

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LACONIA  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JUNE 23, 2024 9:00 A.M.

*AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING AND JUST PEACE CHURCH*



## **Prelude**

## **Welcome and Greeting**

### **Call to Worship\*\***

You call to us, Holy One: may we listen.

**You call us to freedom and new life, not for ourselves, but for all Creation.**

Let us worship you, God of covenant. Let us praise your abiding mercy and steadfast love.

**Let us sing praises to our God, whose love endures forever!**

### **\*Hymn 454**

### **Lord, I Want to be a Christian**

### **Prayer of Confession\*\***

God of mercy, you call us to service; to be your eyes and ears, hands and voice in this, your world. Yet we confess that we prefer to open our eyes to the beauty and love which you create, but turn aside from the injustice, hate and suffering that humankind generates.

We open our ears more to the chattering of this coming week, than to the searching, fears and questioning of all whom we shall meet.

We open our hands more readily to those we choose our lives to share, rather than committing ourselves to the welcome, love and fellowship you offer to all whom you draw near. We open our mouths to speak platitudes and simple words, while keeping silent the truths you lay upon our hearts.

**God of grace, forgive us. You call us to service, to be your eyes and ears, hands and voice in this, your world. May we truly be willing to follow.**

## **Moment of Silent Confession**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

God is near to all who call, offering learning and growth, courage and change. In gratitude we strive for justice and love; by grace we accept forgiveness and new life.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **Passing the Peace**

### **Sung Response: Halle-halle-hallelujah!**

### **Special Music**

**"I Will Sing of Your Love, Love, Love"**

**Christopher Grundy**

## **Liturgy of Confirmation**

## **Address**

## **Question**

## **Congregational Assent:**

Deacon: Will you please rise, in body or in spirit, as you are able?

Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one who is to be baptized and to their family, as they live and grow in Christ?

**We promise our love, support, and care.**

## **Act of Baptism/Blessing**

### **Prayer for the Confirmands**

We give thanks to you, Holy One, parent of all creation, for these beloved members of the Body of Christ, and for all who love them. We give thanks for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as children in the one household of your love, that we may continue to grow and learn with these beloved disciples.

**Give to them, we pray, strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life, through the abiding grace that creates and sustains us all. Amen.**

**Scripture: Psalm 30**

**"What The Church Means to Me"**

**by the Confirmands**

## **Prayers of the People**

### **Invitation to the Table\*\***

No special qualifications needed; no particular connections or exclusive memberships required; no secret passwords or unique attributes expected; no examinations or reference checks;

**Just an amazing invitation to a feast; to find our place at your table, alongside these other imperfect ones, these other beloved ones; these others humble enough to accept the invitation without asking who else will be there. With thankful and open hearts, we accept your amazing invitation.**

### **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.

## **Blessing of the Elements**

### **Sharing of the Elements**

*All of the elements are gluten-free and non-alcoholic. To receive, please come forward one row at a time up the center aisle. Take a piece of bread, dip it into the chalice, and partake; then return to your seats via the side aisles.*

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**We thank you, Holy One, for being present with us at every moment. In all the days of our lives, in all the ups and downs of life, your love holds us, encouraging and supporting us. You nurture us, body and soul, by your grace and tender care. May we take the love, support, and care that we have received from you, and love all of Creation in word and in deed. Amen.**

## **Mission in Motion Moment**

### **Special Music**

#### **Doxology**

#### **Hymn 514**

#### **Over My Head**

#### **\*Benediction**

### **Benediction Response**

### **Postlude**

\*\*adapted from a prayer by John Birch and posted on his **Faith and Worship** website.  
[http://www.faithandworship.com/liturgy\\_Lent\\_3.htm#ixzz1lkU9wBx2](http://www.faithandworship.com/liturgy_Lent_3.htm#ixzz1lkU9wBx2)

\*\*\*adapted from a prayer by John van de Laar, and posted on his website, [Sacredise.com](http://Sacredise.com) Visit that site for many other excellent prayers and resources for worship.

### **Altar Flowers**

In loving memory of my deceased wives, Kathleen Herbert Shaw and Linda Mont Shaw  
Given by David Shaw

Women's Breakfast July 17<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am at the Water Street Café

Please RSVP to [bettobergstrom@gmail.com](mailto:bettobergstrom@gmail.com)

Men's Breakfast July 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> at the Water Street Cafe