



October 11, 2020 9:30 a.m. Live Stream Worship
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation Thought *"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."*
— Jesus of Nazareth, Matthew's Gospel

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

If you are tired from carrying heavy burdens,
Come to me and I will give you rest. Take the yoke I give you.
Put it on your shoulders and learn from me.
I am gentle and humble, and you will find rest.
This yoke is easy to bear, and this burden is light.
Christ calls us to come to worship,
To rest from the things that are troubling us,
To learn what Christ can teach of life,
To realize what we can offer to others.
And so to return into the world to serve.
Let us worship God

Hymn *"God Is My Shepherd"* # 479 New Century Hymnal

God is my shepherd, I'll not want, I feed in pastures green.
God grants me rest and bids me drink from waters calm and clean.
Through daily tasks, I'm blessed and led by One I have not seen.

Restored to life each morning new, I rise up from the dust
to follow God whose presence gives me confidence and trust.
I praise the name of God today; in God I put my trust.

When I must pass through shadowed vale, where loss and death await,
I will not fear for God is there, my shepherd strong and great,
Whose rod and staff will comfort me and all my fears abate.

No enemy can overcome, no power on earth defeat
The ones anointed by God's grace and fed with manna sweet.
My cup is filled and overflows as I my Savior greet.

Goodness and mercy all my days will surely follow me;
And where God reigns in heaven and earth, my dwelling place will be.
My shepherd blesses, cares, and leads through all eternity.

Invocation and Lord's Prayer

O God of our Hearts, You yearn to be so close to us that we can know you
in every breath, in every hope, in every relationship.
Meet us here today and teach us to recognize the covenant of justice, peace and love
you have written on our hearts.
So may our desires become your desires, our work become your work,
and our community the place where you are sought and found. Hear our pray in the spirit
in which we offer it as we pray: 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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen

Music Offering *"What a Friend We Have In Jesus"* Phil Breton, Keyboard

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 1: 1-7

Message: *"Consoled by God, Consoling Each Other"*

Music for Reflection *"Let There Be Peace on Earth"* Phil Breton, Keyboard

A Stewardship Moment Betty Bergstrom

Pastoral Prayer

Loving God,

We are the body of Christ

created in Your image known and loved by You loved for who we are,
accepted, forgiven, and restored united to live in Your ways.

We are nourished by faith

Helping us in our daily lives to face the challenges of each day
to carry us through times of illness, grief and anxiety.

Replenishing and restoring us, building us up as Your people.

We are called to serve

the lost, the lonely, and the deserted. through our words and our actions.

To be the hands and the feet of our Church today.

Be with us, to feed us with compassion, that we might dine on Your grace,
that we might be filled with Your Spirit, as we live our faith in the world today.

We are challenged to love

To love our families through times of both joy and trial.

To love our friends and neighbors even if they annoy or irritate.

To love our enemies, in the face of their anger and malice.

So, Lord nourish our faith that we might have love to show others
the love Christ has shown us.

Living God, thank You that You hold us together in love

We are the body of Christ, You help us to grow and mature.

We are nurtured by faith, You develop our compassion.

We are called to serve You, make us active and strong.

We are challenged to love. Amen

Hymn *"O Come to me., You Weary"* # 484 NCH

"O come to me, you weary, and I will give you rest."

The blessed voice of Jesus, which comes to hearts oppressed!

It tells of benediction, of pardon, grace and peace,

Of joy that has no ending, of love which does not cease.

"O come to me, you wanderers, and I will give you light."

The loving voice of Jesus, which comes to cheer the night!

Our hearts were filled with sadness, and we had lost our way;

But morning brings us gladness and songs for each new day.

"O come to me, you fainting, and I will give you life!"

The cheering voice of Jesus, which stills our inner strife!

The evil one surrounds us and would our faith subdue,

But you are strong within us, our courage brave and true.

**"All you who come and seek me will never be cast out."
The welcome voice of Jesus, which drives away our doubt!
And though we are unworthy of love so free and true,
We hear your call to sinners; in trust we come to you.**

Benediction

God Be with You

**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



**Our altar flowers this week are shared with us by the Choir in loving memory of
Ruth Gill!**



Announcements

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.

"Scarves in the Square"

Stitches of Love is getting ready for "*Scarves in the Square*" on **Friday, 10/16/20 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** The scarves will be displayed on the property around the church in Veteran's Square. Scarves and cookies are free to anyone in our community needing comfort and warmth as the cold weather sets in.

Please consider knitting or crocheting a scarf at home this year. We still have plenty of yarn to share. Scarves will be accepted through Wednesday, 10/14.

Our next **Outdoor Worship** Service is scheduled for next Sunday October 18 at 10:45 a.m. Weather permitting!! *Be sure to contact Pastor Neil if you plan on attending the outdoor service . neil@laconiaucc.org*

And remember to wear your masks and practice safe distances!

October Devotionals Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84318674658?pwd=akg4d0twN3NlMmpncU5CMGpOcEhzZz09>

Meeting ID: 843 1867 4658

Passcode: 616976

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

October Book Study will be on the 16th at 12 noon.

This month's book is "*Before We Were Yours*"

Click on the link here to join the discussion

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85934678025?pwd=MWkwNzdYMENPQzZaVmFQZ0l0c1kwQT09>

Meeting ID: 859 3467 8025

Passcode: fg65fq

Church office hours

Monday, Wednesday and Friday
9 AM – 3 PM



Beloved, Love in Action

"Do your little bit of good where you are. It's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." – Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Love is a verb. Not simply a feeling or thought. Grounded in God's love for us, we are called to act, to love. 1 John 4:11 puts it this way, "Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another." We take seemingly small actions to live out God's love. Here's the beautiful thing: together in community, we can change the world.

In 2019, Magnolia United Church of Christ in Seattle, WA, held its inaugural Community in Action Sunday. Determining that 'church in action' was a key to their vitality, instead of holding church worship as on a typical Sunday, they were love in action. Participating in five diverse service projects, the congregants restored habitat at a local park, made blankets for children, helped at their local animal shelter, tended an elder garden at the Native American cultural center, and cleaned up and cleared brush at a homeless encampment.

While average worship attendance runs about 50, that Sunday, over 150 people took part.



After participating in their service projects, the congregants gathered. The Reverend Marci Scott-Weis, Magnolia UCC minister, commented on her service: "It was messy, chaotic, oozing in vitality and a whole lot of fun to be the church that morning." She continued, "one girl said to me, 'That was so much fun, can we do church every week like this?'"

With such positive responses, Magnolia UCC held its second annual Community in 2020. "It was such an amazing morning seeing folks from our congregation and from our community join together to help our neighbors," Scott-Weis said. "It was fun, crazy busy, church at its best."

How can you put your love into action? Who would want to join you in that work? How can you have fun doing it? Love is a verb indeed. Our church can be God's love through our serving and giving. Can you pledge to take part and live God's love?