

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LACONIA  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MAY 5, 2024 9:30 A.M.

*AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING AND JUST PEACE CHURCH*



## **Prelude**

## **Welcome and Greeting**

## **Introit**

**Morning Has Broken**

## **Lighting the Christ Candle**

## **Call to Worship**

One: God, you have called us to the mountaintop.

**All: Help us to trust in you, even when the journey is steep.**

One: God, you call us to the top of a hill.

**All: Help us to let your light shine in each of us.**

One: God, you call us to these "thin places".

**All: Help us to go out and do the extraordinary things you call us to.**

## **\*Hymn of Praise**

**"This Little Light of Mine"**

## **Prayer of Confession**

Eternal God, Creator of all that is, In you we live and move and have our being. You have placed us on earth and sustained our being through the produce of the land and the cleanness of the air we breathe. You have made us to tend and care for the vulnerable and ensure a just sharing of the earth's resources.

But often, we hoard what the earth provides and seem loathe to share the fruits of our labors. We live for today with little thought for tomorrow, and we push aside pain and suffering.

Incarnate God, you know us in our inner being. In your grace you offer us forgiveness even before we have the chance to articulate our sorrow. Holy one, open our hearts and minds that we may grasp your forgiveness, and forgiven seek to forgive others and to live a life of reconciling love modelled on the example of Jesus Christ in whose name we make this prayer. Amen

## **Moment of Silent Confession**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Our God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. There is nothing that we can do that can ever separate us from God's eternal love. In all our words and all our deeds, grace abides, and we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

## **Passing of the Peace**

## **Anthem**

**Hallelujah Round of Praise**

**Mozart/Lovelace**

**Matthew 28: 16-20**

**Matthew 5:14-16**

## **Sermon**

**"Extraordinary Things"**

## **Prayers of the People**

### **Invitation to the Table**

Jesus calls us to the well, inviting us to drink of the Living Water, and the life eternal.

**Jesus calls us out of the shadows to be entirely known, and entirely filled with God's presence.**

Jesus calls us all: all who were made in God's own image, all who breathe the breath of God's spirit.

**Jesus calls us to the table, to the meal that nourishes our bodies and binds our dry bones into one Body, living in Christ.**

Jesus calls us, here and now. Come to this table, you who are beloved in Christ. Come, not because you must, but because you may.

### **Communion Prayer**

Holy God, source of all being, you are greater by far than our human thoughts can comprehend. With all that you have created, you abide; weeping with us in grief and pain, rejoicing with us in life and love. You are everywhere in this very moment; holding the entirety of living experience and weaving us together in the great and intricate tapestry of Creation. Creator God, parent of us all, in your holy love you took on our limitations. Born of a body, bound within a body, you know the whole of this human experience.

Learning to communicate with words; teaching us to communicate with presence. Learning the fears that wring us dry; teaching us of the love that nurtures us back to life. Everlasting God, you are everywhere and right here. As close as the air we breathe, the air which binds us one to another and all to your beautiful creation. You are as close as the sunlight on our skin, as close as the rain that drips from our hair; the wind and the water that push us and lead us and call us again and again into relationship with one another and with you. Holy Spirit, divine Advocate, guide and encourage us. Stir within our hearts, that we may speak anew the familiar words that Jesus taught us...

### **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 trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us,

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

### **Blessing of the Elements**

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

Source of life, and breath, and being, breathe into the dry dust of our existence. Nourished in body by bread and juice, may we strive for the nourishment of all bodies: may we work to end hunger in this creation that provides amply for all. Nourished in spirit by the Body which is within our own, may we strive for the incorporation of all: may we work to break the barriers that divide us from one another and from you. In the love that sustains us, and the Spirit that animates us,

may we give all thanks and praise to you, O God of all. Amen.

### Invitation to Offering

Anthem

A Hymn Of The Cathedral of the Pines

Sloane

Offertory

Doxology

### Prayer of Dedication

Merciful God, we know that you love us and that you call us to fullness of life, but around us and within us we see the brokenness of the world and of our ways. Our successes leave us empty; our progress does not satisfy. Our prosperous land is not the promised land of our longing. Forgive our willful neglect of your word, our insensitivity to the need of others, and of our failure to feed the spirit that is within us; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

\*Hymn

"We Come From the Mountain"

Henry Belafonte

### Benediction – Sung twice

Sha – lom my friends, sha – lom my friends, sha – lom sha – lom.

Til we meet a-gain, til we meet a – gain Sha - lom, sha - lom

Benediction Response

Go In Peace

### Postlude

Altar Flowers

Congratulations to Dawn and Peter Dupak for 50th Anniversary

Congratulations all those with Birthdays today from Claudia Wright

### SAVE THE DATE AND SPREAD THE WORD!

ORGAN RECITAL

Marshall Joos

Sunday – May 19<sup>th</sup> 4:00 P.M.

FREE – ALL WELCOME

A native of New Hampshire and a Junior at Rice University, Marshall Joos is a fabulous young organist and musician.

This recital is being co-sponsored by the Congregational Church Of Laconia and the New Hampshire Chapter Of The American Guild Of Organists.