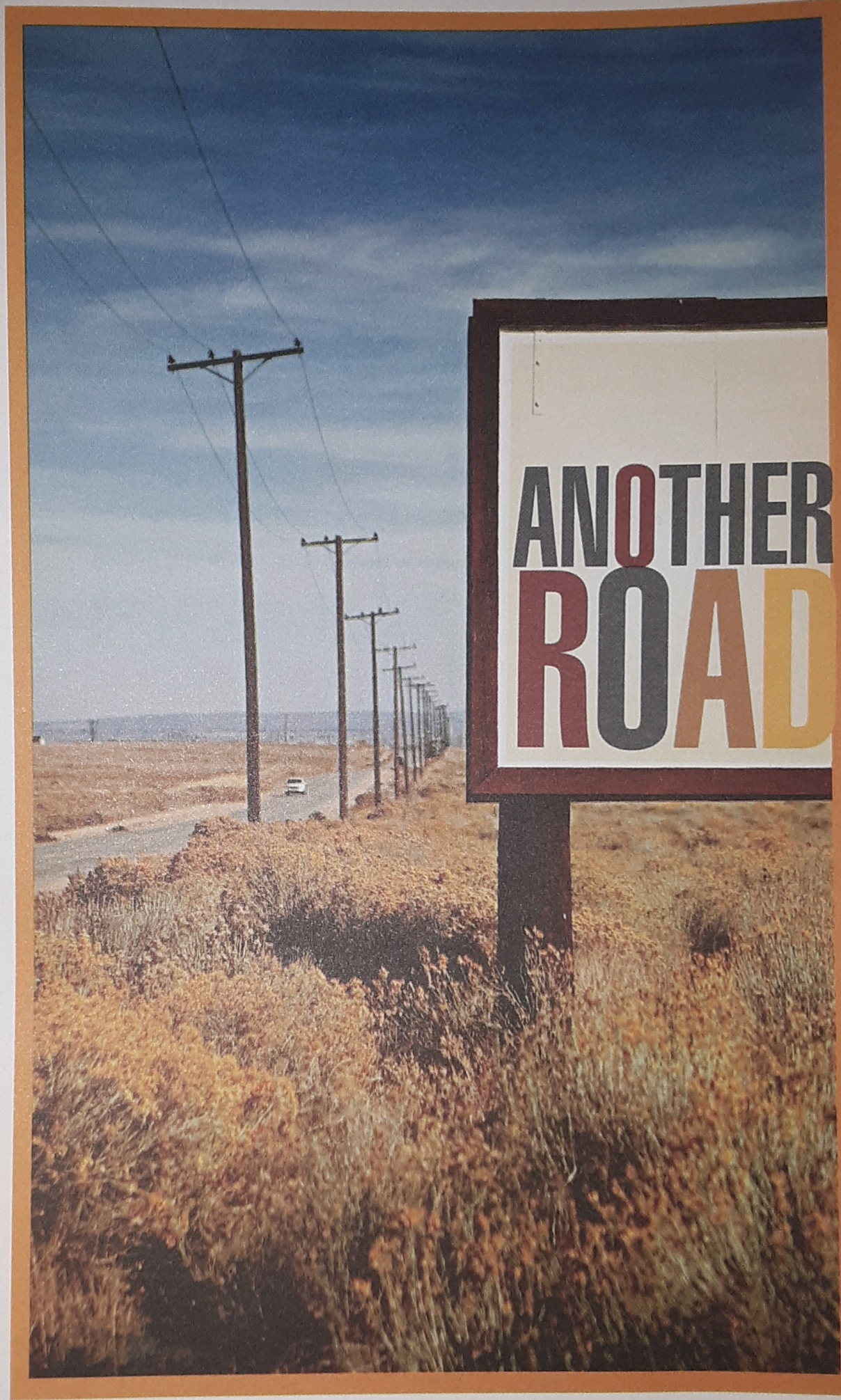
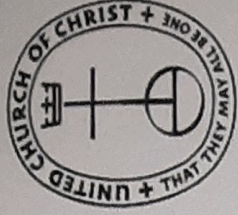


The Congregational Church of Laconia
United Church of Christ
18 Veterans Square
Laconia, NH 03246-3425

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



Gathering for Worship

January 5, 2020

www.laconiaucc.org

9:30 a.m.

Second Sunday after Christmas

+ * + * + * + * + * +

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 *"Just keep coming home to yourself,
you are the one who you've been waiting for."*

- Byron Katie author

Welcome & Announcements

Introit *"What Star Is This, With Beams So Bright"*

Chancel Choir

Praising

Call to Worship

As people of God, we are comforted and challenged by Jesus Christ.

Jesus calls us to demonstrate our faith in our daily living.

In Christ, we affirm and encourage the gifts of everyone.

Together we engage with the community in acts of compassion and service.

Come, let us worship God.

Let us participate in the ongoing glory of God's grace and goodness.

*** Opening Hymn**

"All Beautiful the March of Days"

434

Invocation The Prayer of Our Savior is adapted from *The Message* version of the Bible
God of the past, accept the people we have been and the baggage we drag behind us.
God of the present, accept the people we are now and the potential that lies within
us. God of the future, accept the people we could be and by your Spirit transform
us. For we pray in the spirit of the One who taught us: Our heavenly Parent, re-
veal who you are. Set the world right; Do what's best— as above, so below. Keep
us alive with three square meals. Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.
Keep us safe from ourselves and the Evil One. You're in charge! You can do anything
you want! You're ablaze in beauty! Amen! Amen! Amen!

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 | <i>"It Came Upon The Midnight Clear"</i> | Chancel Choir |
| | <u>Reflecting & Praying</u> | |
| Scripture Reading | Jeremiah 31:7-14 | Pew Bible p. 720 |
| Sermon | <i>"Coming Home to God"</i> | Rev. Neil Wilson |
| Meditative Moment | | |
| Preparation for Prayer | <i>"Spirit of the Living God"</i> | # 283 |
| | <i>Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.</i> | |
| 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) | |
| Prayer Response | <i>"Amen, Amen"</i> | Chancel Choir |
| | <u>Committing</u> | |
| Invitation to Stewardship | | |
| Offertory | <i>"See Amid The Winter's Snow"</i>
<i>"Rejoice And Be Merry"</i> | Chancel Choir |
| Doxology | <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> | |
| * 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 expectations and Loving hope. Amen. | |
| Holy Communion | | |
| Communion Song | <i>"As We Gather at Your Table"</i> | (vs. 1&3) # 332 |
| Invitation and Communion Prayer | | |
| Sharing of the Bread and Cup | | |
| Prayer of Thanksgiving | | |
| | <u>Going to Serve</u> | |
| * Closing Hymn | <i>"In the Midst of New Dimensions"</i> | # 391 |
| Pastoral Benediction | | |
| Benediction Response | <i>"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"</i> | Chancel Choir |
| Organ Postlude | | |
| | *You may stand as able | |

This Week's Committee Meetings and Gatherings

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Today Jan 5- | 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 |
| | 3:00 p.m. | Ecumenical Epiphany Service |
| Tuesday Jan 7- | 6:30 p.m. | Membership Mtg |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Stitches of Love |
| Thursday Jan 9- | noon & 6:00 p.m. | Book Club "Color of Water" |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Choir Practice |
| Next Sunday Jan 12- | 9:30 a.m. | Sunday Worship |

Some Announcements

Today at 3:00 p.m.

Ecumenical Epiphany Service at Gilford United Methodist Church, 18 Wesley Way, Gilford, NH.

* * * 2020 Church Service Award * * *

It's time to consider that special person or persons who have served this church and community in exemplary ways. The award will be presented to the deserving person(s) at our Annual Congregational meeting January 26, 2020. Forms to submit your suggestions are at each entry way. Ask an usher for one!

* * *

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE CAMBERSHIP FUND

Thank you for your support of the Campership Fund throughout the Advent season. The Educational Ministries Committee sponsored the 2019 Christmas Card and, as a result, received donations totaling \$750. The Campership Fund is in place to provide financial support for anyone interested in attending a UCC church camp or conference. Over the years, the Fund has done so much – sending a child to Horton Center on Pine Mountain, sponsoring a teenager attending a National Youth Event, and supporting an adult participating in a mission trip. With special thanks to Camille for keeping track of all the names listed on the card!

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 Catherine Tokarz, Doug Teegarden

Today's Ushers are Andy Giovanni, Warren Clement

The Altar Flowers today are "*In loving memory loved ones*" given by Margie and John Kreitler.

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

January 10 Deadline for submitting your annual reports to Camille for publication

January 19 10:45 a.m. Budget Presentation by Property and Finance

January 26 10:30 a.m. Annual Meeting

January 5, 2020

John 1:(1-9), 10-18

Another Road

In the United Church of Christ, we often say that we take the Bible too seriously to read it literally. Once we have determined to take the Bible both seriously and not literally, how do we approach this sacred text? One way is through the practice of *Lectio Divina*, which is Latin for “divine reading.” *Lectio Divina*, an ancient way of reading the Bible, was introduced by a gentle and loving theologian named Gregory of Nyssa (c. 330-395). *Lectio Divina* is not complicated. A scripture passage is read four times, and each time the experience of the passage is deepened. You can practice *Lectio Divina* on your own, with a prayer partner or in a small group. This week set aside twenty minutes to try *Lectio Divina* with the passage from today.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:1-4

Prepare Find a quiet place where you will be comfortable. You might want to light a candle, play some inspirational music, or spend a few minutes with a beautiful or sacred image. Invite God to join this reading with you, by praying a short prayer like “Meet me here, God.”

Lectio (Read) You may want to read the passage aloud. On the first read, listen carefully for any words or phrases that jump out at you. What do you notice? What catches your attention? What surprises you?

Meditatio (Reflect) Read a second time. This time ask yourself if you can imagine being part of this story or passage. What does it look, sound, taste, smell, feel like to be part of this scripture? How does the passage remind you of themes, thoughts or feelings in your own life or in the world today?

Oratio (Respond) Read a third time. Ask, “From what I’ve heard and shared, what do I believe God wants me to do or be? How is God inviting me to change? From the lens of scripture, what transformation might be possible in my life?” You may want to record your thoughts in a journal.

Contemplatio (Rest) After the final reading, spend a few moments in silent contemplation, to listen for the voice of the still-speaking God.



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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