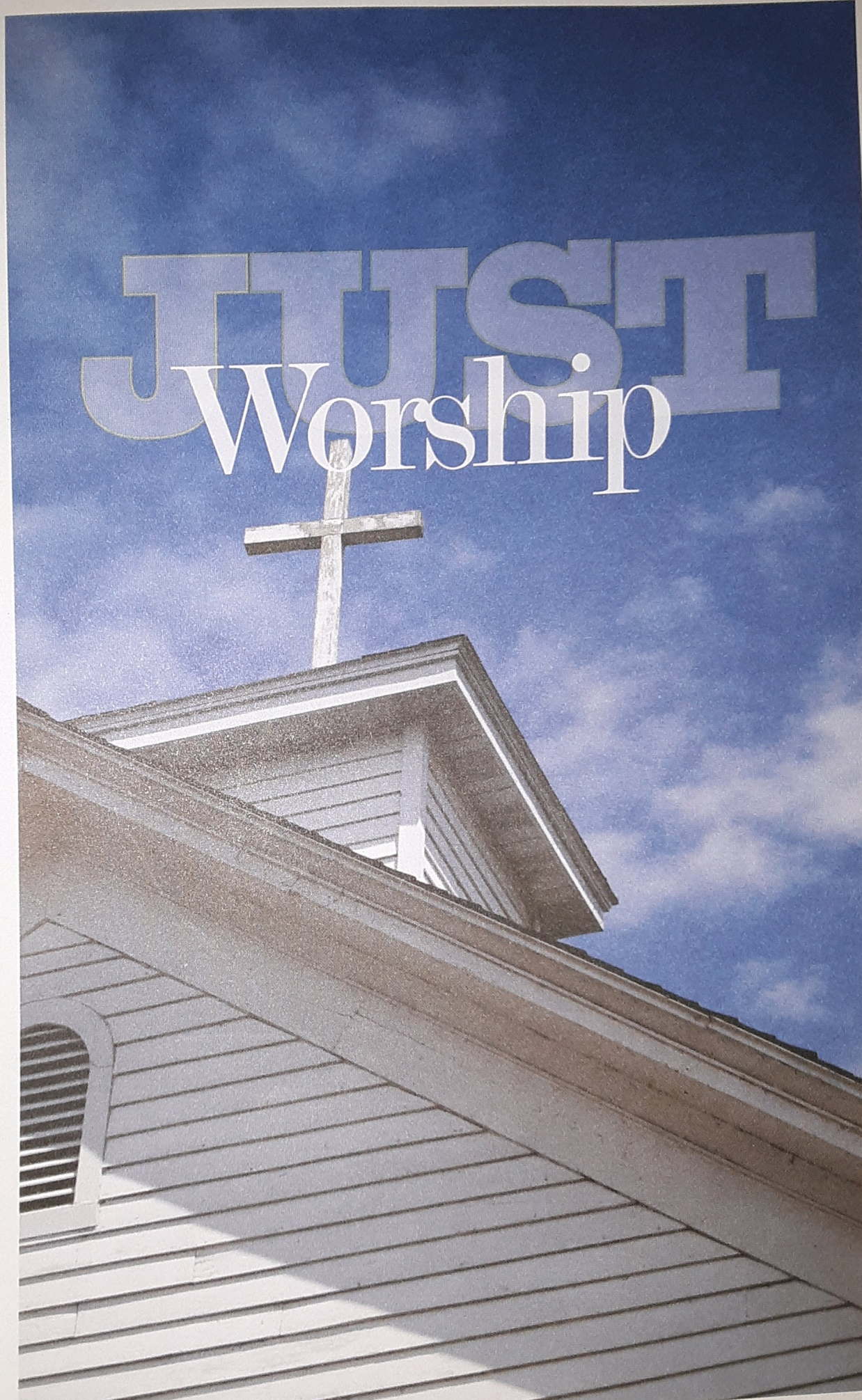


The Congregational Church of Laconia
United Church of Christ
18 Veterans Square
Laconia, NH 03246-3425

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

October 27, 2019

www.laconiaucc.org

9:30 a.m.

Twentieth 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 Bengtson

Meditative Thought *"We ought not to be weary of doing little things for the love of God, who regards not the greatness of the work, but the love with which it is performed."*

Bro. Lawrence (1614 -1691)

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

"Touch the Earth Lightly"

Chancel Choir

Praising

Call to Worship (Congregation responds with bold print.) Based on 1 Peter 2:4-10

Come, worship the Christ, a living stone, rejected by mortals but precious in God's sight.

**We are like living stones being used in building the spiritual temple,
with Christ as our cornerstone.**

We will offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

For we are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people.

Therefore, we declare the mighty acts of God,

who calls us out of darkness into God's marvelous light.

We will be priests of good news and serve each other, with Christ as our example.

***Opening Hymn**

"I Love to Tell the Story"

522

Invocation (Unison)

God, we bring our stories to this place, seeking to be held by yours. We bring our faithfulness: shape it with grace. We bring our success: shape it with generosity. We bring our weaknesses: shape them with compassion. We bring our possibilities: shape them with hope. We confess, God, that the way is hard and we are tired. Speak into our tiredness with your story of grace. We confess that the way is unclear and we do not know the path. Speak into our wandering with your story of vision. Speak into our impatience with your story of wisdom. Let your story be our story for we pray in Jesus' name and with his prayer: 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

...iving our sins.
... the

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 *"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"* Chancel Choir
A Moment with Our Children Maurine Bastille
***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 Readings Matthew 22:34-46 Pew Bible p. 900
Sermon "Two Pegs" 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)

Prayer Response *"Prayer for the nations"* Chancel Choir

Committing

Anthem *"In This Moment of Remembrance"* Chancel Choir

Invitation to Stewardship to Stewardship and Communion

Presentation of Pledges and Offerings

Holy Communion by Intinction

Consecration of Pledges and Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holiest of all, you call us to witness your divine splendor; you touch our lips and with our voices we praise you. You are lifted up, yet you stoop to hear us, cleansing our guilt and forgiving our sins. We are here in response to your callings; we have offered our pledges for the coming year with our tithes and offerings for today. Now, send us forth as your witnesses so that all the world may know you and give you the glory. Amen.

Going to Serve

*Closing Hymn
Pastoral Benediction
Benediction Response
Organ Postlude

"Praise to the Living God"

"Go in Peace"

8

Chancel Choir

***You may stand as able.**

This Week's Committee Meetings and Gatherings

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Today Oct 27- 9:30 a.m. | Consecration Sunday - Worship |
| 10:30 a.m. | Channel 25 Worship Broadcast |
| 11:00 a.m. | Adult Faith Formation Study |
| 11:45 a.m. | Hand-Bell Practice |
| 4:00 p.m. | Channel 25 Worship Broadcast |
| 9:30 p.m. | Channel 25 Worship Broadcast |
| Tuesday Oct 29- 1:00 & 6:00 p.m. | Embracing an Adult Faith Study |
| 7:00 p.m. | Stitches of Love |
| Thursday Oct 31- 7:00 p.m. | Choir Practice |
| Next Sunday Nov 3- 9:30 a.m. | Sunday Worship |
| 11:00 a.m. | Deacon Devotion writing workshop |

Some Announcements

Today after worship Adult Faith Formation Study - *What you might not know about the*
JCC meets in the library.

Tuesday October 29 at 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Embracing an Adult Faith in the library This Tuesday is the last day of a five week study
written by Marcus Borg. This video based series explores what it means to be Chris-
tian. There are few books available in the office for \$18, or you can order your own.

Sunday November 3

In observance of All Saints Day (November 1), anyone wishing to have a deceased loved
one remembered, please let Rev. Neil know as this will be part of next Sunday's service

Sunday November 3 from 11:00 – 12:30 in the church library

The Deacons invite all help to create a Lenten Devotional with readings for each and
every day of the 40 days of Lent. Join Rev. Carolyn Keilig as she guides us in the differer
ways and approaches to writing a devotion based on scripture.

Welcome & Information

~ Next Sunday, November 3, 2:00 a.m. ~

please remember to turn your clocks back 1 hour or you just might be very late for church services next Sunday!

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 and 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!

Faith Formation The concept of "the beloved community" is seen throughout the Bible and in literature from around the world. The African term "Ubuntu" refers to this and is translated from a longer phrase to mean "I am because you are". As you consider this phrase, also consider donating your spare coins this year to the Faith Formation offering. It will be given to our local family homeless shelter, Belknap House. Take one of our small plastic containers (distributed at Coffee Hour) and be a part of our Faith Formation community!

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 Greeter today is Bernie Chapman

The Altar Flowers today are "In loving memory of Rita and Tom Giovanni and Gene Morrill" given by Kathy and Andrew Giovanni.

Join us for a time of fellowship downstairs following the service for refreshments served by the Education Ministry. Fair Trade coffee is served in biodegradable cups.

Lost! A very special earring - gold with garnet stones. It may be near the choir area or church hall.

November 23 Christmas Fair - See Cindy Nutter either before or after services today if you know of any good spots to hand a flyer. Grab one or many!

October 27, 2019

Luke 18:9-14

Just Worship

UCC Higher Education Sunday

Jubilee USA is a loosely organized group of faith and advocacy groups – including many United Church of Christ churches – that work toward lowering debt of all kinds, particularly student debt. According to their website, www.jubileeusa.org, “The stats are sobering. Graduating American college seniors have an average student loan debt of nearly \$35,000. Total student loan debt in the United States is at \$1.3 trillion. Jubilee USA works to change these statistics by bridging religious, political and generational divides to promote responsible student lending and borrowing and stop predatory student loan and debt collection practices.”

“On July 1, 2013, student loan interest rates were set to double for almost 7 million college students. The year prior, when Congress was about to double the interest rates on students, 45 Jubilee faith communities prayed, acted and stopped the increase. In 2013, over 60 religious communities across the nation joined us in prayer to stop the increase.”

Proposals to reduce the current student debt have sometimes been met with cries that debt reduction in this generation is not fair to those who have already paid their debts. Like the Pharisees, those who want others to suffer are not able to see that in God’s grace everyone is to be received and cared for. The Pharisee sniffed at the misfortune of the tax collector praying sadly in the temple, and believed that his own elevation was proportional to the downward spiral of his neighbor. He had not yet learned that the affliction of some does not lessen the misery of others.

Instead of seeking others’ suffering, you are invited on this Higher Education Sunday to pray this prayer, also found on the Jubilee USA website.

“We pray for students who are our future, may they not be burdened with unjust and unsustainable debts as they seek to expand their knowledge and prepare to take up the responsibilities as tomorrow’s leaders. We pray for those who currently struggle with student loan payments, and those who may struggle in the future.”

“We pray for the Members of Congress who must make hard decisions in hard economic times, that they will support and maintain student loan affordability and help to make a more fair and just future.”

“We pray that Congress will act in a way that supports students and broader social equity and justice across our communities.” Amen.

