



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

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

Together in Christ

Gathering for Worship

November 24, 2019

www.laconiaucc.org

9:30 a.m.

Twenty-fourth 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 Bengts

Meditative Thought *"Stand up for what is right. Even if it means standing alone."*

Suzy Kasse

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

"Gather Us In"

Chancel Cho

Praising

Call to Worship (Congregation responds with bold print.)

Come to the Lord with praise and thanksgiving!

Worship God with gladness!

Come to the Lord with gratitude and joy!

Shower God with praise!

Come to the Lord with grateful hearts!

Love God with humility!

Come! Worship the Lord.

Let us worship with thanks and joy! Let us praise God in song, word and prayer!

***Opening Hymn** *"Come, O Thankful People, Come"*

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Invocation (Unison) Today's Lord's Prayer is a p

Loving and Holy God, we come here today with open hearts; we come to know you better. Open our eyes and help us to trust in the promises of God. On this Reign of Christ Sunday, reign in our hearts and shape us as your people. Give us humble hearts that we may live each day with deep gratitude for your many blessings. Come to us now and inspire us as we pray the prayer Jesus taught us. Mother, Father God who art in heaven, Hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your 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 You are the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Musical Offering

"Fanfare for Thanksgiving"

Chancel Choir

A Story for All Ages

Rev. Neil Wilson

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

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

Reflecting & Praying

Scripture Readings

Colossians 1: 11-14

Pew Bible p. 1072

Sermon

“ Standing Up for Our Faith ”

Rev. Paula Gile

Meditative Moment

Prayer Preparation

“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*”

Children Praying

*Lord, listen to your children praying; Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying; send us love, send us power, send us grace.*

Pastoral Prayer *During the Litany please respond: “May Your love come.”*

(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

“ *Hold Us in Your Grace* ”

Chancel Choir

Committing

Invitation to Stewardship

Offertory

“ *Anthem of Thanksgiving* ”

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)

With gratitude in our hearts we give these gifts. May the passing of these plates from hand to hand connect us in caring for one another and for those in need. Move us Loving God that we may be transformed by God’s love. We dedicate our offering and our continuing service to Christ in whose name we pray. Amen

Going to Serve

***Closing Hymn**

“ *Now Thank We All Our God* ”

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Pastoral Benediction

Benediction Response

“ *Be Still* ”

Organ Postlude

Chancel Choir

***You may stand as able.**

This Week's Committee Meetings and Gatherings

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|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Today Nov 24- 9:30 a.m. | Sunday Worship |
| 10:30 a.m. | Channel 25 Worship Broadcast |
| 10:45 a.m. | Hand-Bell Practice |
| 11:00 a.m. | Adult Formation: Recovery |
| 11:45 a.m. | Channel 25 Worship Broadcast |
| 4:00 p.m. | Channel 25 Worship Broadcast |
| Tuesday Nov 26- 7:00 p.m. | Stitches of Love |
| Wednesday Nov 27- 8am—2pm | Hazel Duke preparation |
| Thursday Nov 28- 11:00 a.m.. | Hazel Duke |
| Thursday Nov 28 | Office Closed |
| Friday Nov 29 | Office Closed |
| Dec. 1- 9:30 a.m. | Sunday Worship |
| 11:00 a.m. | Understanding Your Why Video |
| 11:00 a.m. | Christmas Pageant Rehearsal |

Did you know? Your CL21 team wants you to know that CAT results show we need to get focused--find our *why!*

Some Announcements

TODAY Sunday, Nov 24th at 11am in the library—Outreach is hosting Trish Weatherbee, who will be sharing with us about the science and hope of substance misuse recovery.

This Thursday Hazel Duke Thanksgiving Dinner - Volunteers needed Wednesday 8am—2pm for prep and Thursday 10:30am for dinner and for cleanup arrive at 1pm. Sign up during coffee hour.

Advent Spaghetti Dinner—Dec. 6th, 5:30 in Church Hall—Andy Giovanni's famous spaghetti sauce, bread and drinks provided . Bring a salad or dessert to share. This dinner will be fun for all ages.

Christmas Fair Thank You! Thank you to all of you who donated to, participated in, contributed towards and worked on the Christmas Fair! We couldn't have done it without you!

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 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 Greeters today are Ila Mattila, Mary Lou Grevatt

Today's Ushers are Ray and Kay Vercoe, Catherine Tokarz and Dan Tinkham

The Altar Flowers today are *"In loving memory of Greg's mother, Charlene Thompson* given by Greg and Hollis Thompson.

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

November 24, 2019

Colossians 1:11-20

**Together in Christ
Thanksgiving Sunday
United Black Christians Anniversary**

A Prayer for Reign of Christ Sunday

Here is your throne, Christ Jesus, Lord of all.

It looks like a park bench on a drafty winter afternoon, whose only occupant is curled up asleep under a pile of paper and blankets. It is You resting there, trying to find a few hours of rest before You are pushed out, told to move on.

Your reign is a home,
where all gather in warmth.

Here is your throne, Christ Jesus, Lord of all.

It looks like an uncomfortable plastic chair, pulled close to a hospital bed. The room is quiet except for the hushed sounds of breathing and the steady pulse of machinery.

Your hand is the one holding the hand of the sleeping patient.

Your reign is a temple of healing,
where all find comfort.

Here is your throne, Christ Jesus, Lord of all.

It looks like a scratched and graffitied desk in an impoverished schoolhouse. The class is packed with too many students and too few resources. And yet there You are, crowded into the back row, raising Your hand to ask yet another question no one can answer.

Your reign is a classroom for justice,
where all learn that the last will be first.

Here is your throne, Christ Jesus, Lord of all.

It looks like a worn and polished pew on a Sunday morning. It seems like there's plenty of room, but the unspoken rules that govern who-sits-where are as strict as any commandment. And there you are, plunking yourself down right in the middle, as if there are no rules at all.

Your reign is a sanctuary of hospitality,
where all experience extravagant welcome.

We want to put you on a different kind of throne, Christ Jesus, Lord of all.

We want your throne to feel plush, to look shiny, to express might and strength.

Instead,

You! Ruler of the Earth and the Heavens rest on a park bench.

You! The King of Majesty recline in a hospital room.

You! Messiah squirm in our country's underserved classrooms.

You! The Savior sit right here, right now, right beside me.

Where else will I see you,

If only I look?

Amen.

