



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Congregational Church of Laconia United Church of Christ
 9:30 a.m. September 20, 2020

Meditative Thought *“Never say goodbye because goodbye means going away and going away means forgetting.”* — J.M. Barrie, Peter Pan

Prelude *“Nocturne in D Flat Major”* (Frederic Chopin) Henry Wong Doe, Piano

Call to Worship

Brothers and sisters, boys and girls—

Come and worship!

Even if you’re tired and worn out—

Come and worship!

Lay down the heavy things you are carrying—

Come and worship!

Listen to what Jesus wants to tell you—

Come and worship!

See if you can discover how Jesus wants to use you—

Come and worship!

For Jesus is humble and gentle, and he will give us everything we need to follow him.

Opening Hymn *"To You, O God, All Creatures Sing"* vss. 1-4 # 17 New Century Hymnal

**To you, O God, all creatures sing, and all creation, everything
sings your praises, alleluia!**

**Your burning sun with golden beam, your silver moon with softer gleam
sing your praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Your wind that blows the tempest by, your clouds that sail across the sky
Sing your praises alleluia!**

**Your morning rises with a song, and lights of evening sing along,
sings your praises alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Your flowing waters crystal clear, make melodies for you to hear,
Sing your praises, alleluia!**

**Your fire... bountiful and bright, remembering your warmth and light,
sings your praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**To you, O God, day after day, your planet earth in every way,
Sings your praises, alleluia!**

**As savory fruit and fragrant flower show forth your glory and your power,
singing praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Prayer of Invocation and Lord's Prayer

**Holy One, you have promised to be with us, and long ago sent your Spirit to abide among us
and guide us to a future of goodness and hope.**

We come seeking your truth, your justice, your kindness.

O God, you are with us this morning.

Let us feel your presence and welcome you into our lives.

Come and fill these desires of our hearts as we pray with the spirit of Jesus' prayer:

Abba, the source of all, in whose presence is heaven, holy is your name.

May your kingdom come and will be done, among us as it is in the realm we call heaven.

Give us this day, food enough to sustain us today,

and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

**With your guidance, may we not find our way into temptation
but follow the way away from evil.**

For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

Musical Offering *"Our Father"* (Robert Narducci)

Nancy Narducci, Soprano, Organist Congregational Church Meredith

Scripture Reading Philippians 1:21-30

Message*"From a Pastor's Heart"***A Musical Reflection****Our Church's Offering to the Community** *Belknap House meals*

Pastoral Prayer *If you're watching today's service on YouTube you may send in your prayer requests via the comment section on the YouTube page. Also, throughout the week please remember to contact Pastor Neil if you have needs to share. While we may not be able to be together and pray by your side physically, we do want to be in prayer with you.*

Liturgy of Celebration and Parting

Address Rev. Gordon Rankin New Hampshire Conference Minister

Words of Parting Diane Tinkham and Congregation

Paula: I would like to thank this church, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown to me these past ten years. I ask for forgiveness for any mistakes I have made, and I am grateful for the way my leadership has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here and warm memories of wonderful people.

Diane: I invite the members and friends of the congregation to join me in offering our Words of Parting:

ALL: We receive your thankfulness, offer understanding and forgiveness for any mistakes, and accept that you now leave us to minister elsewhere. We express our deep gratitude for your ministry among us and ask your forgiveness for any mistakes we may have made. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

Paula: I accept your gratitude; forgive any mistakes made over the years, and trust that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

Dismissal Rev. Rankin, John Walker, Church Moderator

Prayer Rev. Neil Wilson

Hymn "For All the Saints" vs 1,2,3,5 # 299 NCH

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
 who to the world their steadfast faith confessed,
 Your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed. Alleluia! Alleluia!

You were their rock, their refuge and their might:
 You, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight;
 'mid gloom and doubt, you were their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Still may your people, faithful, true and bold,
 Live as the saints who nobly fought of old,
 And share with them a glorious crown of gold. Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
 Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
 Then hearts are brave ... again, and faith grows strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Benediction

God Be with You 'till We Meet Again

God be with you 'til we meet again
 By God's counsels guide uphold you
 With God's sheep securely fold you.
 God be with you 'til we meet again.

Postlude



*Today's altar flowers are given in loving memory of Esther Weeks
 by Jack & Pat Weeks.*



Announcements



A Call to a Special Meeting of the Congregational Church of Laconia, United Church of Christ Sunday, September 27, 2020

In accordance with Article IV, Section 1b of the Bylaws of the Church, the Executive Committee is calling a Special Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, September 27, 2020.

The purpose of the meeting is to;

- Present an expanded Treasurer's Report to the Congregation.
- Present a comparative status report regarding the 2020 budget
- Detail the current property improvement plans of the Property and Finance Committee.

Additionally, the Congregation will be briefed on several financial decisions approved by the Property and Finance Committee this summer. All were briefed to Council at their August meeting, without objection.

The Special Meeting will be streamed immediately following the worship service.

Celebrating Ten Years of Ministry!

Please be sure to join us this afternoon between 1 and 3 p.m. as we celebrate Pastor Paula and Bill's ministry with us for the past ten years. We will be setting up on the lawn on the Veterans Square side of the sanctuary. Come by to wish Paula and Bill well. And as always please wear a mask and practice safe distancing.

Prayer Requests: Please post prayers as early as possible today during the service. If you're watching today's service on YouTube you may send in your prayer requests via the comment section on the YouTube page. Also, you may post your prayers on the Prayer Wall on the website and throughout the week please remember to contact Pastor Neil if you have needs to share. While we may not be able to be together and pray by your side physically, we do want to be in prayer with you.

September Devotionals will be on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84197254271>

Meeting ID: 841 9725 4271

One tap mobile

+19294362866,,84197254271# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 841 9725 4271

Church office hours

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

9 AM – 3 PM