

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



COSMIC PRAISE



Gathering for Worship

December 29, 2019

www.laconiaucc.org

9:30 a.m.

First Sunday After Christmas

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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 *"More smiling, less worrying. More compassion, less judgment. More blessed, less stressed. More love, less hate."* Roy T. Bennett, The Light in the Heart

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

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.**

"Christ Candle Greetings" A Drama

Derek Waldron

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***

Opening Prayer (Responsively)

Holy Loving God, You who are our Joy. Give us the strength we need to face the cruelty of the world and meet it with as much Hope, Love and Peace as we can. We give you thanks for the time we have had to contemplate what joy means in our lives and prepare ourselves for the work we will commit to in this next year, offering compassion in all we do.

Let wonders of your love rule our hearts this day.

Let wonders of your love rule our church this day.

Let wonders of your love rule the world this day...

In the name of Compassion. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

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A Moment with Our Children

Derek Waldron

***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

Chancel Choir

Reflecting & Praying

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 63: 7-9

Pew Bible pg. 619

Matthew 2: 13-23

Pew Bible pg. 808

Sermon

"God is Waiting for Us"

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 (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

Chancel Choir

Committing

Invitation to Stewardship

Chancel Choir

Offertory

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 come to know Your Hope, Your Love, Your Joy and Your Peace. Amen.

Going to Serve

"Joy to the World!"

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*Closing Hymn
Pastoral Benediction
Benediction Response
Organ Postlude

Chancel Ch

***You may stand as able.**

This Week's Committee Meetings and Gatherings

Today Dec 29- 9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
10:45 a.m.	Hand-Bell Practice
4:00 p.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
9:30 p.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
5:00 a.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
Wednesday Dec 31- noon	New Year's Day Office Closes
Friday Jan 3- 9:00 a.m.	Office reopens
Next Sunday Jan 5- 9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship

Some Announcements

Office updates

- ◆ **Pastor Neil and Donna** will be on vacation from Christmas Day until Thursday, January 2.
- ◆ **The church office** will be closing at noon on New Year's Eve and reopening on Friday, January 3.

Important Dates / Deadlines

- January 5 3:00 p.m.** Ecumenical Epiphany Service Gilford Methodist Church
- January 6 or sooner** Tower Tidings will be going out
- January 10** Deadline for submitting your annual reports to Camille for publication
- January 19** Budget Presentation by Property and Finance
- January 26** Annual Meeting

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 Maurine and Richard Bastille

Today's Ushers are Matthew Fink, Margie Kreidler, Bill Gile and Brad Geltz

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

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

Special request Our medical supply lending closet is in dire need of replenishing. If you have any of the following that are not in use we would be happy to take them off your hands: walkers, rollators, commodes, wheelchairs, toilet booster seats, canes. Please call Camille or Carolyn in the office 524.0668. After the holidays, drop off times will be Tuesday through Friday 9:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Cosmic Praise

Brooks Berndt, the UCC Minister for Environmental Justice, reminds us that our first calling is to care for creation. He writes,

“In Genesis, we find that our first call as people of faith is to tend to God’s creation. In caring for this interconnected world in which we live, this call inevitably entails putting love into action for every living creature and for every economically or racially marginalized community that suffers from environmental harm. Here are some resources to assist you in discerning your call:

- 1) **Educate Yourself:** Sign-up to receive the *Pollinator*, the UCC’s Environmental Justice e-newsletter. Also, check out the UCC’s monthly Creation Justice Webinar series. Topics include energy efficiency programs for churches, how to go solar, advocacy issues, and more.
- 2) **Learn with Others:** Start a book group to read books like Jim Antal’s book *Climate Church, Climate World*. This thought-provoking book by a noted UCC leader on climate is designed for church groups and includes discussion questions.
- 3) **Become a Creation Justice Church:** A church can seek to be recognized as a congregation that has made caring for God’s creation a central part of its DNA. In six steps, a congregation can become designated by the UCC Environmental Justice Ministry as a Creation Justice Church.
- 4) **Advocate with Your Values:** Connect with the Washington-based organization Earth Ministry to learn about creation care legislative priorities. The UCC Council for Climate Justice also initiated the Creation Care Voter Pledge to encourage values-based voting. Pledges can be made online or gathered for dedication in worship.

When these types of actions are presented online, they include hyperlinks to various resources. If those links would be helpful, an extended online version of the list above can be found here:

https://www.ucc.org/creation_justice_where_are_you_called_to_serve.

To find a print version of the Care Voter Pledge Card, visit:

https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/unitedchurchofchrist/pages/22862/attachments/original/1540580352/Pledge_Card.pdf?1540580352”.





POINSETTIA PRESENTATION

The Altar flowers are *"In loving memory of Katharine H. Gauthier"* given by John E. Gauthier.

"In honor of our parents" given by Hollis and Greg Thompson

"In honor of Christine & Virgil Ballard" given by Joni Stover

"In honor of Sheldon W. & John H. Jack" given by the Dow Family

"In honor of Jim, Pearl and Butch Stevenson" given by Paula & Bill Gile

"In honor of John & Betty Gile, Arnie & Elizabeth Klink" given by Paula & Bill

"In honor of Pat Patterson and Marjorie Sawyer" given by Jaylene & Bob Bengtson

"In honor of Karl R. & Jean B Bengtson" given by Jaylene & Bob Bengtson

"In loving memory of my husband, Phil Wells"

Mary Ellen Azem

Kay & Ray Vercoe

Nancy & David Barth

Cindy Nutter

Rose Marie & Bob Phillips

Luann & Brad Geltz

Alida Millham

Sandy & Stan Brailer

Kathy & Andy Giovanni

Diane & Dan Tinkham

Martha & Warren Clement

Linda & Ted Tunncliffe

Ila Mattila

Jean & Don Clark

