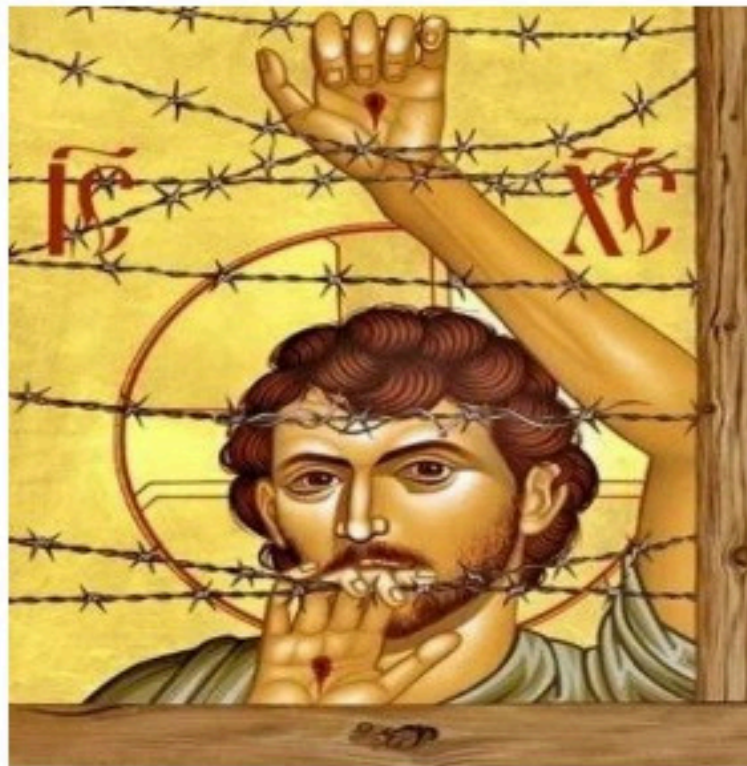


CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LACONIA  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

APRIL 12, 2026 9:30 A.M.

*AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING AND JUST PEACE CHURCH*



18 VETERANS SQUARE, LACONIA NH 03246

603-524-0668

[CHURCHOFFICE@LACONIAUCC.ORG](mailto:CHURCHOFFICE@LACONIAUCC.ORG)

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

## **Prelude**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey  
**You are welcome in this place.**

## **Introit**

## **At the Name of Jesus**

## **Lighting of the Christ Candle**

## **Call to Worship**

Holy God, who came into the world to teach us and guide us, even when we're afraid to change,

### **We worship and praise you.**

Merciful Christ, who brought all those whom we cast out back into the community, and made us one body together,

### **We worship and praise you.**

Sacred Spirit, who shakes the walls of the prisons and unbinds those who are held captive in body or in spirit,

### **We worship and praise you.**

We come into this time to sing praise to the love that is stronger than all our forces of death.

### **We come today to worship the Risen Christ, the incarnate love that never lets us go.**

## **\*Hymn 243**

## **Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven**

## **Prayer of Invocation\*\***

**In a cynical and despairing world, O God, give us a loving, prophetic voice to proclaim your hope. In a violent and angry world, O God, give us a grace-filled, prophetic voice to proclaim your peace. In a dismissive and disinterested world, O God, give us a merciful, prophetic voice to proclaim your compassion. In a lonely and inhospitable world, O God, give us a courageous, prophetic voice to proclaim your love.**

**In a grieving and weeping world, O God, give us a compassionate, prophetic voice to proclaim your joy. May we be so captivated by your hope, O God, that we cannot help but to whisper, to sing, and to enact, the message of your reign which is always coming into our world; And may our quietly prophetic lives, be channels of your restoring grace wherever we may go.**

## **Anthem**

## **Hallelujah Round of Praise**

## **Mozart/Lovelace**

## **Scripture Acts 2:14a, 22-32**

**14** But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them,

**22** “Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— **23** this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. **24** But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. **25** For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;  
**26** therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

**27** For you will not abandon my soul to Hades  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

**28** You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

**29** “Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. **30** Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. **31** Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

**32** “This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

## Sermon

## God of Release

## 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

## Call to Offering

### Offertory

### How Firm a Foundation

Dale Wood

### \*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\*\*\***

Generous One, may these all that we bring before you be blessing to those in need, a source of hope for those in despair, comfort for those who grieve, freedom for those constrained, a balm for those in pain. May our generosity reflect our gratitude and our giving be another source of praise. Amen.

**\*Hymn 23**

**There's a Wideness in God's Mercy**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response**

**Celtic Alleluia**

**Postlude**

**Allegro**

**Charles-Marie Widor**

*Widor (1844-1937) was a giant of the French Romantic Period. Professor of Organ at the Paris Conservatory (succeeding Franck in 1890), and Composition (succeeding Dubois in 1896), he was later appointed the Conservatory's Director. Albert Schweitzer was among his students. Organist at St. Sulpice in Paris for 64 years, he wrote 10 Organ Symphonies. The Toccata in F Major from the 5th and Bach's Toccata in D Minor are, without question, the two most recognized works in the organ repertoire.*

\*\*adapted from a prayer written by John van de Laar, and posted on [Sacredise.com](http://Sacredise.com).

\*\*\*adapted from a prayer written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

Alter Flowers In loving memory of Ruth Gill

Given by John Gill

*\*Please Stand*

Coffee Hour hosted by Property and Finance

Book Club – April 22nd 1p.m. in the Library *Cherished Belonging* by Gregory Boyle

Women's Breakfast April 15th, 8:30AM at the Water Street Cafe

Men's Breakfast April 17th, 8:00 AM at the Water Street Café

Donate here for the mission and ministry of  
the church!



<https://www.laconiaucc.org/giving/>

Did you hear something you want  
to revisit? Or share? Find us on



YouTube!

<https://bit.ly/LacoCongoLive>