

**Congregational Church of Laconia
United Church of Christ
Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
9:30 a.m. September 12, 2021
In-Person and Live Stream Worship**

It is recommended that everyone on church property wear a facemask while indoors regardless of vaccination status. Safe Distancing will be practiced in the Sanctuary.

Order of Service

September 12, 2021

Meditation Moment: *"In God's sight we do not fall. In our sight we do not stand. As I see it both of these are true, but the deeper insight belongs to God."*

~St. Julian of Norwich (1342-1416) *Revelations of Divine Love.*

Welcome, Announcements, and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to worship: (unison in bold)

To see the life that abounds all around us;

To give thanks for the gift we have received;

To notice the beauty and promise of all creation;

To breathe deeply of the season;

To accept the gift of love and the responsibility to love in return:

This is to worship God.

Hymn: *"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"* #495 New Century Hymnal

Called As Partners in Christ's Service #495 New Century Hymnal

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

Invocation and Prayer of our Savior: (*unison*)

Holy God, blessed and wise: In this moment

**help us to reclaim the fearlessness that comes from knowing we are your children,
endowed with the courage to love even when it seems impractical and impossible,
to see as you see and do what you expect us to do to.**

**Help us, dear God, to be all that you have made us to be,
lifting up our neighbors, ourselves, and even our enemies in compassion
as we seek to make you visible in the world through all we think, say and do.**

Remind us that we are followers of Jesus the Christ who taught us how to pray

**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.

(A period of extended silence is kept)

(Rev. Jamieson dismisses Faith Formation participants)

> **Faith Formation participants** (2nd grade children up through high schoolers) are invited to meet near the elevator at this time for an outside activity with Diane Tinkham and Matt Fink.
> **While the Church Nursery remains closed**, the Educational Ministries Committee has set up an unsupervised child-friendly play area downstairs in the Church Hall. Parents/guardians of children in 1st grade and younger are invited to use that space if they need a break during the worship service and an usher will be happy to show you the way.
> **As always, all ages are welcome to stay in the worship service.**

Musical Offering: “Come, Follow Me, The Savior Spoke” (Walther) Bob Bengston, Organ

Scripture: *Ephesians 4:29-5:2* read by Louise Bastille

Message: *Be Crazy Like Jesus*

Rev. Scott Jamieson

Musical Offering “How firm a foundation” *Phil Breton, Oboe*

Pastoral Prayer with shared joys and concerns

Hymn “In the Midst of New Dimensions” #391 New Century Hymnal

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,
 3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with - draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea - gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

Benediction

Parting song *Shalom, my friend (sing 2x)*

Shalom, my friend, Shalom, my friend. Shalom, shalom

'Til we meet again, til we meet again, Shalom, shalom.

Postlude

The flowers on the altar are in loving memory of John Thompson, given by Greg & Hollis Thompson.



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!

Pastor Neil & Donna will be on vacation September 5 – 20. While they are away Rev. Louise Bastille and Rev. Scott Jamieson will be providing pastoral care as necessary. On Sunday Sept. 12th Rev. Jamieson will be leading worship with Rev. Louise Bastille assisting. On Sunday Sept. 19th Rev. Celeste MacQuarrie will be leading worship with Patrick Wood assisting.

Prayer Requests: Watching online? Be sure to *post prayers as early as possible in the comment area of the YouTube page.* So that Pastor Neil can 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.

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)



You Were There

Shortly after the devastating earthquake in Haiti and the destruction wrought by Hurricane Ida, you were on the ground witnessing the devastation and handing out relief. You were there through our partnerships with the Wider Church.

The UCC has close ties with **Church World Service** (<https://cwsglobal.org/>) and long before funds can be raised and directed to help out, CWS is on the ground passing out badly needed supplies to help out. Last night, the Outreach Committee designated \$500 towards each of the Special Appeals (<https://www.ucc.org/ucc-haiti-appeal/>). This \$1,000 will help pay for the responses that has already started.

Please consider your own special gift to help folks out and show them that they are not alone. You can send a check to the Church Office with “Haiti Earthquake” or “Hurricane Ida” in the memo line and we will combine your gifts with ours and get it there soon. Thanks for being there!



NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Wow! What an intense year we have had to endure. I pray you and your loved ones are finding way to face the many unique challenges forced upon us due to the pandemic.

Truthfully, much has changed in the world since the **Neighbors In Need Mission Offering** of 2019. Justice issues—from women’s rights to racial bias to income gaps—continue to be laid bare, making the **Neighbors In Need Special Mission Offering**, on October 3, 2021, even more critical.

Please consider making an offering through our Church for this much needed program. We will begin taking offerings today either by mailing to the office, dropping them in our collection box at church, or dropping it by the church office when we are open.

Please be sure to note on your payment that it is for **Neighbors In Need**.

Service of Hope and Remembrance

From March 22, 2020 through June 6, 2021, the Congregational Church of Laconia-UCC was closed for indoor worship due to the Covid-19 pandemic. None of us could have predicted that our closure would last so long. During those months of isolation, livestream worship, and Zoom meetings, much changed. Among the most profound of these changes was the passing of nineteen souls who were members of our church. Those nineteen were called home at a time when we could not gather as a church family to grieve our losses and celebrate their lives.

So, as part of the Sunday worship service on September 26th, a **Service of Hope and Remembrance** will be offered by Pastor Neil, Diaconate, and the Worship & Music Committee specifically honoring the lives of these nineteen souls and acknowledging any other losses you may have experienced during this time of apartness.

Bill Zeckhausen	Pat Normandin	Steve Hatch	Susan Hayes
Ed Bastille	Ellie Kennard	Joan Thurston	Olyve Buckley
Peg Petrie	Bill Bell	Donnie Richards	Joni Stover
Priscilla Champagne	Evelyn MacMillan	Joanne Whitticom	Phyllis Veazey
Charlie Heslam	Ruth Gill	George Bryenton	

We invite the families of these beloved people to bring a single item to adorn the Communion table for this time of worship--something that for you is emblematic of the person you long knew and loved. Or write something honoring your loved one and leave it on the table to be shared. You and others among us who lost loved ones during this time will be invited, during a musical selection, to light a candle to honor these losses allowing us to share your grief and surround you with our love.

We have never done anything quite like this before, but we have never experienced anything quite like this before either. Please plan to join us in worship on September 26th as the words to the familiar hymn say, for all the saints...

For those of you who are visiting for our Service of Hope and Remembrance and may need to use the elevator our policy is that only one family group use the elevator at a time. And we will have an usher there to assist you if needed.

The Diaconate invite you to a Bereavement Support Group on Wednesday, September 29, at 10 AM in the Bean Parlor. We hope you can join us...Beth Shehadi and Margie Kreidler