



# Gathering for Worship

January 26, 2020

www.laconiaucc.org

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

9:30 a.m.

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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**

**Meditative Thought**

*"To attain knowledge, add things everyday. To attain wisdom, remove things every day." — Lao Tse*

K. Robert Bengtson  
*To attain wisdom,*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Introit**

*"Open Your Hearts Everyone"*

Chancel Choir

## Praising

**Call to Worship**

(inspired by James 3:13- 4:8)

Who among you is seeking the wisdom of God?

**We long to hear God's Word spoken to our hearts.**

Who among you is seeking God's bright and holy truth?

**We long to learn the ways of wisdom and righteousness.**

Who among you is seeking a Spirit-filled life?

**We long to live lives of holiness and light.**

God grants God's wisdom generously to all who ask.

Come near, people of God! Let us worship in wisdom and truth.

**\* Opening Hymn**

*"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"*

# 1

**Invocation**

Loving God, we come to you in worship and thanksgiving. You are greater than we can understand; open our eyes that we may see the wonderful truths you have shown to us in Jesus. You are more loving than our hearts can respond to; help us to give ourselves to you in worship so that we learn what you want us to be. You are wiser than we can know; still our minds as we worship you so that we can understand the things you are saying to us. Help us understand the wisdom in the prayer Jesus taught: 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 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





## Response

Everyone is welcome to be here.

In this way, we lift up a world of inclusion,  
where all people live with respect and dignity.

Everyone present will receive a share.

In this way, we lift up a world of generosity, where, as in the examples of Jesus,  
abundance overcomes scarcity so all are fed.

Everyone is invited now to take a portion, and to see others also receive.

In this way, we lift up a world of sufficiency, where entrenched systems of privilege  
are challenged, wealth is shared equally, and all are satisfied with enough.

### Going to Serve

* Closing Hymn	<i>"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"</i>	# 565
* Pastoral Benediction		
Benediction Response	<i>"Go In Peace"</i>	Chancel Choir
Organ Postlude		

**\*You may stand as able.**

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

Today Feb 2- 9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
	SuperBOWling after worship
	Deadline Lenten Devotional
4:00 p.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
9:30 p.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
5:00 a.m.	Channel 25 Worship Broadcast
Monday Feb 3- 6:30 p.m.	Education Ministry mtg
Tuesday Feb 4- 5:30 p.m.	CL21 mtg
	6:30 p.m. Membership Committee mtg
	7:00 p.m. Stitches of Love
Wednesday Feb 2- 6:30 p.m.	Outreach Committee mtg
Thursday Feb 6- 7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Next Sunday Feb 9- 9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
	CAT Review after worship

## 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 A Scripture Story. Please escort your child to the Nursery room across The Bridge and pick them up after the service. Visitors are always welcome!

**Faith Formation** (*Being revised*)

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

**Our Greeters today** are Ila Mattila, Elvena Anderson

**Today's Ushers** are Doug Teegarden, Brad Geltz, Muff Kruse, John Walker

**The Altar Flowers today** are *"In memory of Bev and David Martin, 2005 Service Award Recipients,"* given by their friends.

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

### **Some Announcements**

**Today February 2 - Super BOWling**

**Sunday February 2 - Deadline for Lenten Devotionals**

**Sunday February 9** Following worship during coffee hour, in the Church Hall, the Creating and Leading the 21st Century Church Team will be sharing a few of the results of the Assessment Tool survey (CAT).

**Saturday February 15 at 5:30 p.m.** Winter Celebration in the Church Hall - The Membership Committee invites you to our annual Winter Celebration! Food - Fun - Fellowship! For more information, call Ruth Gill 528.6608 or Ila Mattila 527. 9476. Hope to see you there!

**Sunday February 16 at 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.** Adult Faith Formation Outreach will host Rev. Dr. Dawn C. Berry for a presentation and discussion about racial justice.



## The Vision Beautiful

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

*Blessed is the family bankrupted by medical costs. Blessed is the elder who stands with a cardboard sign asking for money at the end of the on-ramp.*

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

*Blessed is the one who has lost loved ones to preventable illness. Blessed is the one who grieves the loss of a job to retirement or restructure.*

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

*Blessed is the one who flees the violence of war in one nation, only to experience the violence of detention in another. Blessed is the one who cannot speak for himself, whose only language is the anguish in his eyes.*

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

*Blessed is the one who travels by three busses to find affordable groceries in her city. Blessed is the one whose kitchen is empty, but who can't find a food pantry in his rural area.*

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

*Blessed is the one on social media who asks a genuine question rather than starts a fight. Blessed is the one who offers solace to the addict without demanding proof that she is worthy.*

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

*Blessed is the one who tells the truth, even when a lie would be easier. Blessed is the one who receives the truth with grace and curiosity.*

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

*Blessed is the one who marches in the streets for peace in the world. Blessed is the one who sits on a prayer cushion for peace in their heart.*

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

*Blessed is the one who is wrongfully accused and imprisoned. Blessed is the one who has served time, only to find himself barred from housing and work upon his release.*

These blessings from Christ, known as the Beatitudes, continue to have resonance in our world today. Spend some time in prayerful consideration of the Beatitudes you have witnessed in your community.

