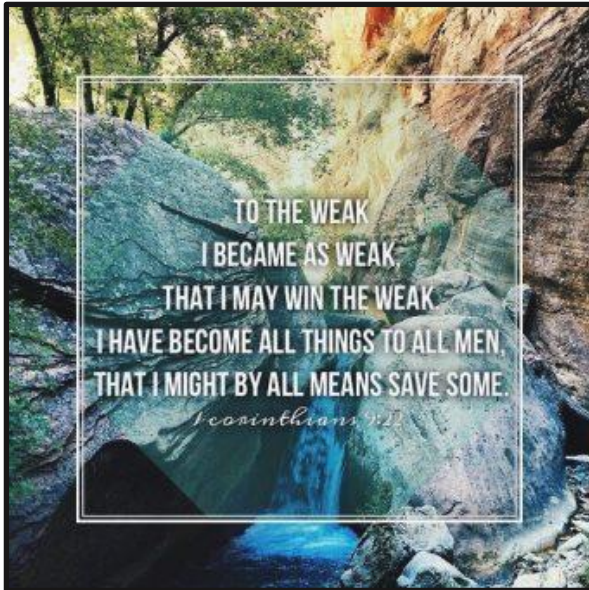


Congregational Church of Laconia United Church of Christ



**Fifth Sunday after the
Epiphany
Live Stream Worship
February 7, 2021 9:30 a.m.**

Meditation Thought *"Like water, be gentle and strong. Be gentle enough to follow the natural paths of the earth, and strong enough to rise up and reshape the world."*

--- Brenda Peterson, author of "I Want To Be Left Behind: Finding Rapture Here on Earth"

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship (Responsively)

God has invited us to come.

So we gather.

God has spoken to the world.

So we listen.

God has given us glimpses of grace and mercy.

So we wait and watch, longing for healing, eager for hope.

God has been faithful to all generations.

So we trust. And so we worship God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Hymn *"You Are Salt for the Earth, O People"* # 181 New Century Hymnal

You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the reign of God!

Share flavor of life, O people: life in the City of God!

(Refrain)

Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;

Bring forth the reign of Justice, bring forth the City of God!

**You are a light on the hill, O people: light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people: shine for the City of God!**
(Refrain)

**You are a seed of the Word, O people: bring forth the reign of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the City of God!**
(Refrain)

**We are a blessed and a pilgrim people: bound for the reign of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland: love is the City of God!**
(Refrain)

Invocation and Confession (Unison)

**Creator God, Source of all life,
in you all creatures are connected and all creation redeemed and made new.
Day by day you make yourself known to your people.
In the beauty of the heavens we see your glory.
In the bounty of the earth we know your generosity.
In strength for our bodies and minds we experience your energy.
Delighting in all that we have seen, known, and heard,
we worship you, one God, Creator, Christ, and Spirit.**

**Holy One, along with our praise, we offer you our confession.
At times we forget what we once knew of your love.
Consumed by worry, we forget to trust you.
Although we know you made us for a purpose, we choose our own ways.
Discouragement seeps into our hearts in the cold of winter
and we do not serve you with eagerness.
We fail to speak out against injustice in our community.
Forgive us. Renew our energy for your purposes.
Raise us up on wings of faith. May we walk by your light and not grow weary.
May we run and not faint. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Music Offering *"Fantasia on Simple Gifts"* (arr. Joseph Martin)
Phil Breton, Organ Victoria Wood Parrish, Piano

Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Message *"Fellowship: It's More Than Food"*

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

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art 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.**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Call to Communion in Song *“Let Us Break Bread Together”* # 330 New Century Hymnal

Let us Break bread together on our knees; (Repeat)
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, My God, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees; (repeat)
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, My God, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees; (repeat)
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, My God, have mercy on me.

Communion Prayer

Partaking of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

God of amazing grace, in the cold of the winter months we are grateful for your present-ness, warming us. We pray this presence will strengthen us to follow in the way of Jesus, in this community, with our fellow sojourners guided by the Spirit we have experienced in the simplicity of this meal. Amen

Hymn *“Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers”* # 397 NCH

**Thank our God for sisters, brothers, one by grace, in harmony,
Joining heart to heart with others, making strong community.
With the cross of Christ our standard, let us sing as with one voice,
Glory, glory, yours the promise; we who are the church rejoice.**

**Praise to God for congregations, keeping faith with Christ as guide;
Many tongues of many nations, song and service unified.
Sweet the psalm and sweet the carol, when our song is raised as one.
Glory, glory, yours the power, as in heaven your will be done.**

**Holy is your name forever! Heal divisions that remain;
Bless the church’s new endeavors; make our witness one again.
One in Christ and in Christ’s gospel, make us one we now implore.
Glory, glory, yours the glory, then and now and evermore.**

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

The roses on the altar are in given in honor of Lorraine Doyon on her 95th birthday February 6. Happy Birthday Lorraine!

Our altar flowers this week shared with us by Alison Bryant in loving memory of her mom, Shirlene Charbeneau, who passed away this week.



Announcements

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

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

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.

Come and Worship

We welcome and invite you to worship with us in any of these ways during these pandemic days.

- Via livestream through YouTube Sundays starting at 9:25:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpUCeQaMc7EYmNuQZUBFBog>

- On our website www.laconiaucc.org any day and any time.
- On Public Access TV Channel 25 Sundays at 4pm and 9:30pm or Mondays at 5am.

If you are new to the church, please introduce yourself! 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.



**GIVE BACK
THIS MONTH!**

When you buy a \$2.50 reusable Fight Hunger Bag at our Hannaford location, we get a \$1 donation!

Learn more at hannaford.bags4mycause.com



GOT LUNCH! Laconia has been selected by our local 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.