



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
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Vision of PEACE

Gathering for Worship

December 8, 2019

www.laconiaucc.org

9:30 a.m.

Second 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

"Advent: the time to listen for footsteps - you can't hear footsteps when you're running yourself." - Bill McKibben

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

"People, Look East"

Chancel Choir

Praising

Gathering Worship

*Joy to the earth! The savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

"Prepare Him Room: Loving 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 Candles Joy and Love

Opening Prayer (Responsively)

Holy God, you are the source of Love.

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

You are the one that helps us reach out in love,
especially to those whose fear makes it hard for them to love.

Help us when our fear gets in the way of joining the chorus of joy..

Let us repeat the sounding joy in our hearts this day.

Let us repeat the sounding joy in our church this day.

Let us repeat the sounding joy in the world this day...

in the name of Love. Amen.

Let us rise for our opening hymn!

***Opening Hymn**

"Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates"

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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*

**Reception of New Members - Rose Marie & Bob Philipps; Robert Apkarian;
Jerry & Rita Krupp**

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

Reflecting & Praying

Scripture Reading Isaiah 11:1-10 Pew Bible p. 627

Matthew 3: 1-15 Pew Bible p. 878

Sermon *"Advent Expectations & Memory"* Rev. Neil Wilson

Meditative Moment

Prayer Preparation *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (v. 3)*

*O Come, thou Wisdom from on high, And order all things; far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel Shall come to thee O Israel!*

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)

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 *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"* Chancel Choir

Committing

Invitation to Stewardship

Offertory *"Advent Glad 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)**

Lord, receive these gifts and offerings and with your wisdom guide us in their use that others may join us in our Advent expectations and Loving hope. Amen.

Going to Serve

***Closing Hymn**

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

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Pastoral Benediction

Benediction Response *"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"*

Chancel Choir

Organ Postlude

***You may stand as able.**

This Week's Committee Meetings and Gatherings

Today Dec 8- 9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
10:30 a.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
11:45 a.m.	Hand-Bell Practice
4:00 p.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
Tuesday Dec 10- 6:30 p.m.	Property /Finance Mtg
7:00 p.m.	Stitches of Love
Wednesday Dec 11- 6:30 p.m.	Deacons Mtg
Thursday Dec 12- 5:30 p.m.	Advent Soup & Study
7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Next Sunday Dec 15- 9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
4:00 p.m.	Christmas Pageant

Some Announcements

Did you know? Your CL21 team wants you to know that flexibility is important. Can we find our *why* to drive our flexibility?

Advent Soup and Study

Dec 12 & 19 5:30 p.m. Join Pastor Paula and Pastoral Intern Derek Waldron as we explore the season of Advent and the meaning of the birth of Jesus. Deacons will provide yummy soups, bread, drinks and dessert. Take the time to pause this Christmas season to explore and fellowship.

Hallelujah Toffee Time! The biggest fund raiser of the year for OneLife Africa is selling Hallelujah Toffee. This is only available once a year. The proceeds enable the kids to continue their studies in search for a better life. The toffee is available to purchase after church services at Fellowship Time in December. One pound is priced at \$20 and ½ pound is \$12.50.

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 Janet Janke, Louise Bastille

Today's Ushers are Nancy and Dave Barth; Linda and Ted Tunnicliffe

The Altar Flowers today are "*In loving memory of Walter Davis*" given by his wife, Wilma Davis.

Three special roses on the altar are in honor of Evelyn MacMillan's 100th Birthday. Happy Birthday to you from all of us!

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

Sunday, December 15 at 4:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant - snow date December 22
Bring your neighbors and friends to enjoy our annual Christmas tradition.

December 8, 2019

Isaiah 11:1-10

Vision of Peace

At General Synod earlier this year, delegates to the gathering made resolutions to address many issues facing our nation and world, including the country's growing opioid addiction crisis. Delegates challenged local churches and conferences to recognize opioid addiction as a health epidemic and to partner with corporations, governments, and health care providers.

Even before the Synod resolution, Fusion United Church of Christ, an interfaith spiritual community in Piqua, Ohio was already engaged in the fight. After they learned that 310 people in their small town had overdosed on opioids in 2017, the faith community took a stand. Working with the sheriff's department, they became a host site for Project DAWN.

Project DAWN is a training program that teaches residents about addiction and the effects opioids have on breathing. Students come away from the course not only with knowledge, but also with a nasal spray they can administer to a victim in the case of an overdose. The spray can reverse the overdose, and help the patient live to receive addiction-recovery services. The training is also an opportunity for fellowship, community-building and spiritual growth, as participants are also invited for a meal and a devotional time.

The path to addiction and overdose has many stops along the way. Fusion UCC's partnership with Project DAWN is just one way to combat addiction, but it is an important one. Karen Tompkins Jamison, pastor of the interfaith community, says that not all the participants are drug users themselves. The church has offered the training for teens who frequently come across parents who have overdosed. She also notes that, "offering a meal is a way to deal with food insecurity in our area." One participant came just for the meal on a Thursday, ended up staying for the training and by Sunday she had used the training on a neighbor.

You can find out more about the Fusion community's presence in their neighborhood by checking out their website: fusionucc.org.

Second Sunday of Advent - Prayer for Peace

O come, O come Emmanuel!

There is violence and dis-ease
in our hearts and in our world.

Save us, we pray, from the brutality of war,
and all assaults on our inner peace.

Remind us that you bring the peace
that passes all understanding.

Help us to be purveyors of your peace,
here and now and always. Amen.

