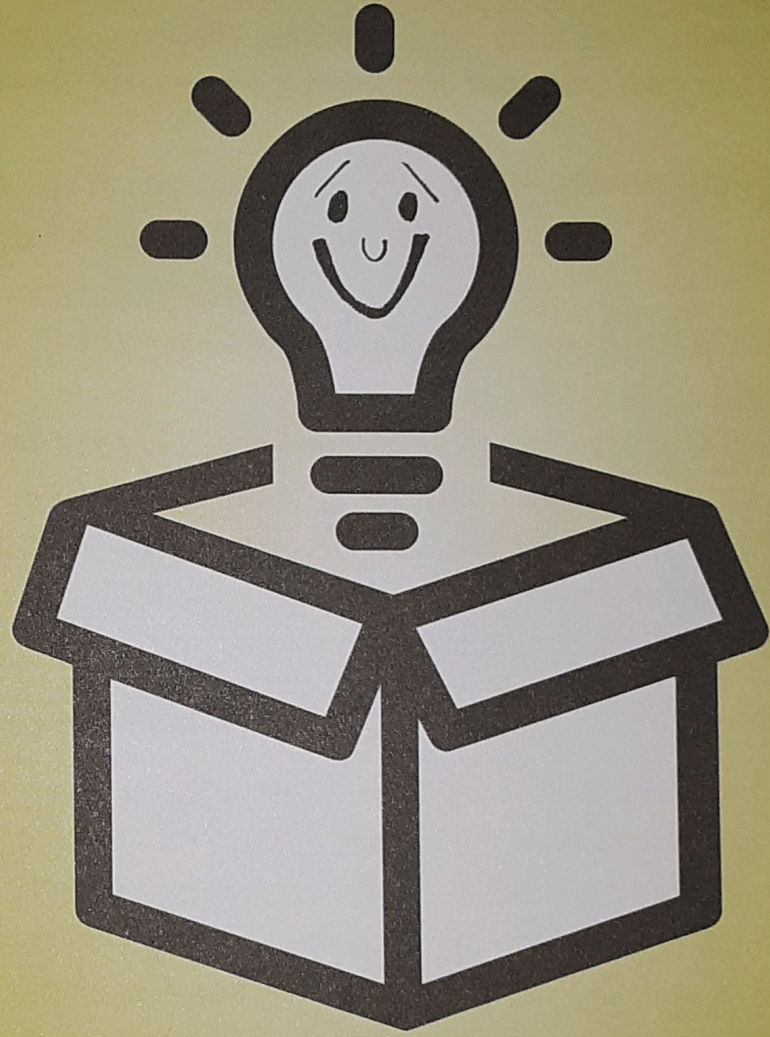


Rev. Neil H. Wilson, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Paula B. Gile, Associate Pastor  
K. Robert Bengtson, Director of Music  
Church office: (603) 524-0668

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

# Infinite



# Possibilities

# Gathering for Worship

November 17, 2019

www.laconiaucc.org

9:30 a.m.

Twenty-third 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

Meditative Thought *"This is my simple religion. There is no need for temples; no need for complicated philosophy. Our own brain, our own heart is our temple; the philosophy is kindness."*

K. Robert Bengtson

### Welcome & Announcements

### Introit

*"Enter, Rejoice, and Come In"*

- Dalai Lama XIV

## Praising

Chancel Choir

Call to Worship (Congregation responds with bold print.)

adapted from Psalm 107

Give thanks to God for God is good.

**Great is God's love, higher than the heavens. God's faithfulness reaches to the skies.**

God has made know to us the path of life; God's presence gives us unbounded joy.

**Our future is in God's hand; God is near and nothing can shake us.**

We are thankful and glad, for we can feel completely secure.

**Give thanks to God, for God is good.**

### \*Opening Hymn

*"How Firm a Foundation"*

# 407

Invocation (Unison) Today's Lord's Prayer is a paraphrase by Sarah Breuer, Episcopalian Educator.

**Holy God, mysterious and indescribable, You live in a glory beyond our seeing or capturing, You reign from a throne we have never glimpsed.**

If we tried to explain You in just a few words, it would be impertinence;

If we tried to see all Your glory, it would be foolishness;

if we tried to second-guess Your calling to us, it would be ruinous.

You are beyond our language, sight and hearing; and that is why we bow heads and

close eyes and search for our most mysterious and beautiful turns of phrase and

eventually just listen. And so we pray in the simple manner Jesus would have us:

Loving Creator we honor you, and we honor all that you have made. Renew the

whole world in the image of your love. Give us what we need for today, and a hun-

ger to see the whole world fed. Strengthen us for what lies ahead; heal us from the

hurts of the past; give us courage to follow your call in this moment. For your love

is the only power, the only home, the only honor we need, in this world and in the

world to come. Amen.

<b>Musical Offering</b>	<i>"Teach me, O Lord"</i>	Chancel Choir
<b>A Moment with Our Children</b>		Rev. Paula Gile
<b>*Passing of the Peace &amp; the Gloria</b>	<i>Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-jah, Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-jah, Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-jah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah</i>	
	<b><u>Reflecting &amp; Praying</u></b>	
<b>Scripture Readings</b>	Luke 21:5-19    Pew Bible p. 959	Mary Ellen Azem
<b>Sermon</b>	<i>"Temples of God"</i>	Rev. Neil Wilson
<b>Meditative Moment</b>		
<b>Prayer Preparation</b>	<i>"Nada te Turbe (Nothing Can Trouble)"</i> <i>Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.</i> <i>Those who seek God shall never go wanting.</i> <i>Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten. God alone fills us.</i>	# 772    Taize
<b>Pastoral Prayer</b>	(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. <a href="http://www.laconiaucc.org">www.laconiaucc.org</a> )	
<b>Prayer Response</b>	<i>"Dear Lord, and Father"</i>	Chancel Choir
	<b><u>Committing</u></b>	
<b>Invitation to Stewardship</b>		
<b>Offertory</b>	<i>"How Firm A Foundation"</i>	Chancel Choir
<b>* Doxology</b>	<i>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</i>	
<b>*Prayer of Consecration/Dedication</b>	(Unison)	
	<b>Mighty and merciful God, we celebrate your goodness to us each and every day. We offer our gifts to you in gratitude for what we already enjoy. Bless them and bless us so that your goodness will be spread to touch other lives in the name of Jesus Christ, our friend and savior. Amen.</b>	
	<b><u>Going to Serve</u></b>	
<b>*Closing Hymn</b>	<i>"God of Grace and God of Glory"</i>	# 436
<b>Pastoral Benediction</b>		
<b>Benediction Response</b>	<i>"Go In Peace"</i>	Chancel Choir
<b>Organ Postlude</b>		
	<b>*You may stand as able.</b>	

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

Today Nov 17-	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
	11:00 a.m.	Hand-Bell Practice
	11:45 a.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
	4:00 p.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
Monday Nov 18-	6:30 p.m.	Educational Ministry Mtg
Tuesday Nov 19-	7:00 p.m.	Stitches of Love
		Worship and Music Committee Mtg
Wednesday Nov 20-	6:30 p.m.	Council Mtg
Thursday Nov 14-	5:30 p.m.	Deacons Mtg
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Saturday Nov 23-	9:00 a.m.	Christmas Fair
Sunday Nov 24-	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Formation: Substance Abuse
	11:15 a.m.	Worship Service Taylor Community

## **Some Announcements**

**Drop off dates are November 21 and 22** for the Christmas Fair from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Take a moment to complete a drop off sheet.

### **This Saturday Christmas Fair**

#### **Nice as New Table**

Do you have items that have been gently or never used that someone might like to purchase? Maybe Christmas items in good condition you no longer display? We are looking for such items for our "Nice as New" table at the Fair on Saturday. For more information, or if you need help transporting items, please call Ruth Gill, Table Chair, 528-6608.

**Thursday Hazel Duke Thanksgiving** Volunteers needed! Sign up during coffee hour.

**Did you know?** Your CL21 team wants you to know that our CAT results show that our drivers of satisfaction are ministry-focused rather than clergy- or power-focused.

Join us on **December 1 at 11:00 a.m.** in the Library to view two short videos presented by the 21st Century church team on "understanding your why."

## 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 Maurine Bastille. Richard Bastille

**Today's Ushers** are Bill Gile, Carolyn and Bob Hunt, John Walker

**The Altar Flowers today** are "*Honoring Marilyn's mother whose birthday was on this day*" given by Marilyn and Dave Lynch.

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

**Christmas Fair** Help needed! If you can create ornaments, toys, a batch or two of cookies or Christmas bark or fudge, or homemade jelly, we'd love to sell it at the fair! Knitwear and jewelry are also hot items. Questions? Email Hollis at [hollisandgreg@yahoo.com](mailto:hollisandgreg@yahoo.com).

**For Apple Pie Orders** - See Hollis today! \$12 Pickup at the Fair or next Sunday.

November 17, 2019

Isaiah 65:17-25

## Infinite Possibilities

Listen for the still speaking voice God who declares through the prophet, "I am about to create new heavens and a new earth..."

Two families of German Lutheran immigrants heard the voice in the middle of the 1800's when they traveled to Galveston, Texas in a leaky boat that nearly sank in the Gulf of Mexico. The immigrants listened to God's voice declaring that a new creation was coming as they gathered with a few other Germans who had already settled in the area. Together, the families founded a Lutheran church which they named St. Peter's.

The church members kept listening for the still speaking God, when yellow fever decimated the community twice in the next twenty years. And then they listened again when their church building burnt down a few years after that. They heard God declare a new creation was already being imagined and it gave them hope in those difficult times.

In 1937, St. Peter's adapted again, changing its worship services from German speaking to English speaking. And then, in the 1950's, there was a new creation again when the church joined the newly formed United Church of Christ.

Recently, St. Peter's United Church of Christ changed again. The small, white, traditional congregation merged with Houston's Cathedral of Hope - a tiny satellite of the huge LGBTQ congregation Cathedral of Hope in Dallas. Cathedral of Hope-Houston's pastor is African American and openly gay. The small congregation had started off as a renter at St. Peter's, but then they approached the church asking how they could afford necessary physical plant updates. Instead, representatives of St. Peter's proposed a merger. That's the how the church became what it is today - God's new creation called St. Peter United. The congregation had once again listened to the still speaking God's declaration that a new creation was being brought to life.

In just a little under two hundred years God has made many changes at St. Peter's. They were not changes that the founders could have imagined because God's imagination is so far beyond anything our human minds can create.

Listen, God is still speaking! "I am about to create new heavens and a new earth." Pay attention to what God's creative imagination might have in store for you and your community.

