

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LACONIA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 22, 2023 ~ 9:30 a.m.

Morning Meditation

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible. George Burns

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & GREETING

Campbell Lovett, Interim Pastor

INTROIT

“Enter, Rejoice, and Come In”

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

*HYMN # 172

Jesus Calls Us, o’er the Tumult

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of life, we rejoice in your love which has filled creation from the beginning and which calls all life into being. We praise you for Jesus Christ who reveals most fully your loving purpose for all people. We bless you for your Spirit who draws all humanity into the circle of your tender love. Gracious God, bless us with your presence so that our worship and our lives may be a true celebration of your love in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

(Using “sins” and “those who sin against us”)

*ACT OF PRAISE

*Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja, Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja.
Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja. Hal-le-lu-ja, hal-le-lu-ja. (Repeat)*

SPIRITUAL AFFECTIVE DISORDER

Story 1

READING OF SCRIPTURE - *Praying Together*

Eternal God, in the reading of the scripture, may your word be heard; in the meditations of our hearts, may your word be known; and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your word be shown. Amen.

Isaiah 9: 1 – 4 *Isaiah announces a great light for the people*

Matthew 4: 12 – 23 *Jesus prepares to begin his public ministry*

ANTHEM

“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

Words by George Matheson, Music by Ian Douglas Mitchell, arr. by John Coates, Jr.)

MEDITATION

“The One That Got Away”

Campbell Lovett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God in Your Mercy: *Hear Our Prayer*

INVITATION TO PRESENT GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “I’m So Glad Trouble Don’t Last Always”

arr. by Lena McLin

*DOXOLOGY – *singing together*

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God, all creatures here below,
Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***Praise God, the source of all our gifts, Praise Jesus Christ, whose love uplifts,
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION – *praying together*

O God, we are made glad by the good news of your love for us and for all. We thank you for creating us and giving us all that is necessary for life. We thank you for your action in Christ by which our lives are measured, found wanting, and renewed. Help us to remember your gifts that we may praise you with lives of joy and service; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

SPIRITUAL AFFECTIVE DISORDER Story Two

*CLOSING HYMN # 173

You Have Come down to the Lakeshore

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE

“God Be With You Till We Meet Again”

POSTLUDE

Assisting in Worship Today

Rev. Campbell Lovett, Interim Pastor

Mr. Bob Bengtson, Organist & Choir Director

Peter and Dawn Dupak, Ushers

Mr. Mike Marshall, Technology Associate

TODAY’S ALTAR FLOWERS are given *In Loving Memory of my Mother, Claudine Coward,*
by Hollis Thompson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COMMITTEE NEWS – We’re inviting you to join us in a 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Challenge, beginning on February 1. You’ll have the opportunity to read, watch, listen, observe and learn about Racial and Social Justice. To find out more about it, read next week’s News Blast to learn how you can participate.

FAITH FORMATION – Merrimack Association of Youth Groups: On Sunday, January 29th at 2p.m., we will host the young people from the Merrimack Association’s Youth Groups. Youth in

grades 8-12 are in one group and children in grade 7 and younger will be in their own group. Please see Diane Tinkham with any questions.

CELEBRATION XI FOR WOMEN - MARCH 17-19, 2023

Celebration XI will be held in Manchester, NH this year! What an opportunity to have over 200 women come together to worship, sing, and learn for three days from March 17 to 19 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel. It is truly an empowering and amazing experience to attend this event. Please register by March 10. Some scholarships are available to help with the cost. It is possible to attend one day or all three. To learn more about this event, look for information on a table in Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour or go online to www.ucc.org. For questions, call or talk with NHCUCC Women's Fellowship Board Members in our church: Elvena Anderson, Margie Kreidler, Hollis Thompson or Diane Wells. We hope to see you there!

A CALL TO SERVICE – One way that many members support our church is by serving on a committee. There are six committees helping to oversee the church: Property & Finance, Parish Care, Educational Ministries, Outreach in the Community, Worship & Music, and Parish Activities. For more information about serving on a committee, contact Church Moderator Don Clarke at clarkefamily@metrocast.net.

BUDGET HEARING – After worship this morning, there will be an opportunity to review the 2022 Year-End Budget Report and see the 2023 Proposed Budget. Our Treasurer, Hollis Thompson, will highlight aspects of the year-end report and answer questions. We will meet downstairs in the Church Hall.

A Call to the 198th Annual Meeting of the Congregational Church of Laconia, United Church of Christ January 29, 2023

The Annual Meeting of the Church will be held following the morning service of worship at 10:40 a.m. and shared via livestream.

The Annual Meeting is for the purpose of:

1. Presentation of, and action on, the budget proposed for 2023;
2. The election of Officers, Committee members, and Standing Delegates;
3. The presentation of reports by Officers and Committees of the Church;
4. The presentation of the annual Church Service Award;
5. Any other business that any member may wish to place before the Church for consideration or action.

Don Clarke, Moderator