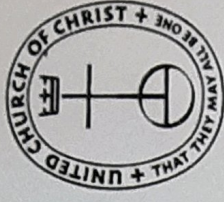


The Congregational Church of Laconia  
United Church of Christ  
18 Veterans Square  
Laconia, NH 03246-3425

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



ASK  
BOLDLY  
LOVE  
JUSTLY

# Gathering for Worship

October 20, 2019

www.laconiaucc.org

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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** *"Somewhere ages and ages hence: Two roads diverged in a wood, and I— I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference."* - Robert Frost

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Mission/Stewardship Moment**

Mary Ellen Azem  
Chancel Choir

**Introit**

*"Earth and All Stars"*

## Praising

**Call to Worship** (Congregation responds with bold print.)

As we gather this morning, be confident that the Lord is with You;

**God has called us, that we may be where God is!**

Jesus is the path that leads to God;

**He's was and is the life that leads to God.**

Jesus came as the way, the truth and the life to guide us,  
to lead us and to comfort us always.

**Let us worship God!**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*"For the Beauty of the Earth"*

# 28

**Invocation** (Unison) Our Prayer this morning is a version of the Lord's Prayer written by  
Rev. Dr. Francis Macnab of the Uniting Church of Australia

**Good caring presence within us, around us, and above us; hold us in a sense of mystery and wonder. Let the fullness of your goodness be within us and around us; let all the world know your ways of caring and generosity. May we find we have all we need to meet each day without undue anxiety. Overlook our many stupidities, and help us to release everyone from their stupidities. May we all know that we are accepted. Strengthen us that we will reach out to the best, always with the faith to rise above the ugly realities of our existence. And we celebrate the gifts you have given us – the rich kingdom of life's possibilities; the power to do good and the triumphs of good; and the moments when we have seen the glory and wonder of everything. You are life's richness. You are life's power. You are life's ultimate meaning. Amen.**

**Musical Offering**

**A Moment with Our Children**

**\*Passing of the Peace & the Gloria**

*"Our Father, Thou in Heav'n Above"*

Chancel Choir

Rev. Paula Gile

*Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-jah, Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-jah, Halle,  
Halle, Hall-lu-jah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah*

### **Reflecting & Praying**

**Scripture Readings**

John 14: 1-12

Pew Bible p. 982

**Sermon**

*"Crossing the Bigelow Lawn"*

Rev. Neil Wilson



**Meditative Moment**

**Prayer Preparation**

*"Nada te Turbe (Nothing Can Trouble)"*

# 772 Taize

*Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.*

*Those who seek God shall never go wanting.*

*Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten. God alone fills us.*

**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](http://www.laconiaucc.org))

**Prayer Response**

*"Amen"*

Chancel Choir

### **Committing**

**Invitation to Stewardship**

**Offertory**

*"Sing A Joyful Song"*

Chancel Choir

**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)**

Use these gifts, O Lord, through the ministries of this congregation for the well-being of all your people and all your creation. For we are called to be stewards of more than just those things that impact our wellness, our neighborhoods, our church, but all people and created things everywhere. Amen.

**Going to Serve**

**\*Closing Hymn**

*"God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"*

# 556

**Pastoral Benediction**

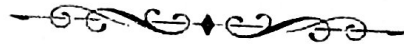
**Benediction Response**

*"Go in Peace"*

Chancel Choir

**Organ Postlude**

**\*You may stand as able.**



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

Today Oct 20- 9:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

11:45 a.m.

4:00 p.m.

9:30 p.m.

Monday Oct 21- 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday Oct 22- 1:00 & 6:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Wednesday Oct 23- 6:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

Thursday Oct 24 7:00 p.m.

Next Sunday Oct 27- 9:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship

Channel 25 Worship Broadcast

Hand-Bell Practice

Channel 25 Worship Broadcast

Channel 25 Worship Broadcast

Educational Ministries

Embracing an Adult Faith Study

Stitches of Love

Property and Finance Mtg

Diaconate Mtg

Choir Practice

Consecration Sunday - Worship

Adult Faith Formation Study

**Monday through Friday 7:45 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.**

We are pleased to announce the addition of another AA meeting to the our Parish House offerings with a focus on spirituality and meditation. This meeting is an open meeting, all are welcome. It meets in the Youth Room.

## 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 activity bags 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.

**The Altar Flowers today** are *"In loving memory of Marion Patterson and in honor of those with October birthdays"* given by Diane Wells.

**Today's Ushers** are John Gill, Doug Teegarden, Dan Tinkham

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

### **Some Announcements**

**Tuesday October 22 at 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.**

Embracing an Adult Faith in the library

Every Tuesday in October we will gather for a five week study written by Marcus Borg. This video based series explores what it means to be Christian. There are few books available in the office for \$18, or you can order your own. Scholarships available.

**Sunday October 27 after worship**

Adult Faith Formation Study - What you might not know about the UCC meets in the library.

*The pessimist complains about the wind. The optimist expects it to change. The realist adjusts her sails.*

EVOST

October 20, 2019

Luke 18:1-8

**Ask Boldly; Live Justly**  
*Children's Sabbath*  
*Laity Sunday*

The work of justice is getting educated about the issues.

The work of justice is marching in the streets.

The work of justice is writing letters to those in power.

The work of justice is prayers of persistence.

The work of justice is showing up again and again and again.

The work of justice is not easy, and those who work persistently for justice can suffer from burn-out. Burn-out is the emotional, mental, spiritual and physical exhaustion caused by prolonged stress. We don't know what kept the widow in today's story from burn-out. We don't know why she was able to persist in boldly going to the unjust judge when so many others would have given up.

Like many others, she might have asked in despair, what is the right number of phone calls, of letters written, of steps marched? Those who do the work of justice never know what the tipping point might be. It could be today's visit, it could be tomorrow's phone call, it could be next week's letter that move the needle. But unlike those who experience burn-out, the widow approached each encounter as if this was the one that would have the hoped-for effect. She was energized rather than discouraged by the knowledge that each encounter could be the last one, or just the next one.

At the same time, the widow balanced her sense of purpose with a realistic understanding of the scope of her influence and ability. She did not try to talk the unjust judge into fixing every corrupt act against every person. Instead she worked doggedly for the one cause she was most passionate about.

We don't learn much about the widow except that she was persistent, but her continued work indicates that perhaps she employed some other tools to avoid burn-out as well. When the list of work to be done gets long and daunting, try taking a look at this list as well. It may seem counter-intuitive to do more, but attending to these may actually make the work of justice more sustainable into the future.

The work of justice is gathering community.

The work of justice is taking time to be creative.

The work of justice is experiencing intentional sabbath.

The work of justice is letting go of perfectionism.

The work of justice is feeling optimism balanced with realism.

The work of justice is focusing on the task at hand.

The work of justice is seeing the long view.

The work of justice is praying with gratitude.

