

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LACONIA  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

APRIL 21, 2024 9:30 A.M.

*AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING AND JUST PEACE CHURCH*



## Prelude

## Welcome and Greeting

## Introit

O God Beyond All Praising

## Lighting the Christ Candle

## Call to Worship

We gather because we are in need of respite and peace.

**We worship because we have known what it is to be loved, and we give thanks.**

We seek to build a community in which all people know their worth and belovedness.

**We praise our God, whose compassion and grace never fail us, and who calls us to fullness of life.**

## \*Hymn of Praise 247

My Shepherd Is the Living God

## Prayer of Invocation

Good Shepherd, teach us to follow you: to care for all that are close to us, to protect those who are threatened, to welcome those who are rejected, to forgive those who are burdened by guilt, to heal those who are broken and sick, to share with those who have little or nothing, to take the time to really know one another and love as you have loved us.

**Good Shepherd, teach us to follow you: to spread compassion to those who are far away, to speak for those who are voiceless, to defend those who are oppressed and abused, to work for justice for those who are exploited, to make peace for those who suffer violence, to take the time to recognise our connectedness, and to love as you have loved us.**

Good Shepherd, teach us to follow you and to be faithful to the calling you gave us to be shepherds in your name.

## Passing the Peace

## Anthem

Celtic Laud

Pamela Martin/Criag Courtney

## Scripture **Psalm 23**

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

<sup>3</sup>he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

## **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      How Marvelous Are The Works      David Angerman/Joseph Martin**

### **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**

**\*Closing Hymn 252                      Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us**

## **\*Benediction**

**Choral Response                      Go In Peace**

## **Postlude**

**Altar Flowers** In loving memory of Jeanne and Maynard Smith Jr. given by their children.

LUNCH AND LEARN- May 23- Noon- Sam Evans Brown "The Energy Transition- What Does it Mean for the Granite State?"

LUNCH AND LEARN- May 30- Noon- Warren Huse- Honoring the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Congregational Church of Laconia. A discussion with the well-regarded local historian about these past 200 years!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL- August 6-8, 9:00-1:00- Faith, Food, and Fun!

Women's Breakfast May 15th, 8:30am at the Water Street Cafe  
please RSVP to [bettobergstrom@gmail.com](mailto:bettobergstrom@gmail.com)

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

### **Yom HaShoah Commemoration**

Temple B'nai Israel

Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm

The Congregational Church of Laconia

18 Veterans Square

Special Guest Presenter

Larry Benaquist, Phd.,

Emeritus Professor Film Studies, Keene State College

No registration required – Free and open to all