

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LACONIA

A just peace and open & affirming congregation of
The United Church of Christ

January 28, 2024 – 9:30 a.m. ~ Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

A Morning Meditation

At the center of the Christian faith is the conviction that in the universe there is a God of power who is able to do exceedingly abundant things in nature and in history.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

ORGAN PRELUDE

Robert Bengtson

WELCOME AND GREETING

Joe Smath

Those with announcements are invited to gather in the front pews

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out. John 1:5

CALL TO WORSHIP

This is a day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it and
may the peace of Christ be with you!

INTROIT

“Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet”

PRAYER OF INVOCATION – praying together

We are surrounded by the wonders of technology and the marvels of the human mind and all that can be created and accomplished by people. The World shouts at us that only people are able – that the universe is centered around us. Remind us, God, that only you can sustain the vast scope of the physical universe. Remind us, God, that it is your Light that shines through the darkness of evil and overcomes wickedness. And remind us, God, that you, and you alone, can give us the strength and courage to face the trials and tribulations of our daily lives. This is our hope for becoming better people and our guide to making a better world.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

READINGS

Psalm 111
Matthew 5: 14 - 16

Jaylene Bengtson and LuAnn Mussari
Jaylene Bengtson

ANTHEM

"A Prayer for Peace" *Stanley H. Hoffman*

MEDITATION

"What a Wonderful World"

Patrick Wood

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LuAnn Mussari

"God in your mercy..."

"Hear our prayers."

Dear God, listen to these pleas. We know that you are the true source of our strength and courage. We know you love us. We love you, too, and it is with that spirit of mutual love that we ask you to share your grace on all those mentioned in these pleas. Let them feel the warmth of your love and the love from all of us; let them be embraced by that love. Jesus is your assurance of the love and commitment you have for all of us and we thank you with all our hearts, minds, and souls as we pray as Jesus taught us - (using "sins" and "those who sin against us")

PASSING THE PEACE

People are invited to say "How do you do?" to one another.

Bows, "bumps," peace signs, or hand over the heart all work!

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Hallelujah Round of Praise"

Mozart/Lovelace

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION – unison

Lord, you have given us the precious gift of life; you have made us in your likeness; you have provided us with everything we need to exist. You have called us precious. You have given us the miracle of love. You have given us the promise of eternal life through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Let us be joyous in our returning to you these gifts so we can

better serve you and fulfill our mission to share your love and make the world a better place. Amen

*CLOSING HYMN

BENEDICTION – congregation seated

CHORAL RESPONSE “Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing!”

POSTLUDE

Today's Altar Flowers are given by Margie & John Kreidler, In Loving Memory of Ruth Kreidler Wakely, Robert Kreidler and Vivian & Ned McKenney

Participating in Worship Today:

Pat Wood, Guest Preacher; Bob Bengtson, Organist; Mike Marshall, Media Technician; Catherine Tokarz, Online Greeter; Peter & Dawn Dupak, Ushers

Take your Valentine out for a fun night of music and dancing!

Many of your favorite Broadway love songs will be performed by an amazing cast of singers and dancers over the weekend of February 9-11. You will recognize them from past Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative productions and celebrate the new faces featured. Also on the stage will be many members of the church as singers in the Power Chords Broadway chorus! Gather your friends and come out to see Granville and Lorraine Barrows, Jaylene Bengtson, Stan Brallier, John and Margie Kreidler, Muff Kruse, Diane Lockwood, Marilyn Lynch, Valerie Sargent and Beth Shehadi. Each and every one a star!

NEWS FLASH!

The Congregational Church of Laconia has a team in the **"Souper" Bowl on Sunday, February 11th!!!** Please bring cans (pop-top preferred) to church to support our Little Free Food Pantry and our food insecure neighbors are the winners **GO TEAM!**

A Message From the Church Office:

As our new Communications Associate Carmen Deyarmond transitions into her new role, we ask that all emails for the News Blast, Tower Tidings, or any other information intended for her be sent to churchoffice@laconiaucc.org, which will be her primary email address.

Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative
Colonial Theatre
Laconia

FEB 9-11

In Love with BROADWAY
A musical celebration

A collection of Broadway songs about love.
Funny, energetic, touching tunes about love for your spouse, your pet, your friend.

POWERHOUSENH.ORG

Season Sponsors: MVS, Laconia Community Bank, Middleton, PLANNING GROUP

Colonial Series Sponsors: GARDNER, UNH

Fri & Sat 7:30
Sun 2:00
\$18-\$24

all ages welcome

What a Wonderful World

I see trees of green
Red roses too
I see them bloom
For me and you
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world

I see skies of blue
And clouds of white
The bright blessed day
The dark sacred night
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world

The colors of the rainbow
So pretty in the sky
Are also on the faces
Of people going by
I see friends shaking hands
Saying, "How do you do?"
They're really saying
"I love you"

I hear babies cry
I watch them grow
They'll learn much more
Than I'll ever know
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world

Yes, I think to myself
What a wonderful world

Your Love Can Make Me Whole
Sung to the tune of Amazing Grace

O, Lord, please hear my prayers to you,
That flow from a simple heart.
Please teach me how to love like you
So I can do my part.

To make this world a better place
Where peace and love abound
And joyous people filled with grace
Can share your love around

Instill in me a love for you
That guides the path ahead
And fills me with the Light so true
That I shall never dread

O, Lord, I thank you for the Way
You filled my heart and soul
Although I often sin and stray
Your love can make me whole