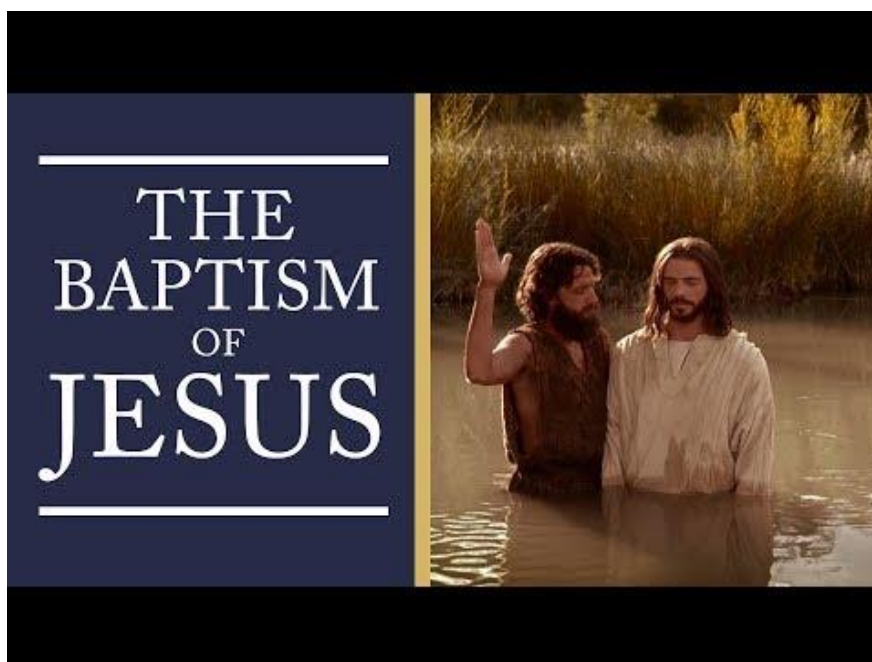


Congregational Church of Laconia United Church of Christ

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.



Baptism of the Lord Sunday 9:30 a.m. January 9, 2022

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Meditation Moment:

“Luke, you’re going to find that many of the truths we cling to depend greatly on our own point of view.” / “The truth is often what we make of it; you heard what you wanted to hear, believed what you wanted to believe.”

- Obi Wan / Ben Kenobi Star Wars

*Indicates where you may stand as able or desire.

Welcome, Announcements and Lighting of the Christ Candle

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

Creator God, in the beginning your Spirit brooded over the waters
and you brought forth light.

Your Spirit gives us birth. Your light shines within us.

Brother Christ, you submitted to baptism in the Jordan River;
you immersed yourself in our life.

Your presence warms us. We rejoice in your grace.

Holy Spirit, your breath gives us life;
your flame burns with compassion within us.

**Alleluia! We immerse ourselves in your grace,
that we may always shine with the light of your love. Alleluia!**

* **Hymn** "Arise Your Light Is Come" # 164 New Century Hymnal

**Arise your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today!**

**Arise your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor**

**Arise your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.**

Invocation

Loving God, Jesus came to the Jordan to be baptized.

**So, we come to your Word, to wade in deep, to be immersed in your grace,
to let the Mystery flow around us. We listen for your voice.**

**May we hear your Living Word in scripture, in our prayers, songs and in the
words of that have been passed on to us through the generations:**

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 our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Musical Offering *“Our God Our Help in Ages Past”*

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Jaylene Bengtson, soprano | Kathy Giovanni, alto |
| John Kreitler, tenor | Bob Harrington, bass |

Scripture Reading Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 Bob Harrington**Message** *“What Did You Expect?”***Musical Reflection** *“A Prayer”* Douglas Sloane

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Jaylene Bengtson | Kathy Giovanni |
| John Kreitler | Bob Harrington |

Pastoral Prayer*** Hymn** *“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”* vs. 1, 3, 4 # 43 New Century Hymnal

**Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven on earth be found,
Fix in us a humble dwelling, all your faithful mercies crown;
Jesus you are all compassion; pure unbounded love impart.
Visit us with your salvation, enter every trembling heart.**

**Come almighty to deliver, let us all your life receive;
Suddenly return and never, never-more your temples leave.
You we would be always blessing, love you as your angels love,
Prayer and praise for your unfailing, wounded arms outstretched above**

**Finish then your new creation, pure and spotless may we prove;
Let us see your great salvation perfectly restored in you;
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Crowned as saints, we ever shall be lost in wonder, love, and praise**

*** Benediction***** Parting Song** *“Your Ways Are Not Our Own”* v. 1 & 4 # 170 NCH

**Your ways are not our own, O Gracious God most high,
Yet we would follow in your paths and on your love rely.

How shall we show your love, your pardon to believe?
You bid us share as we are blessed and give as we receive.**

Postlude

Today's Altar flowers are in memory of Ruth Kreitler Wakely, Robert Kreitler, and Ned and Vivian McKenney by Margie & John Kreitler.



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 or neil@laconiaucc.org

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

From the Pastor

As the rate of Covid positive cases rises with the latest variant and we are hearing more and more of them within the membership of our congregation, I want to reassure you that even as we are making every effort to remain open for in-person worship I also encourage you to feel completely at ease with the decision to stay home and watch the service online. We want everyone to be safe and to feel comfortable. So, if over the next few months (especially during the snow and ice months!) you believe it is better for you personally and for the overall welfare of the congregation and our community to stay home that is okay! Enjoy the service from the comfort of your home and be sure to use the chat function on YouTube that we might be able to greet you!

Rest assured that: We will always have a seat for you, we will always have a caring heart for you, and we will always keep you in our prayers.

Pastor Neil Wilson

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.

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)



Faith Formation

Starting today, Faith Formation will be the first Sunday of every month. We hope that we can all be here on those Sundays to continue the fellowship with our Faith Formation community. On all the other Sundays, the kids/youth are welcome to stay in the worship service and be a part of the larger church.



The upcoming schedule is:

Jan. 2, Feb. 6, Mar. 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3, Aug. 7, Sep. 4, Oct. 2,
Nov. 6, Dec. 4