



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

August 18, 2019

www.laconiaucc.org

9:00 a.m.

10th Sunday after Pentecost

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*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

**Meditative Thought:** *"We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having human experiences."* - Pierre Teilhard de Charin

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Praising**

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

Come, neighbors and strangers,  
prophets and seekers of justice,  
those who need a helping hand,  
and those who have something to offer.

Whether your faith is weak or strong,  
Come: let us be neighbors in this place,  
and let us worship God together.

**\*Opening Hymn**

*"Together We Serve"*

Insert

**Invocation (unison)**

Loving God, from the very beginning you have journeyed with your people. Journey with us now and unlock the doors that we hide behind, remove the distractions that draw us away from following You. Open our ears to your word. Unlock our hearts to your love and mercy. Open our hands to receive your forgiveness and grace. Empower us with your Holy Spirit, as we worship and serve one another. With joy and expectation we pray in the manner 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**

*"Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"*

Jaylene Bengtson, Soprano  
Kathy Giovanni, Alto

**A Moment with Our Children**

Ruth Gill

**\*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 9:57-62

Catherine Tokarz

**Sermon**

*"We Have the Key"*

Rev. Paula Gile

**Meditative Moment**

**Prayer Preparation**

*"God Help the Outcast" (sing 2 x)*

The Hunchback of  
Notre Dame

**God help the outcasts hungry from birth,  
show them the mercy they don't find on earth.  
God help my people we look to you still,  
God help the outcasts where nobody will.**

**Pastoral Prayer** (Yellow prayer cards may be placed in the offering plate.)

**Committing**

**Stewardship Invitation**

**Offertory**

*"The Gift of Love"*

Jaylene Bengtson, Soprano  
Kathy Giovanni, Alto

**Doxology** (Note the change in words)

***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)

**God of grace and compassion, may our gifts enable your church to be a place  
where strangers become friends, outcasts are welcomed, seekers receive,  
doubters find faith and all find a home. Bless these gifts and the givers. We offer  
this prayer in your holy name. Amen**

**Going to Serve**

*"Here I Am Lord"*

**\*Closing Hymn**

Insert

**Pastoral Benediction**

**Organ Postlude**

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

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

Today Aug 18- 9:00 a.m.	Summer Worship time begins
10:30 a.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
4:00 p.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
9:30 p.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
Tuesday Aug 20- 7:00 p.m.	Stitches of Love
	Worship & Music Committee Mtg
Wednesday Aug 21-24	Solidarity Walk for Immigrant Justice
5:30 p.m.	Executive Committee
6:30 p.m.	Council Mtg
Thursday Aug 22- 9:00 a.m.	Fall cleaning Belknap House
10:00 a.m.	Faith Walk
Sunday Aug 25- 9:00 a.m.	Summer Worship

## **Some Announcements**

### **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.

### **On Sunday September 8 . . . .**

- Sunday worship returns to 9:30 - fall hours
- Faith Formation starts a new year
- Hand-Bell choir practice begins
- 3:00 p.m. Church and Vespers at Camp Mowglis - see Friday's News Blast. . .

**Special Thank You** to the Congregational Church for all the donations New Beginnings recently received.

## 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.*

**Summer church office hours** are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

**Wireless hearing** assistance devices, back cushions, 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 Maurine and Dick Bastille

**Today's Ushers** are Mary Ellen Azem, Don Clark

**Today's altar flowers** are given by Louise and Ed Bastille ~ *"Summer blessings to all!"*

**Join us** for a time of fellowship outside weather permitting 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.

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

August 18, 2019

Luke 12:49-56

## Restore Us

In 2015 a group of youth including Kiran Oommen, the son of a United Church of Christ pastor, filed a constitutional climate lawsuit, *Juliana v. U.S.* against the United States government. According to their website (<https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/>), "Their complaint asserts that, through the government's affirmative actions that cause climate change, it has violated the youngest generation's constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property, as well as failed to protect essential public trust resources."

"I signed on as a plaintiff because climate change haunts me every day, and all I can think to do right now is speak out," Oommen said in an interview with the United Church News. "We have built a platform to have our voices heard, and I feel pride, honor, and a great responsibility to use it for the betterment of our world... Whether we're protesting in the streets, singing songs of rage, arguing in the courts, or simply talking to each other, I cannot imagine following any other path. When your home is going up in flames and you know why, putting your head down and covering your ears doesn't feel like an option."

Kiran is supported in his activism by his mother, Rev. Melanie Oommen. "My message to the wider church is 'The learning from this lawsuit is what we have been doing as the church for 2000 years,'" Rev. Oommen said. "Building loving and justice-seeking communities of resistance to the Empire has prepared us well for this moment. Draw closer, sing louder, pray more, open the doors and windows and hearts of our communities of faith and let us work together with all people of faith and goodwill. The courts may or may not solve climate change, but a Spirit-led people surely can!"

Jesus' challenging words from two thousand years ago continue to ring in our ears today, mingling with the shouts and cries of our youth. The message our Christ proclaims will sometimes be hard to hear. Those who follow him may sometimes come in conflict with family and friends. But the signs are clear – our beautiful earth is burning. It is not too late. As Christ's followers, how will we respond?

You can read Kiran and Melanie's quotes, and a full story about them at:

[http://www.ucc.org/news\\_delays\\_dont\\_deter\\_young\\_plaintiff\\_in\\_landmark\\_climate\\_lawsuit\\_11112018](http://www.ucc.org/news_delays_dont_deter_young_plaintiff_in_landmark_climate_lawsuit_11112018).



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OF CHRIST