

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



Called to Gift



Gathering for Worship

December 1, 2019

www.laconiaucc.org

9:30 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

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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 *"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope" - the prophet Jeremiah 29:11*

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

"Call to Advent"

Chancel Choir

Praising

Gathering Worship

*Joy to the World! The Lord is come: let earth its praises bring;
Let every heart prepare Christ room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing.*

"Prepare Him Room: Hopeful Joy" A Drama

Advent Prayer Response (Congregation and Choir)

*Christ be our Light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light! Shine in your church gathered today*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Opening Prayer (Responsively)

Holy God, you are our joy.

You are the joy that runs deep and wide underneath all of life.

This is our hope, that you are ever-present and constantly shifting
our fear to compassion, and grinding our swords into plowshares.

Let us prepare him room in our hearts this day.

Let us prepare him room in our church this day.

Let us prepare him room in the world this day... for hope.

Let us rise for our opening Song of Joy!

***Opening Hymn**

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You" (Vs. 1, & 4)

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A Moment with Our Children

Rev. Paula Gile

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

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

Musical Offering *"Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"* Chancel Choir

Reflecting & Praying

Scripture Reading Isaiah 2:1-5 Pew Bible p. 618

Romans 13:11-14 Pew Bible p. 1034

Sermon "Anticipation: How Much Longer?" 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. (repeat)

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)

Responsive refrain "Come Lord Jesus, and hear our 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 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.**

Prayer Response *"Creator of the Stars of Night"* Chancel Choir

Committing

Invitation to Stewardship

Offertory *"God Be In My Head"* 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)**

**During this season, O God, as we remember the first advent of Jesus, we seek for a
renewal of the Christ life and light in our church, our community, our world and our
own lives. May these offerings reflect our openness to this "second" coming and our
willingness to share this light with others. Amen.**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Song

"With Joy Draw Water"

109

Going to Serve

*Closing Hymn

"Now Bless the God of Israel"

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Pastoral Benediction

Benediction Response

"Be Still"

Chancel Choir

Organ Postlude

***You may stand as able.**

This Week's Committee Meetings and Gatherings

Today Dec 1- 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship

10:30 a.m.

Channel 25 Worship Broadcast

11:00 a.m.

"Understanding Our Why" video

New Member Gathering

Pageant Rehearsal

11:45 a.m.

Hand-Bell Practice

4:00 p.m.

Channel 25 Worship Broadcast

Tuesday Dec 3- 6:30 p.m.

Membership Mtg

7:00 p.m.

Stitches of Love

Wednesday Dec 4- noon & 6:00 p.m.

Book Club Discussion

6:30 p.m.

Outreach Mtg

Thursday Dec 5- 7:00 p.m.

Choir Practice

Friday Dec 6- 5:30 p.m.

Advent Dinner

Next Sunday Dec 8- 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship

Some Announcements

Did you know? Your CL21 team wants you to know that we need to be able to identify: Why this church? In this place? At this time? In this community? With these people?

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

Friday, December 6 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Advent Family Potluck Dinner

All church members and friends are invited for the annual dinner in Fellowship Hall. Come and enjoy some games, holiday craft activities, a photo booth, and Andy Giovanni's fabulous, home cooked spaghetti and meatballs. Please bring your favorite holiday salad or dessert for our potluck dinner.

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!

Our Service is video recorded and published. Please speak to one of our ushers if you have any concerns.

Our Greeters today are Nancy and Dave Barth

Today's Ushers are Martha and Warren Clement, Mary-Ellen Azem, Brad Geltz

The Altar Flowers today are *"In loving memory of Katharine H. Gauthier"* given by her husband, John Gauthier.

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

Sunday, December 15 at 4:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant - snow date December 22
The casting call is going out to all sheep, shepherds, angels and wisemen! Sign-ups will take place during coffee hour on Sunday mornings. See Rev. Paula Gile or give her a call at the Church Office for more information.

December 1, 2019

Matthew 24:36-44

Called to Gift *World AIDS Day*

December 1st is World AIDS Day. In the nearly four decades since we have learned about HIV, more than 35 million people have died of the virus, making it one of the most destructive pandemics the world has ever known. On World AIDS Day, we remember those who have died of the disease, we demonstrate support for those living with HIV & AIDS and we re-commit to combatting HIV & AIDS. Perhaps most importantly of all, we pledge to end the stigma that is still attached to a diagnosis of the virus.

UCAN is the United Church of Christ HIV & AIDS Network, providing Faith-based leadership for ending the HIV & AIDS epidemic. According to the UCAN website* "Much progress has been made since we first learned about HIV more than 35 years ago and we have made it through some very difficult times. We remember with thanksgiving those we have lost to this disease and for those who grieve, we pray God's peace and comfort. Although medical advances have made it possible to prevent HIV from attacking the immune system, saving millions of lives, we recognize that we have not sufficiently scaled-up our responses to meet the need for prevention, treatment, care and support for all those living with and affected by HIV."

One of the difficulties in fighting this disease has been, and continues to be, discrimination and stigma. With treatment, people can live healthy lives with AIDS. The first step to getting treatment is to get tested and diagnosed, but for many, stigma is a major barrier to testing. Everyone can help knock down that barrier.

Today's scripture reminds us of all that we do not know. Jesus tells us that in most important ways, we do not know what the future will bring. But one thing we do know is that we can help end the stigma of getting help for this disease. We can all be tested for HIV & AIDS, even if we do not consider ourselves at risk. Getting tested is one way that each of us can be involved in combatting and eradicating HIV & AIDS.

First Sunday of Advent - Prayer for Hope

O come, O come Emmanuel!

We look at the world and all its brokenness

And we are too often tempted to give up.

Grant us the audacity of hope.

Save us from easy cynicism and despair.

Remind us that while none of us can do all things,
all of us can do some things.

Place before us the things we can do,
and give us the courage to do them. Amen.

*UCAN Call to Action. Accessed July 24, 2019.
https://www.ucc.org/ucan_call_to_action



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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