

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LACONIA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MAY 12, 2024 9:30 A.M.

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING AND JUST PEACE CHURCH

*Sanctify this new fire and
in flame us with new hope.*

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Prelude

Welcome and Greeting

Introit

Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

We come into this place seeking wisdom, that we may live fully into God's dreams of justice and mercy.

We are here because we trust that God's ways can be our ways, and we seek to learn and grow in faith.

We sing, and listen, and contemplate the word of God, so that we might develop strong roots that support us throughout our lives.

**Sing praise to God, who gives us all that we need, and nourishes us continually!
Worship God, whose love abides forever!**

*Hymn 468

The Care the Eagle Gives Her Young

Prayer of Invocation**

God of all creation who called every being into life; who is mindful of humankind in all its diversity; who embodies us with dignity, granting different gifts and talents to shape life in this world: we ask for your Spirit to unite us where we face lack of understanding and distrust.

We ask for your Spirit to unite us in the face of the conflicts, hatred and violation of life experienced in so many regions of the earth, and we hold in our own hearts the pain of the victims.

We ask for your Spirit to unite us wherever fear prevents us from caring for our neighbour, from meeting people of different ethnicities, cultures and faith communities with respect, and we acknowledge before you the brokenness of human relationships.

God of all creation, in Christ we are reconciled, and so we ask for your uniting Spirit to help us to love one another beyond all our divisions, that we may live in peace.

Passing the Peace

Anthem

With What Shall I Come Before the Lord

John Ness Black

Scripture John 17:6-19

“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

“And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

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

Here I Am, Lord

Dan Schutte

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

Holy God, we come before you in humble reverence. For you did not simply take on human flesh that we might believe in your power and goodness, but that we might find your divinity within ourselves. You do not just ask us to believe with our minds, but to share your love and grace to all the world, through the work of our own human flesh. So we ask your blessing upon all of the gifts that we bring this day: bless the quilts that will warm bodies and hearts; bless the monetary donations that will become nourishment of body and spirit; bless the time and the talent that we offer, that will become community, and belonging, and mercy to heal this fractured world. Bless us all, that we might be the embodiment of your love, the incarnation of your grace. Amen.

*Closing Hymn 542

Born of God, Eternal Savior

*Benediction

Choral Response

Lord Listen to Your Children Praying

Postlude

adapted from a prayer by Rev. Malcolm Macdougall, and posted on the Church of Scotland's **Starters for Sunday website. <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>

Happy Mother's Day



Altar Flowers

In memory of my loving mother donated by Lorraine Doyon

In honor of all Mothers donated by Greg and Hollis Thompson

The next book discussion is on Wednesday, May 22nd at 10:00 in the Beane Parlor. The book is "Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie" by Alan Bradley. Join us for an interesting Who-done-it.

Women's Breakfast May 15th, 8:30am at the Water Street Café
please RSVP to bettobergstrom@gmail.com

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