

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LACONIA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OCTOBER 13, 2024 9:30 A.M.

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING AND JUST PEACE CHURCH



Prelude

Welcome and Greeting

Introit

O for a World

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

With reverent awe, we gather to worship the God of our ancestors. They trusted in God, and God became their very real breath of life.

Creating God, you guided the way through our conception and birth.

We come with humble thanks, for our God is as real to us as God was to our forebears. We come, too, with our needs and concerns, as life has become so complicated. Come to us God, with your breath of new life.

Breath of Life, you have traveled with us through all our life's journey.

Holy God, today we come to worship you, and yet, despite our sense of being a failure at times, we can confidently say: "You are my God!"

Within the shelter of your guiding and blessedness, and despite our fears and doubts; we praise and thank our Life-giving God who has never left us or forsaken us.

*Hymn 531

God, Speak to Me that I May Speak

Prayer of Invocation***

Holy God, your love for us holds us fast, even when the world becomes complicated.

In your love, we find joy and gladness, all our days. For as much as we have witnessed the grief and pain of this world, your grace has accompanied us and your presence has never left us.

May we never lose sight of you, for your love abides, and your power holds us fast and gives us strength.

May we trust in you always, that all our words and deeds may show forth your glory, now and always. Amen.

Passing the Peace

Sung Response

Halle-halle-hallelujah

Anthem

Celebration Song

Handel/Liebergen

Scripture Mark 10: 17-31

17 As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 18 Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. 19 You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. You shall not defraud. Honor your father and mother.' " 20 He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." 21 Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money^u to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." 22 When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

23 Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" 24 And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is^u to enter the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." 26 They were greatly astounded and said to one another,^u "Then who can be saved?" 27 Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible." 28 Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." 29 Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the good news^u 30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

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

Mark Townsend

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

O God, Jesus taught that where our treasure is, there will our hearts be also. In this hour, we come bringing our treasures— all that we have and all that we are. We come seeking your treasure— treasure that does not fade, decay, or disappoint. Share with us the treasure of heaven, that we may boldly share it with others. Amen.

***Closing Hymn 504**

You Walk Along Our Shoreline

***Benediction**

Choral Response

Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing

Postlude

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***written by Rev. Dr. Barb Hedges-Goettl, PC(USA) pastor and liturgical scholar. Posted on **bjhlog**.

<https://bjhlog.wordpress.com/2020/02/19/nl-mark-1017-31-the-rich-young-man-march-1-2020/>

Altar Flowers

In loving memory of Don Wright and in honor of their Anniversary
given by Claudia Wright

Women's Breakfast October 16th, 8:30am at the Water Street Cafe

please RSVP to bettobergstrom@gmail.com

Men's Breakfast October 18th at the Water Street Café

Book Club October 23rd 10:00a.m. in the Library

River We Remember by Kent Kruger