

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LACONIA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

APRIL 14, 2024 9:30 A.M.

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING AND JUST PEACE CHURCH



Prelude

Welcome and Greeting

Introit

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

We come into this place, where God makes room for all that we bring: our joy and our grief, our faith and our doubts.

We worship our God, who hears us when we cry out.

When we suffer, we do not turn inward until fear consumes us; our faith dispels fear, and we trust in God's love.

We sing praise to the God who puts joy in our hearts, and holds us in safety and compassion all the days of our lives.

***Hymn 46**

Hope of the World

Prayer of Invocation**

Holy one, it can be hard for us to see your resurrection in this world, because what you are doing is not at all what the world tells us to expect. Hold us fast, we pray. When we are consumed by anger, pour out your love for all to see; when we wonder what tomorrow will bring, call us to trust in you; when sadness fills our lives, plant gladness in our hearts. God of Easter: touch us with your grace. You show us your hands, so we may reach out to mend the broken; you show us your feet, so we may walk with those the world passes by; you show us your face, so we may know what our kindred look like. Risen Christ: touch us with your compassion, transform us and make us new. Amen.

Passing the Peace

Anthem

In Heavenly Love Abiding

Howard Helvey

Scripture Acts 3: 1-21

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. ²And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. ³When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. ⁴Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, 'Look at us.' ⁵And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶But Peter said,

'I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk.' 7 And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. 8 Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. 9 All the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

11 While he clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's Portico, utterly astonished. 12 When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, 'You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? 13 The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. 14 But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, 15 and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. 16 And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. 17 'And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. 18 In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. 19 Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, 20 so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah appointed for you, that is, Jesus, 21 who must remain in heaven until the time of universal restoration that God announced long ago through his holy prophets

Sermon

Prayers of the People

Prayer of our Savior

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy 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 sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Invitation to Offering

Anthem

Wade in the Water

African-American Spiritual

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.*

Prayer of Dedication

God of all, we bring before you our gifts of time, talent, and treasure, that they may be used for healing in this world. Help us to listen for the healing you desire, to look beyond ourselves and into the fullness of the Body of Christ, diverse in needs and abilities. May we be stewards of the world you still dream for us, made whole not in our expectations, but in your holy love. Amen.

***Closing Hymn 527**

We Offer Christ

***Benediction**

Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing!

Choral Response

Postlude

**loosely adapted from a prayer written by Thom Shuman, and posted on his excellent [Lectionary Liturgies](#) blog.

The flowers are given to the glory of God in celebration of children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. How precious they are in our lives. Loving prayers around them, given by Louise Bastille

Women's Breakfast April 17th 8:30am at Water Street Café

Men's Breakfast April 19th, May 3rd, 17th, 31st at 8:00am Water Street Cafe

Our Mini-Food Pantry at Laconia Congregational Church needs help!

Any donations would be appreciated non-perishable items, cash or checks are welcome.