

The Congregational Church of Laconia  
United Church of Christ  
18 Veterans Square  
Laconia, NH 03246-3425

Rev. Neil H. Wilson, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Paula B. Gile, Associate Pastor  
K. Robert Bengtson, Director of Music  
Church office: (603) 524-0668



RESTORING BEAUTY



# Gathering for Worship

February 9, 2020

www.laconiaucc.org

9:30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

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*The Congregational Church of Laconia, United Church of Christ, is a welcoming Christian community with a scriptural foundation seeking Justice and peace for all.*

## Preparing

**Organ Prelude**

K. Robert Bengtson

**Meditative Thought** *"We can be the light of the world without leaving our high beams on and annoying everybody."* — Bob Goff author

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Introit**

*"Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place"*

Chancel Choir

## Praising

**Call to Worship**

If the human body, body of blood and muscle, is to live, it needs salt.

**If the body of Christ, body of peace and justice, is to live, it needs us!**

If the earthly creation, bustling and blooming, is to flourish, it needs the sun's light.

**If the new creation we are in Christ is to flourish, it needs the Spirit's light!**

Jesus says we are salt of the earth, light of the world.

**Our faith, our love, our hope — essential as salt and light.**

Jesus says we are salt of the earth, light of the world.

Briny and bright, we are God's faithful people.

**We shall be who we are meant to be in Christ: a welcoming oasis, a compassionate community, a justice-making people, giving glory to God!**

**\* Opening Hymn**

*"God Is Here! As We You People Meet"*

# 70

**Invocation**

God of mystery and of judgment, who has made us to be salt and light in a tasteless, shadowed world, guide us in this time of worship. Grant us understanding and spiritual discernment so that others may see your good works through us, give you the glory, and be moved to serve you as we seek to serve in the manner of Jesus' prayer: 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 our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen



## This Week's Committee Meetings and Gatherings

<p>Today Feb 9- 9:30 a.m.</p> <p style="padding-left: 100px;">10:45 a.m.</p> <p style="padding-left: 100px;">4:00 p.m.</p> <p style="padding-left: 100px;">9:30 p.m.</p> <p style="padding-left: 100px;">5:00 a.m.</p> <p>Tuesday Feb 11- 6:30 p.m.</p> <p style="padding-left: 100px;">7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday Feb 12- 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday Feb 13- noon &amp; 6:00 p.m.</p> <p style="padding-left: 100px;">7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Saturday Feb 15- 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Next Sunday Feb 16- 9:30 a.m.</p> <p style="padding-left: 100px;">11:00 a.m.</p> <p style="padding-left: 100px;">11:15 a.m.</p>	<p>Sunday Worship</p> <p>Handbell Practice</p> <p>CAT Review after worship</p> <p>Channel 25 Worship Broadcast</p> <p>Channel 25 Worship Broadcast</p> <p>Channel 25 Worship Broadcast</p> <p>Property/Finance Mtg</p> <p>Stitches of Love</p> <p>Deacons Mtg</p> <p>Book Club</p> <p>Choir Practice</p> <p>Winter Celebration aka Annual Potluck &amp; Gift Swap</p> <p>Sunday Worship</p> <p>Adult Faith Formation</p> <p>Ledgeview Worship</p>
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### Some Announcements

**Today** Following worship during coffee hour, in the Church Hall, the Creating and Leading the 21st Century Church Team will be sharing the results of the Assessment Tool survey (CAT).

**Saturday February 15 at 5:30 p.m.** Winter Celebration in the Church Hall - The Membership Committee invites you to our annual Winter Celebration! Food - Fun - Fellowship! For more information, call Ruth Gill 528.6608 or Ila Mattila 527. 9476. Hope to see you there!

**Sunday February 16 at 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.** Adult Faith Formation  
Outreach will host Rev. Dr. Dawn C. Berry for a presentation and discussion about racial justice. Do you have questions about what racial justice is? Or what is meant by "white privilege". Come hear about the resolution the New Hampshire Conference unanimously adopted in 2018. Join us in the Library in the Parish House.

**Friday February 21 Hands Across the Table 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.**  
This is one of the local ministries we support. There will be a "SOUPATHON" to support feeding people in the community. All are welcome. St. Andre Bessette Parish Hall, Gilford Ave. Adults \$12 - Children \$3.

## Welcome & Information

*Welcome to our service of worship! Please introduce yourself to those sitting near you & use a pew rack card to inform us of requests.*

Wireless hearing assistance devices, back cushions, large print bulletins and children's activity bags are available; please ask an usher.

**Nursery & Child Care** Children younger than 1st grade are welcome in the Nursery before the service begins or following A Scripture Story. Please escort your child to the Nursery room across The Bridge and pick them up after the service. Visitors are always welcome!

**Faith Formation** (*Being revised*)

**Our Service** is video recorded and published. Please speak to one of our ushers if you have any concerns.

**Our Greeters today** are Maurine Bastille, Richard Bastille

**Today's Ushers** are

**The Altar Flowers today** are given by Lu Ann Mussori and Brad Geltz.

**Join us** for a time of fellowship downstairs following the service for refreshments served by Property and Finance Committee. Fair Trade coffee is served in biodegradable cups.

February 9, 2020

Matthew 5:13-20

**Restoring Beauty**  
*Racial Justice Sunday*  
*Science and Technology Sunday*

In the approximately 5,000 churches across the denomination, thousands of church members have been impacted in the past decade by the adult education curriculum, *A Sacred Conversation on Race*, which has had an immeasurable impact on many church members' thinking about race and white privilege.

While the conversation continues, some are discovering that action can move their congregations beyond merely talking, and into action. *Sacred Conversations to End Racism (SC2ER)* is a restorative justice curriculum which builds on the work that has been done and takes it a step further under the guidance of trained facilitators. Unlike its predecessors, *Sacred Conversations to End Racism* is not a self-guided resource, with trained facilitators key to the success of the program.

"The United Church of Christ remains committed to being an anti-racist church. However, we are facing a resurgence of tactics and behaviors in America that call for a deeper commitment to eradicate the ongoing practices of oppression, hate speech, individual bigotry, and overt violence against communities of color," said the Rev. Velda Love, UCC Minister of Racial Justice and curator of this new resource. "SC2ER provides new language and strategies to move people beyond anti-racism conversations to active engagement. SC2ER seeks to restore humanity, eliminate myths and stereotypes, and engage in deep truth telling about the construction of whiteness and white supremacy."\*

To find out how you can take the next step from conversation to action, visit [https://www.ucc.org/sacred\\_conversations\\_to\\_end\\_racism](https://www.ucc.org/sacred_conversations_to_end_racism).

\*Larkman, Connie. *UCC launches 'Sacred Conversations to End Racism' curriculum in commitment to racial equity in America* (Accessed July 24, 2019)

[https://www.ucc.org/news\\_ucc\\_launches\\_sacred\\_conversations\\_to\\_end\\_racism\\_curriculum\\_in\\_commitment\\_to\\_racial\\_equity\\_in\\_america\\_04062018](https://www.ucc.org/news_ucc_launches_sacred_conversations_to_end_racism_curriculum_in_commitment_to_racial_equity_in_america_04062018)

