tinkham. We look forward to what you have to say!

### **May 19 11:00 a.m. Sharing a Legacy Planning Series - Medical Planning**

The successful Sharing a Legacy planning seminars continues! We have Marie Babineau from Central VNA/Hospice coming to talk to us about "Medical Planning" - living wills, advanced care directives, DNR's etc. Please join us in the Church Library.

**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.

## 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.

**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.

**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 Ila Mattila, Janet Janke

**The roses on the altar** this morning are from Elizabeth, Peter, and James Howard, their families and the late David Howard, to celebrate their Mother, Elizabeth Millar Howard. Borrowing her words: *"We children can all say with utmost sincerity that never was there a mother who was more willing to sacrifice than you"* and provide us with unconditional love.

**The Altar Flowers today** are *In loving memory of Marion T. Mortimer*, given by Don, Jean, Bethany and Mikayla Clarke.

Also, flowers are *In loving memory of our Mother and Father, Jackie and Roger Landry*, given by your loving daughters, Tina Levasseur and Cindy Nutter.

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

May 12, 2019

## Life-giving Acts

### Mother's Day

Today's scripture tells about raising Tabitha (or Dorcas) from the dead. She was a seamstress for the widows of Joppa and has become a symbol for lay women who have worked in the church for centuries. Churches also can be brought back to life, raised from ruin. This has been the experience of Rev. Jennifer Brownell who is pastor of the Vancouver (Wash.) United Church of Christ that was severely damaged by fire in May 2016, displacing its congregation.

Adopting the mantra "you can burn us down, but you can't burn us out," Rev. Brownell kept the flame of faith alive as the congregation grew in its commitment and numbers even as its home was being rebuilt. This accomplishment was celebrated in a dedication ceremony in September 2018.

For Rev. Brownell, the experience, including the open house celebration, has reinforced the power of community. "We have been focused for a long time on our internal needs — we had to be, because the rebuild was so complicated and absorbing," she said. "The rededication was packed with neighbors and friends who had supported us, and it reminded me again how important it is to continue to forge connections across the lines that we think separate us."

"We live in challenging times for our community, and for our nation," Brownell added. "As we move forward, it is our prayer that we are able to take what we have learned about the power of community and the hope of resurrection out into the world, to be a force for justice and healing."

*I thought, the only good thing about sorrow is that it brings us down to ground zero inside ourselves, it reacquaints us with our best and truest self, and it releases compassion like some mighty hormone and if there is one thing that is good for us it's to have compassion, because it brings us together.*

— Elizabeth Berg, American novelist

