

Congregational Church of Laconia

United Church of Christ

In-Person and Live Stream Worship

*The wearing of Masks is optional on church property.
For those who prefer to wear masks this is encouraged.
We still recommend the practice of safe distancing.*



Sixth Sunday of Easter

9:30 a.m. May 22, 2022

Meditation Moment:

*For what is a man, what has he got? If not himself, then he has naught.
To say the things he truly feels; And not the words of one who kneels.
The record shows I took the blows - And did it my way! - Frank Sinatra*

*Indicates where you may stand as able or desire.

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Introit *"Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet"*

Call to Worship (Congregation respond with the **Bold** print.) Adapted from Psalm 150

Praise the Eternal! Praise the True God within the temple.

Praise God beneath massive skies, under moonlit stars and rising sun.

Praise the Eternal for God's powerful acts, *redeeming God's people.*

Praise God for a greatness that surpasses our time and understanding.

Praise the Holy One with the blast of trumpets *high into the heavens,*
and praise God with harps and lyres and *the rhythm of the tambourines*

Skillfully played by those who love and fear the Eternal.

Praise the Lord with singing and dancing, with flutes and strings of all kinds!

Even crashing cymbals, loud clashing cymbals!

No one should be left out.

Let every human and every beast—

every creature that has the breath *of the Lord*—praise the Eternal!

Praise the Eternal!

* Hymn "God Reigns o'er All the Earth" (vs. 1,2,4) # 21 New Century Hymnal

**God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and valleys low,
the farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beauty show.
God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spreading plains,
in rainbow hues- red, yellows, blues – of stream and country lanes.**

**God reigns o'er human life! Through youth and aging years,
in death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.
God reigns o'er human life! Our inspiration still.
Through all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's reigning will.**

**God reigns! Emmanuel! God with us every day,
in all our past and to the last, our comfort and our stay.
God reigns! Emmanuel! Let praise to Christ be sung!
God's presence here makes all things dear. Let joyful bells be rung!**

Prayer of Invocation and Prayer of our Savior (Unison)

**Mighty God, who speaks a word of peace to calm our troubled days;
Caring God, who nudges us away from fear and toward faith;
Ever-present God, who fills us with awe but also raises
many questions without easy answers;
Open our ears to hear your call to come aside to the mountain
where we might sit for a while with Jesus.
Open our eyes to see you in the mundane of our routine —today,
Strengthen our hearts for the challenges that lie ahead,
This we pray, in the one who called us to worship in spirit and truth,
Jesus the Christ who taught his disciples to pray:
Our Father, who art in 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 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.**

Choral Anthem *“Awake, My Heart”* (Jane M. Marshall)”

Scripture Readings John 14: 8-17, 25-27

Message *“The Spirit’s Way*

Musical Reflection *“Prayer for the Nations”* (Shakers – Canterbury, N.H.)

Sharing of our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

* **Hymn** *“Forward through the Ages”* # 377 New Century Hymnal

**Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
 Move the faithful spirits at the call divine;
 Gifts in differing measure, hearts of one accord,
 Manifold in service, one the sure reward.**

(Refrain)

**Wide grows God’s dominion, reign of love and peace;
 For it we must labor, till all strivings cease.
 Prophets have proclaimed it, teachers testified,
 Poets sung its glory, martyrs for it died.**

(Refrain)

**Not alone we conquer, not alone we fall;
 In each loss of triumph, lose or triumph all.
 Bound by God’s far purpose in one loving whole,
 Move we on together to the shining goal.**

(Refrain)

* **Benediction**

* **Benediction Response** *“Go in Peace”*

Postlude



Today's Altar flowers in celebration of the Horton Center from Rev. Janet Heslam, a former camper.



Clergy: Rev. Neil Wilson
 Organist/Accompanist: Bob Bengtson
 Worship Assistant: Jean Clarke
 Greeters: Diane Tinkham and MaryEllen Azem

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!



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**. 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.

Special note!

Across our state there is an increase in Covid transmission rates and the rates of hospitalizations. Because of this we will not be passing the microphone around for prayer concerns in the sanctuary. 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.

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)



From Your Stewardship Team

Did you get last week's riddle? If you didn't, here is one that is a bit easier!

*If you're lost in the middle of nowhere
Then firstly make sure your eyes are peeled
And hope your backpack contains this item
That guides using the Earth's magnetic field*

What Am I?

You will be hearing more about the answer over the next few months!

Welcome to our Church.

We are glad you are here.



Faith Formation

We meet once a month on the second Sunday for Faith Formation for all school age children. Our multi-age group is a good opportunity to learn from each other and build relationships with other young people in the Church. The next day that we're meeting is **Sunday, June 12** and we hope to see you there!

Grief Support

The loss of someone dear to us can bring up feelings of sadness that is hard for us to always know how to cope.

The Diaconate is again offering an opportunity for folks to come together on Wednesdays at 10 am in the Beane Parlor with Beth Shehadi and Margie Kreitler. Come explore strategies for dealing with loss and grief.

Join us this Wednesday, May 25, at 10 am in the Beane Parlor upstairs in the Parish House. The elevator door will be accessible as well as the main entrance into the Parish House. For more information, contact Beth at 603-528-6057 or Margie at 603-260-3673.

Stay Informed. Stay Safe.

Here in the northeast, we are seeing yet another surge of Covid-19. By state metrics, all of New Hampshire is again in the red “substantial” zone for community spread. By CDC metrics focusing on hospitalizations and deaths, Belknap County is a yellow “medium” zone. Indoor masking remains optional at that level. If you are **unvaccinated, not up-to-date** on vaccines and boosters, are **immunocompromised** or otherwise **vulnerable**, it is recommended that you wear a facemask indoors –including at church. Please be mindful of our community levels when selecting a seat in worship. Adequate social distancing is still encouraged. And when chatting with others indoors, monitor your closeness. Take a step back even when you’d prefer to lean in! It is still important that you stay home if ill, test for any symptoms, and continue to wash your hands! Let us worship together...in health!



Mark Your Calendars

Our summer worship time will be **9:00 a.m.** starting on Father’s Day, **June 19th through September 4th** of Labor Day weekend. Worship with us early, either in-person or via live stream, before heading out for your summer fun!

HORTON CENTER SUMMER CAMP 2022 CHALLENGE

"Pastor, how can we get these bats out of our belfry?" asked the church trustee. "Confirm'em," quipped the pastor.

How do we get kids *into* the church family? *Send them to camp!*



The Educational Ministries Committee, inspired by Rev. Janet Heslam, wants to do just that - send kids to Horton Center, the NH United Church of Christ's camp on Pine Mountain.

Many of you may have been to Horton Center and have undoubtedly been moved by the experience. Maybe some others among us have longed to participate, but just couldn't make it happen. The Ed Min Committee wants to inspire you - that's all y'all - to join in a challenge to make a Horton Center experience possible for any young person in our church, regardless of their ability to pay. Yes, you read that right. The committee has determined that part of its mission is to provide this faith experience for any young person and is calling upon the congregation to help make that happen. Thanks to the past generosity of many in our congregation, the Campership Fund has some seed money to launch the project.

The challenge clock starts now!! Please give generously to the Horton Center Campership Fund. A check to "Congregational Church of Laconia" with "Campership Fund" in the memo line is all it takes! Send your donation to the church office **ASAP** as summer camp sessions can fill quickly.