

# CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LACONIA

## A JUST PEACE AND OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 21, 2024 – 9:30 a.m. ~ Third Sunday after Epiphany

### *A Morning Meditation*

Words for Thought: While I know myself as a creation of God, I am also obligated to realize and remember that everyone else and everything else are also God's creation.

- Maya Angelou

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND GREETING

LuAnn Mussari

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Help us Lord to navigate thru this twisty maze*

*As we live our lives thru the nights and days.*

*When life's hardships cause us tears*

*Be with us to calm our fears.*

*Enfold us all like the wings of a dove,*

*That in worship we may know your love.*

### INTROIT

"Morning Has Broken"

### \*HYMN OF PRAISE

Song of Invitation

Tune: LEONI

Lyrics: The Rev. Dr. Kate Winters, 2011

What do you seek, my friend, outside the open door?

Upon the threshold now, what are you looking for?

A place to share your hope, to dream your deepest dream,

Good company to find with you what this life means.

What do you seek, my friend? What has brought you here?

A gentle whisper in the night? A calling clear?

To dare a life of faith, with others at your side.

To walk the path of love with Christ as ready guide.

What do seek, my friend, inside this open door?

Now here in this community, what are we for?

To break the bread of peace, to walk the gospel way.

To live the word made flesh in Christ in this new day.

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION\***

As we go through our days we often feel stressed  
That also means we are not working at our best.  
We need to be reminded, each and every day,  
We are humans, we have feelings, we are not made of clay.  
Each minute, each hour, each day is a gift,  
Our thoughts, our work and our prayers to you, O Lord, we do lift.  
Please be with us each day as we get our work done  
And thank you for sending Jesus, your son. Amen

*A “light” moment (children and adults are welcome to come forward)*

## **PASSING THE PEACE**

**ANTHEM** “Follow Me” *arr. John Carter*

**READING OF SCRIPTURE** Mark 1: 14-20 Roberta Neylon

**MEDITATION** “Oh, my!!”

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE\*** – *The Lord’s Prayer*

## **INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** “Be Not Afraid” *Dufford / Wagner*

## **DOXOLOGY**

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #8 Praise to the Living God**

## **BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL RESPONSE** “Go In Peace”

## **POSTLUDE**

\*prayers are those of Joyce Liebl (1954-2010), which she wrote for Christian Education meetings and for Church Council. Used with permission.

The opening hymn is used with permission of Kate Winters, a retired UCC minister living in Belfast, Maine.

*Rev. Janet Heslam, Guest Pastor*  
*Mr. Bob Bengtson, Organist & Choir Director*  
*Mr. Mike Marshall, Technology Associate*  
*Louise Bastille, Online Greeter*  
*Peter & Dawn Dupak, Ushers*

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are given by Claudia Wright, In Loving Memory of Ethel Wright, Thomas Flanders and David Flanders.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Lunch and Learn**, Thursday, Jan. 25, 12-1 p.m. Pamela Joyal will be leading Lunch and Learn on the topic of Mental Health. In December 2019, Pam completed her master's degree in health communication from Boston University and built upon that accomplishment by launching her own communications consulting firm, Satori Communications Group (SCG). As a Certified Instructor for Adult and Youth Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), Pamela facilitates and teaches MHFA for Dartmouth College's Geisel School of Medicine and the Tuck School of Business, area high schools, municipalities, wellness centers and more. We are very fortunate to have an expert join us to help us gain a better understanding of the mental health issues that are prevalent today.

**It's time to sign up for camp!** Horton Center website <https://www.hortoncenter.org/> and look at options for people of all ages. Imagine the fun your child/teen/grandchild will have and make plans. We have scholarships from the Campership Fund to make dreams come true! If you have any questions contact Diane Tinkham, [tinkhams@metrocast.net](mailto:tinkhams@metrocast.net).

Don't miss the next **Men's Breakfast**, Friday, January 26, 8 a.m. at the Water Street Café.

**Potluck, Sunday, January 28:** Following the annual meeting, we will be having a 200th Anniversary Potluck. We have gathered recipes from our church cookbooks dating back to the early 1900s. We will be making and serving these recipes at the potluck. If you haven't already picked out your recipe, they are here, so choose one before you leave church today. Just follow the recipe and bring it to church next Sunday and we will take care of the rest!

GOD

## 8

### Praise to the Living God

Curtis Beach, 1966; alt.

1. Praise to the liv-ing God, the God of love and light,  
Whose word brought forth the myr-iad suns and set the worlds in  
flight;  
Whose in-fi-nite de-sign, which we but dim-ly see,  
Per-vades all na-ture, mak-ing all a cos-mic u-ni-ty.
2. Praise to the liv-ing God, from whom all things de-rive,  
Whose Spir-it formed up-on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;  
Who caused them to e-volve, un-wit-ting, toward God's goal,  
Till hu-man-kind stood on the earth, as liv-ing, think-ing souls.
3. Praise to the liv-ing God, who knows our joy and pain,  
Who shares with us our com-mon life, the sa-cred and pro-fane.  
God toils wher-e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill;  
And deep with-in the hu-man heart God leads us for-ward still.
4. Praise to the liv-ing God, a-round, with-in, a-bove,  
Be-yond the grasp of hu-man mind, but whom we know as love.  
In these tu-mul-tuous days, so full of hope and strife,  
May we bear wit-ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

Ps. 84:1-2