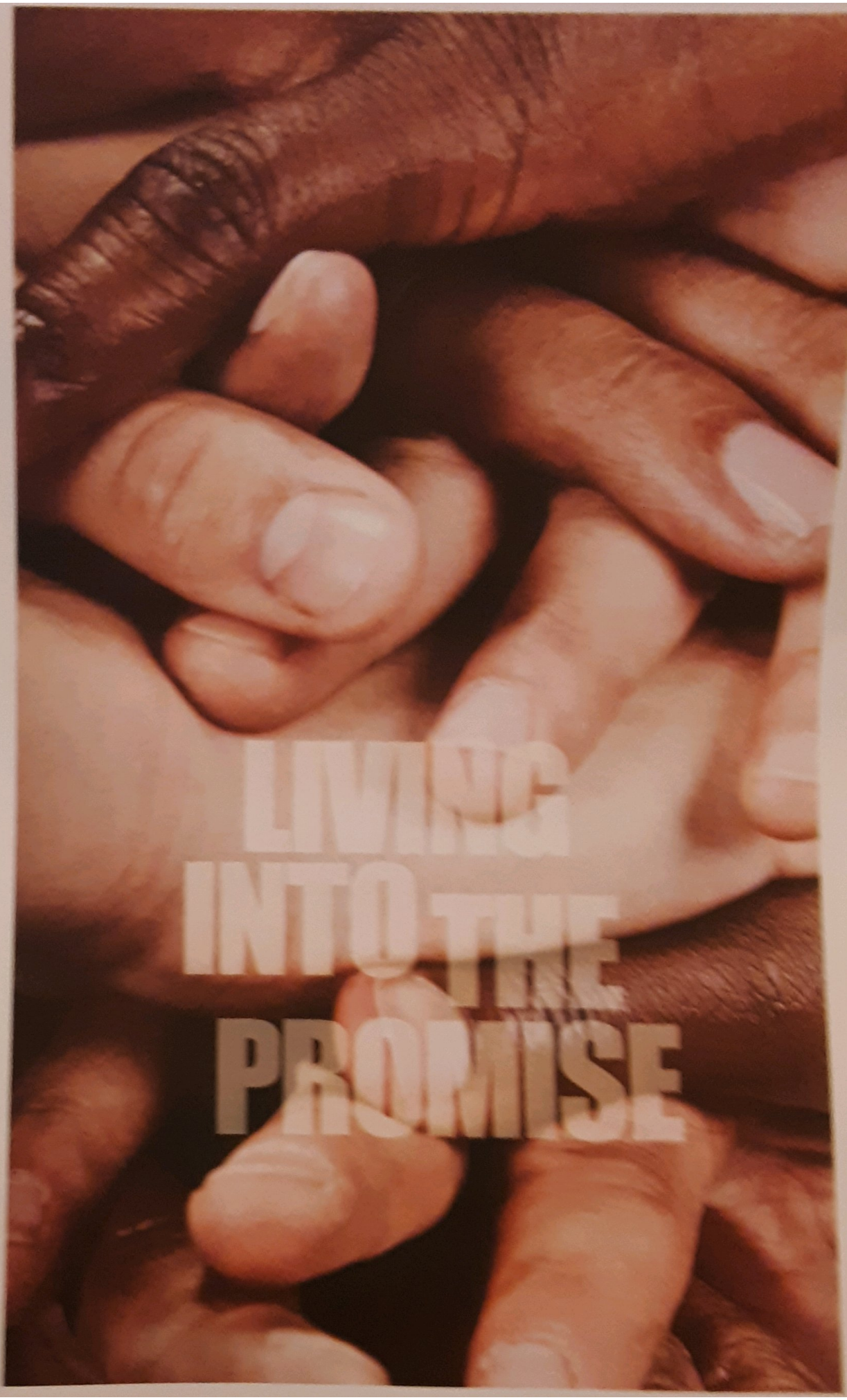




The Congregational Church of Laconia
United Church of Christ
18 Veterans Square
Laconia, NH 03246-3425

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



LIVING
INTO THE
PROMISE

Gathering for Worship

August 11, 2019

www.laconiaucc.org

9:00 a.m.

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

+ * + * + * + * + * +

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

"Anthem" and "Bouree"

Victoria Wood Parrish

Meditative Thought *"Each day holds a surprise. But only if we expect it can we see, hear, or feel it when it comes to us. Let's not be afraid to receive each day's surprise, whether it comes to us as sorrow or as joy. It will open a new place in our hearts, a place where we can welcome new friends and celebrate more fully our shared humanity."*

— Henri Nouwen

Welcome & Announcements

Praising

Call to Worship Seated / Congregation respond with bold print.

Come, listen to the One

Who speaks and summons the earth, from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Come, see the One

Who shines forth in the perfection of beauty.

Come, bring thanksgiving, the sacrifice that honors the One

Who shows the salvation of God.

***Opening Hymn**

"Great Is Your Faithfulness"

423

Invocation (unison)

God of salvation, all the earth cries out for the beauty within us that comes from the covenant you made with creation. We, your little flock of young and old, male and female, rich and poor, strong and weak, are not afraid, for it is your good pleasure to give us now your kingdom on earth as in heaven. We have come: we are dressed for action and have our lamps lit, we are ready for a new dawn that brings an everlasting day. This we seek through Jesus who taught us to pray: 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 us 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

"In Christ Alone"

Horns: Anthony Fleury
Mary Sawyer, Riley Treat
Rev. Paula Gile

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*

Reflecting & Praying

Scripture Reading

Luke 12:32-40

Pew Bible p. 949

Sermon

"Be Ready for Surprise"

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. Also you may go to the Church's website click on Prayer Wall and post your requests. www.laconiaucc.org)

Committing

One Minute of Sharing

Bill Gile

Offertory

"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"

Victoria Wood Parrish

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below:
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen*

***Prayer of Consecration/Dedication (Unison)**

Gracious God, we offer our gifts as an act of extravagant faith.

Bless this offering, that it might be a witness to your realm of forgiveness, justice and healing. May this act of sharing embolden us to show great generosity throughout the coming week. In your many names we pray, Amen.

Going to Serve

***Closing Hymn**

"Forward Through the Ages"

377

Pastoral Benediction

Organ Postlude

"Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen"

Victoria Wood Parrish

***You may stand as able.**

This Week's Committee Meetings and Gatherings

| | | |
|------------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| Today Aug 11- | 9:00 a.m. | Summer Worship |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Channel 25 Worship Broadcast |
| | 4:00 p.m. | Channel 25 Worship Broadcast |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Hand-Bell Try it! |
| | 9:30 p.m. | Channel 25 Worship Broadcast |
| Tuesday Aug 13- | 5:30 p.m. | Education Ministry Mtg |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Property & Finance Committee Mtg |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Stitches of Love |
| Thursday Aug 15- | 10:00 a.m. | Faith Walk |
| | noon | Hand-Bell Try it! |
| Sunday Aug 18- | 9:00 a.m. | Summer Worship |

Some Announcements

Hand-Bell Invite - try it out!

Today at 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Thursday August 15 at noon

Come play! Come try it out! Come see what we are all about - the bell classroom. A stress free zone.

Questions? Call Chandra Hazelton 603.496.0272 or email

cjhazelton@roadrunner.com

Faith Walk

Thursday 10:00 a.m.

Join us each Thursday morning in the Beane Parlor as we gather to prepare to walk.

Questions? Call Claudia Wright or Rev. Paula Gile.

Sunday September 8

Sunday worship returns 9:30 to fall hours as does Faith Formation

3:00 p.m. Church and Vespers at Camp Mowglis - stay tuned for more information

Rev. Neil and Donna will be on vacation August 17-31.

Welcome & Information

Welcome to our service of worship! Please introduce yourself to those sitting near you and use a pew rack card to inform us of requests.

We welcome Rev. Dr. Victoria Wood Parrish as our guest accompanist this morning; and on horns we have Anthony Fleury, Mary Sawyer, Riley Treat.

Wireless hearing assistance devices, back cushions, and large print bulletins are available. Please ask an usher.

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 Ruth and John Gill

Today's Ushers are Michelle Wein, Dan Outhoumontry, Hollis Thompson, Catherine Tokarz

The Altar Flowers ~ *"Happy Birthday Serai Janke, Love you, Gramma Janet Janke"*

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

August 11, 2019

Luke 12:32-40

Living into the Promise

In today's reading, Jesus gives several commands to his disciples and followers. Spend some time each day of the coming week meditating on one of the commands that Jesus offers in this short reading. As you try to put these commands into practice, ask yourself which (if any) seem easy and obvious, and which (if any) seem too difficult to undertake.

Monday: "Do not be afraid."

The passage begins with what is perhaps one of the often repeated commands in the Bible, "do not be afraid." Why do you think this is such a common greeting in the Bible? Consider the things you fear. Are there any fears that you might be ready to outgrow or put behind you?

Tuesday: "Sell your possessions and give to the poor." You may have heard it said that what you own ends up owning you. How are your possessions coming between you and a deeper relationship with God or neighbor? What would it take for you to give of your own abundance to someone who has less than you?

Wednesday: "Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail." In this passage, Jesus invites you to put your confidence in God's promise, rather than the false promises heaped on you by advertisements and media. What do you put your confidence in? What would it take for you to know that you could rely on God?

Thursday: "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning." Sometimes an opportunity to serve God or neighbor passes by just because we are not expecting such an opportunity to arise. How can you prepare for service's call, and how can you respond to it when it comes?

Friday: "You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." Just as we sometimes miss an opportunity to serve, so too do we miss opportunities to recognize the face of Christ. Can you think of a time that you recognized Christ when you were not expecting to?

In the United Church of Christ, we often say that we take the bible "seriously but not literally." How does reading this passage in this deliberate way, over the course of a week, help you take the Bible more seriously? Are there other passages you might want to approach this way? How can slowing down in your Bible study help you slow down in the rest of your life?



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OF CHRIST