

Congregational Church of Laconia United Church of Christ

**Second Sunday in
Lent
February 28, 2021
9:30 a.m.**



Live Stream Worship

Meditation Thought *"Drop your still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess the beauty of your peace."*

-John Greenleaf Whittier

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship (Responsively)

Pilgrims, we are invited to journey through this season of Lent
Towards the One who calls us each by a new name.

Disciples, we walk with Jesus wherever he leads us,
Pulling our fears, our doubts, our longings behind us.

Believers, we seek to trust the God who always surprises us,
whose promises take on flesh and blood in the good news called Jesus.

Hymn *"Dear God, Embracing Humankind"* (verses 1,2,4,5) # 502 NCH

**Dear God, embracing humankind, forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives your service find,
in deeper reverence praise.**

**In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of your word, Let us, like them, by spirit stirred,
rise up and followers be.**

Drop your still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress, And let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of your peace.

Breathe through the pulses of desire your coolness and your balm;
Let sense be numb, let flesh retire; speak through the earth quake, wind and fire,
O still, small voice of calm.

Invocation and Lord's Prayer (Unison)

Thank you Lord God for the opportunity of worship
and while we may be separated into our homes and apart from our sanctuary,
we can still feel the warmth of your embrace.

Thank you that in worship we can put aside the uncertainties of this world
and rest upon the certainties of the Kingdom
for your promises are not changeable as those of the political world
but immovable and eternal.

Thank you that we can bring to your presence
all the hurts and fears that trouble us and leave them there knowing that your
strength and assurance are all that we require.

Thank you that as we draw near in worship
we are transported from a world of concerns and fears to a place
where we can be at peace in your presence, find healing, wholeness and refreshment.

Thank you Lord God for the opportunity of worship and so we ask that you hear us as
we pray in manner of Jesus: Our Father, whose dwelling is heaven, holy is 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 *"Blessed Are Ye Faithful Souls"* (Johannes Brahms) Bob Bengtson, Organ

Scripture Reading Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Message *"A New Name"*

Music for Reflection *"Sweet Hour of Prayer/I Need Thee Every Hour"*
Phil Breton, Oboe Victoria Wood Parrish, Piano

Pastoral Prayer with Shared Joys and Concerns

Hymn "What a Covenant" (*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*) # 471 New Century Hymnal

**What a covenant, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms.
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

Refrain

**Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms.
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

Refrain

**What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Savior near, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

Refrain

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

**Church office
hours**
*Monday,
Wednesday and*



Our altar flowers this week are shared with us by Dan and Diane Tinkham in loving memory of Rev. Allen Tinkham.

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!

World Day of Prayer Service

World Day of Prayer (WDP) is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer and action each year. This year the NHCUCC State Women's Fellowship invite you to join us March 5 at for a virtual experience with the women of Vanuatu as they invite us into their culture. The focus of the worship will be Matthew 7: 24-27. It is a story Jesus tells about the kingdom of heaven using the image of a house and the land on which it is built. Choosing the land on which to build a house is so important to the people of Vanuatu because it is a group of island in the South Pacific Ocean which is prone to earthquakes, cyclones, eruptions and rising sea levels. Join us on Friday, March 5 at 10 AM EST for this YouTube worship.

<https://youtu.be/0XURFju4Mlk>

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.

One Great Hour of Sharing

One of the UCC 4 Special Mission Offerings, One Great Hour of Sharing focuses on disaster, refugee, and development ministries around the world. It funds disaster preparedness and response and many volunteer initiatives in the US and works to create opportunity and empower communities targeting Food Security, Health and Wellness, Education and Vocational Training and Access to clean, safe water around the world. This year's theme is based on Isaiah 49:8-12 (try reading in several versions).



Our church **will be receiving the OGHS offering throughout the month of March.** Please send or drop off your gift to Laconia Congregational Church, 18 Veterans Square, Laconia, NH 03246. Please mark with OGHS.

Thank you. The Outreach Committee

GOT LUNCH! Laconia has been selected by 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.



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

Use the link here.

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 826 5798 1590