

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LACONIA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

18 Veterans Square, Laconia, NH ~ laconiaucc.org

November 20, 2022 ~ 9:30 a.m.

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Morning Meditation

“The more you practice the art of thankfulness, the more you have to be thankful for. This, of course, is a fact. Thankfulness does tend to reproduce in kind. The attitude of gratitude revitalizes the entire mental process...”

~Norman Vincent Peale



*Indicates where you may stand as able or desired

Prelude

Lorraine Barrows
Tim & Molly Hazelton

Welcome, Announcements, and Lighting of the Christ Candle
and Janet Simmon

Betty Bergstrom

Introit

Call to Worship (Congregation responds with the **bold** print.)

Janet Simmon

L: In the midst of difficulty, God sets a table of rejoicing for us.

P: Though the world seems focused on turmoil, yet will we praise God!

L: Our lives should be witnesses to God’s goodness and power.

P: Our hearts should encompass compassion and service to God’s people.

L: Help us to be your workers and witnesses in today’s world, O God.

P: Enable us to be faithful and strong for you. AMEN.

*Hymn “We Gather Together” (NC #421)

We gather together to ask for God’s blessings,

To live in community, seeking God’s will.

We come now, as sisters and brothers, confessing

the sins that divide and the wrong in us still.

**Beside us, forgiving, enabling, sustaining,
You call us, O Savior to life that is new.
You draw us away from self-centered complaining,
You lead us and guide us in ways that are true.**

**All praise to the Spirit, provider, defender.
You offer us freedom, to follow or stray,
Empowering all by the hope you engender.
Grant wisdom and courage to follow your way.**

Invocation and the Lord's Prayer (Unison)

Betty Bergstrom

God of Grace, you have gifted us with a world of abundance; a land of plenty; a country where all can have enough. We come before you this day to thank you for this prosperity and to repent from our apparent inability to share this wealth. God, we declare our own complicity in systems that sustain some of us, while forsaking many others. And we come before you to seek your forgiveness, even as we pray for your justice. Righteous God, you hear the cry of the poor. You listen to those who do without, while so many spend recklessly and our leaders invest the wealth of the nation in instruments of destruction. Be with us this day, Lord. Hear our prayers. Touch our hearts that we may be faithful witnesses and effective voices for justice. God of mercy, hear our prayer. AMEN.* And hear us as we pray as Jesus taught: 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 us 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.

(*Mari Castellanos, Policy Advocate, Justice and Witness Ministries, UCC)

Musical Offering *"Give Thanks" (Henry Smith)*

Chancel Choir

Scripture Readings:

Beth Shehadi

Psalms 106: 1-5

I Thessalonians 5: 16-18

Message "Where is God?"

Betty Bergstrom, Choir &
Molly & Chandra Hazelton and Judy Genre

Musical Reflection *"Thanksgiving (A Medley of Hymns)" (arr Craig Curry)* Chancel Choir
and congregation

***Closing Hymn** *“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”* (NC#12)

**I sing the mighty pow’r of God, that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at His command, and all the stars obey.
I sing the goodness of our God, who filled the earth with food,
Who formed the creatures through the Word, and then pronounced them good.
God, how Thy wonders are displayed, where’er I turn my eye,
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky.**

**There’s not a plant or flow’r below, but makes Thy glories known,
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from Thy throne;
While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care;
And everywhere that we can be, Thou, God, art present there.**

***Benediction**

Margie Kreitler

Choral Response

The Original Gratitude Dance! Postlude

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R9z2ELaBVJY>

(Portions of today’s service are from *Ministry Matters*, Thanksgiving Sunday Yr. C, October 1, 2013, by Nancy Townley.)