

Congregational Church of Laconia

United Church of Christ

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

9:00 a.m. August 1, 2021

In-Person and Live Stream Worship

Face masks are optional for those who have been vaccinated.

Safe Distancing will be practiced in the Sanctuary.

Meditation Moment:

"Some folks serve the almighty dollar far more faithfully than the Almighty God. They get greater delight out of balancing the budget than watching the Lord multiply the loaves and fishes."

— Charles R. Swindoll



The mosaic found on the floor of the church in Tabgha, traditional site of the multiplication of the loaves & fishes on shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Welcome, Announcements and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship (Congregation respond with the **Bold** print.)

(inspired by Ephesians 4:1-16, John 6)

Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you are called:

**We cannot do this alone, we dare not try this alone,
so we gather as God's people.**

Lead a life worthy of your calling, a life filled with service and meekness.

**We come to build up Christ's Body,
in humility and gentleness, with patience and love.**

Lead a life which reflects your calling, that life of peace grounded in the Spirit.

We rejoice in our oneness in Christ; we would share the grace offered to us.

Live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.

**We gather as God's family at the Table prepared for us,
waiting to be fed by the Bread of life.**

Hymn *“We Worship You, God”* (vs. 1-3, 5) # 26 New Century Hymnal

**We worship you, God; your power and your love
Are blazoned abroad, around, and above:
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.**

**We tell of your might, we sing of your grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
Your chariots of wrath the deep thunder-clouds form,
And broad is your path of the wings of the storm.**

**The earth, with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, your power has founded of old,
Established it fast by a changeless decree,
And round it you cast like a mantle the sea.**

**Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
Your mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.**

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon (Join in the **Bold** print)

**God of unity and love, place within each of us a spirit of hope and community.
Have mercy upon us when we speak without love or act without humility.
Cleanse us with the living water of your grace.
Create in us willing hearts to live in patience and gentleness.
Raise us up to be your children, growing toward maturity in faith and love.
Strengthen this church, that we may be a model of ministry and unity
for all the world to see. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.**

As the Psalmist reminds us:

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is God’s steadfast love
toward those who fear God; as far as the east is from the west,
so far does God remove our transgressions from us.

– Psalm 103:11-12 adapted

Musical Offering *“Holy, Holy, Holy”* (Douglas Wagner) Phil Breton, Organ

Scripture Reading John 6:22-35

Message *“On Blessings and Jackpots”*

Musical Reflection *"Piece For Organ"* (John Holtz) Bob Bengtson, Organ
Pastoral Prayer with Shared Joys and Concerns

The Prayer of Our Savior

**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 to Communion in Song *"As We Gather at Your Table"* (Vs. 1&3) # 332 NCH

**As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
 Help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
 Teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.**

**Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
 Where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
 There no more will envy bind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
 As we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.**

Communion Prayer from the Didache (2nd century c.e.)

Instructions from Scripture 1 Cor. 11 23-26

Partaking of the Elements (When instructed you are invited to peel the first layer off and take the wafer reflecting on its significance as the body of Christ, then remove the next layer and drink from the cup giving thanks for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, we thank you that in this sacrament you assure us of your goodness and love. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving and help us to grow in love and obedience, that we may serve you in the world and finally be brought to that table where all your saints feast with you forever. Amen.

Hymn *“Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer”* # 18 NCH

**Guide me, O my great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your powerful hand
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain, where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, ever be my strength and shield,
Ever be my strength and shield.**

**When I reach the River Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell’s destruction, land me safe of heaven’s side.
Songs of praise, songs of Praises, I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.**

Benediction

Parting Song *“Go Now in Peace”* (sing 2xs)

**Go now in peace. Go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you
Everywhere, everywhere you may go.**

Postlude



**This morning’s Altar flowers are shared with us by Janet Janke in
loving memory of her husband, Hans.**

Announcements

Church office hours

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9 AM – 3 PM

Welcome to our Live Stream and In-person Worship!

We would like to acknowledge in the service the presence of our on-line worshippers, if you are comfortable with this and would allow us to do so, let us know through chat that you are watching.

Also let the Church Office know if we can help you in any way! 603-524-0668.

churchoffice@laconiaucc.org or neil@laconiaucc.org

Seeking to be the church God desires for us to be!

Prayer Requests: Watching online? Be sure to *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**. Worshipping in Person, please use one of the yellow prayer cards from the pew rack and hand it to whoever is monitoring our live stream for the morning. 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.



Wonderful newly hand-crafted boxes have been placed at each of the entrances for you to leave any gift or offering you have for the mission and programs of our church. You may also continue to mail in your gifts to the Church office 18 Veterans Square, Laconia, NH 03246 or contact Carolyn Jorgensen 603-524-0668 ext. 224 about Electronic Fund Transfer. (EFT)