

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LACONIA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MAY 18, 2025 9:30 A.M.

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING AND JUST PEACE CHURCH



REV. ELIZA TWEEDY, PASTOR
K. ROBERT BENGTON, ORGANIST

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

We gather to sing praise to our God, creator of all that is.

We praise God alongside the moon and stars, the heavens and the earth. We praise God with the creatures of land and sky and sea. We praise God in harmony with mountains and lakes, trees and meadows. We praise God, humanity in all our diversity: people of all ages, backgrounds, genders, faiths. We praise the fullness of the one who made us all, and whose love for us will never fail.

We gather to sing praise to our God, creator of all that is.

We praise God, all of Creation together!

Hymn

Let Me Be Humble

insert

Prayer of Invocation**

God of grace, sometimes discipleship is so difficult. We see you standing in front of us and we look for glory. Then you tell us to expect hard work and even heartbreak. We get a glimpse of your glory, and we are confused, frightened, unsure what to do or say.

God of grace, made known in Jesus the Christ; in the challenge and in the glory you call us to look toward you, to listen to you, to learn from you the ways of a new world in which the hungry are fed, the naked are clothed, the marginalized are brought into community.

Grant us the grace and wisdom to watch, to listen, to follow, to learn, and, in the end, to possibly understand, as we join you on The Way, as we explore the new and amazing world that is your glorious Kingdom. Amen.

Anthem

I Walk the King's Highway

Eugene Butler

Scripture: Acts 9:36-43

«Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas.» She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. «At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. »Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." »So Peter got up and went with them, and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. «Peter put all of them

outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. "He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. "This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. "Meanwhile, he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

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.

Recognition of the Volunteers of the Church

Kathy Giovanni

When there was a need, you came forward.

And so we thank you.

In the nighttime or daytime, on weekends and even in the coldest, darkest part of the year, you helped.

And so we thank you.

Elected and duly appointed or quietly, anonymously and unbidden, you did what needed doing.

And so we thank you.

Sometimes with the help of many hands, other times alone, you worked.

And so we thank you.

You gave your time, talent and even your treasure for the life of the congregation.

And so we thank you.

Your families and loved ones supported you in your efforts, worried for you when things piled up and perhaps grumbled at you for the extent of your commitment.

And so we thank your families and loved ones.

For all things great and small you have given this congregation, we take time today to recognize,

To thank you and to honor you.

Offertory

I Feel the Spirit

Don Besig/Nancy Price

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***

As we walk through this world, let us be inspired by the extravagant love of God. May we live generously, with open hands, loving one another as if our lives depended on it. May we be good stewards of the gifts we have received, so that God may be glorified in all that we say and do. May we live right now into the promised reality of grace, that our lives may bring your Kingdom in this world. Amen.

Hymn 492

I Would Be True

Benediction

Benediction Response

Go In Peace

Go in peace and the peace of God be with this day.

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.

Celebrate and share the joy, celebrate new life.

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.

Postlude

****adapted from a prayer posted by Rev Gord on his blog, Worship Offerings.**

<http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca/>

*****adapted from a prayer from *With Open Hands*, a worship service written for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (World Food Day, 2012). To see the entire service, visit**

<http://foodgrainsbank.ca/uploads/WFD%20resource.pdf>

Altar Flowers

In the bulb there is a flower, a song in every silence, seeking word and melody: there's hope in every darkness bringing hope to you and me.

Hymn words by Natalie Sleeth

Given by Janet Heslam

Book Club – May 28th 10:00a.m. in the Library *Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle*

Women's Breakfast May 21st, 8:30am at the Water Street Cafe

please RSVP to bettobergstrom@gmail.com

Men's Breakfast May 30th at the Water Street Cafe

Donate here for the mission and ministry of the church!

