

**Congregational Church of
Laconia United Church of
Christ**

**First Sunday in Lent
February 21, 2021 9:30 a.m.**

Live Stream Worship



Meditation Thought *"Awaken your spirit to adventure; Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk; Soon you will be home in a new rhythm, For your soul senses the world that awaits you."*
Excerpt from "For A New Beginning" – John O'Donohue

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship (Responsively) *Adaptation of Psalm 25:1-10

Oh, Most High God, in you we put our trust and present our souls
God With Us, aid us this day, do not let shame fall upon us
Make your ways known to us, Holy One, in truth and light, lead us
Make known to us your mercy of old, your steadfast love
Let it cover the transgressions of yesterday, let it give hope for tomorrow
For all your paths, all your ways, are love and faithfulness. Amen

Hymn *"Standing at the Future's Threshold"* # 538 New Century Hymnal
**Standing at the future's threshold, grateful for God's guiding hand,
Asking no protected stronghold, called to be a pilgrim band,
Seeking ever for new vision of the gospel for our day,
We move forward in God's mission with our faith to show the way.**

**Openhearted in exchanges with the faithful not our own,
Trusting God's way with these strangers not to leave the truth unknown,**

**Joining them in shared endeavor where we have Christ's clear command,
We have faith that calls us ever toward this good earth's promised land.**

**Jesus Christ, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,
We would ask no special favor, with the lowliest seek our place,
Know the in-as-much of serving, have your cross as our command:
Lead us in this faith unswerving forward as your pilgrim band.**

Invocation and Lord's Prayer (Unison)

**Holy One, we stand here, peering into the depths of eternity.
We stand on the edge of the great journey.
The journey to be closer to you, to find you within ourselves,
to find you within our neighbor, to bring your Realm into the here and now.
Some stand in unbridled fanfare, some with quiet apprehension,
some roar with your words ever on their lips, some quiver in doubt and uncertainty.
Yet all stand here this day, all are in need of your love and your guidance.
Make known your paths to us, Holy One. Shine your light down, aiding our every step.
Fill our lungs with your presence as we set out.
Let our hearts ever reach out to you, praying in the manner Christ taught us, saying –
Our Mother and Father, who are in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your 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.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Music Offering *"Be Still My Soul"* (Jean Sibelius arr. By Lyle K. Hadlock) Kay Vercoe, Piano

Scripture Reading Mark 1: 9-15

Message *"Forty Days – Paradise or Bust?"* Derek Waldron Chaplain Candidate Army Reserves

Music for Reflection *"There is a Balm in Gilead"* (Spiritual arr. by Jennifer Fink) Kay Vercoe, Piano

A Mission Reflection *"15 Years Ago"*

Pastoral Prayer with Shared Joys and Concerns

Hymn *"O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word"* # 168 New Century Hymnal

**O radiant Christ, incarnate Word, eternal love
Revealed in time: Come, make your home within our hearts,
That we may dwell in light sublime.**

Our bartered, busy lives burn dim, too tired to care,

**Too numb to feel, Come, shine upon our shadowed world:
Your radiance bathes with power to heal.**

**Your glory shone at Jordan's stream, the font where we
Were born anew. Attune your church to know you near;
Illumine all we say and do**

**O Light of Nations, fill the earth; our faith and hope
And love renew. Come; lead the peoples to your peace,
As stars once led the way 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 shared with us by Pat and Dave Williams in honor of
all their grandchildren and great-grandchildren!**

Announcements

Welcome to our Live Stream Worship! If you are worshipping with us online for the first time or started worshipping with us recently, introduce yourself to us by leaving a little note in the YouTube chat function! Also Let the Church Office know if we can help you in any way! 603-524-0668. Seeking to be the church God desires for us to be!

February Devotionals Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom.
We are using each week's Wednesday devotion from the Lenten Devotional book "*Promises, Promises*" Use the link here.



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82657981590>

Meeting ID: 826 5798 1590

Prayer Requests: *Please post prayers as early as possible in the comment area of the YouTube page.* In order for Pastor Neil to share them, they need to be received **before the end of the sermon.** 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.



GOT LUNCH! Laconia has been selected by the Meredith Hannaford store leadership as the benefiting non-profit in the Fight Hunger Bag Program!

For the month of March 2021, GOT LUNCH! Laconia will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable Fight Hunger Bag at the Hannaford store located at 38 NH Route 25, Unit 5, Meredith NH.

**Church office
hours**
Monday,
Wednesday and
Friday
9 AM – 3 PM