

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LACONIA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024 9:30 A.M.

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING AND JUST PEACE CHURCH



Prelude

Welcome and Greeting

Introit

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

In the name of the Lord Jesus - the bread breaker, the light gatherer, the cross carrier - welcome.

May the peace of the Lord Jesus, the peace maker and the temple disturber, friend of the sinner and companion on the road, be with us all.

Let us draw close to the Lord Jesus - the savior; the healer, the teacher - and worship him, asking ourselves: who do we say he is?

***Hymn 46**

Hope of the World

Prayer of Invocation

Creator God, we hear your invitation to follow, and we give thanks for your faith in us. Give us the strength, we pray, to live into the kin-dom vision you have put before us, even when the way towards it seems difficult. Give us the courage to love our neighbor, even when the work we do for them puts us in the way of mockery and ridicule. Help us to put compassion ahead of pride, grace ahead of ease, the health of the Body of Christ ahead of the comfort of any one member of it. Guide us in the ways that lead to wholeness for all of Creation, that we may live into your vision, and participate in your holy grace. Amen.

Passing the Peace

Sung Response

Halle-halle-hallelujah

Anthem

I Will Arise and Go To Jesus

Austin Lovelace

Scripture Mark 8: 27-38

» Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi, and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" » And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." » He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah."^u » And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. » Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. » He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. » But turning and looking at his disciples, he

rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

»He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come²⁴ after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. »For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel,²⁵ will save it. »For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? »Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? »Those who are ashamed of me and of my words²⁶ in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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.

Mission in Motion Moment

Offertory

Sing A Joyful Song

Stan Pethel

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

Holy one, we give thanks for your abiding love for us, all of the days of our lives. Knit us together, we pray, that from our many ways of being, we can show forth your one Image to all the world. Bless us in all that we give in your holy name, until your grace is made real in the works of our hands and our hearts. Amen.

***Closing Hymn 527**

We Offer Christ

***Benediction**

Choral Response

Go In Peace

Postlude

Altar Flowers

In loving memory of her parents, Charles & Ingrid Stickney
Given by Penny Lamarre

Women's Breakfast September 18th, 8:30am at the Water Street Cafe
please RSVP to bettobergstrom@gmail.com
Men's Breakfast September 20th at the Water Street Café

Book Club September 25th 10:00a.m. in the Library
Dutch House by Ann Pratchett

Educational Forum on Christian Nationalism begins Sunday September 15, 2024
Because it's important to be clear about the terms we hear and use.
What is Christian Nationalism? What it is not?
What are the historical, cultural, and theological roots?
What are its stated goals?
After Church in the Library September 15, 22, 29

Pastoral Installation Service Rev. Eliza Tweedy
October 6, 2024 3:00pm

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

You have an opportunity to work for peace in our world and in our communities through nonviolent action. Collaborate with UCC friends from across New Hampshire. There is a place for you - to work for a Ceasefire in Gaza, Gun Violence Prevention and to promote Just Peace Churches. For more information about the NHCUCC Peace with Justice Advocates Mission Group, contact Janet Zeller at janet.zeller@gmail.com.

Order Free COVID-19 Tests

[COVIDtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov) will re-open at the end of September. Households across the country can order four additional over-the-counter COVID-19 tests for free.