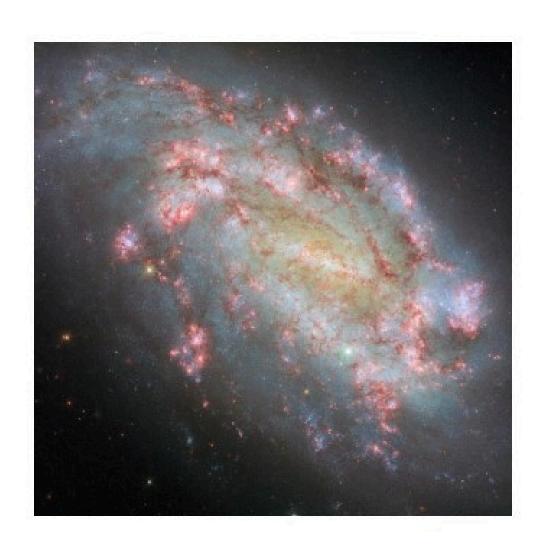
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LACONIA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OCTOBER 20, 2024 9:30 A.M.

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING AND JUST PEACE CHURCH



Prelude

Welcome and Greeting

Introit Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

God is our refuge; our shelter when we are overwhelmed.

We put our faith and trust in the God whose love for us is everlasting.

We worship God, not as an insurance policy against bad things happening,

We worship because even when we encounter hardship, grief, and fear, we know that God is with us.

Thanks be to the God who loves us unconditionally!

Sing praise to our God, who will never let us go!

*Hymn 568

God Marked a Line and Told the Sea

Prayer of Invocation**

God of grace, when nothing is right, when we are weary and lost, when clouds dull the sky, help us to be still.

God of hope, when our cries are unheeded, when no effort bears fruit, when the sun sets, help us to be still.

God of mercy, when love is over, when hope is gone, when darkness covers the land, help us to be still.

For in being still, in refusing to panic or despair, we shall come to know that you are there, suffering alongside and with us, waiting to show us stepping-stones through the swirling waters, and to help us sing a new song.

In being still, in your holy presence, we sit in the stillness of all of Creation, alongside your abiding image, in the faith of our own belovedness, no matter what else is happening. Amen.

Passing the Peace

Sung Response Halle-halle-hallelujah

Anthem African Psalm Patrick Liebergen

Scripture Job 23:1-7, 38:1-7, 34-36

23 Then Job answered:

²"Today also my complaint is bitter; his hand is heavy despite my groaning.

³Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his dwelling!

I would lay my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments.

- I would learn what he would answer me and understand what he would say to me.
- Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power? No, but he would give heed to me.
- There the upright could reason with him, and I should be acquitted forever by my judge.

38 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:

- ² "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?
- Gird up your loins like a man; I will question you, and you shall declare to me.
- "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.
- Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?
- On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone
- when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings[™] shouted for joy?
- "Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, so that a flood of waters may cover you?
- ■Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go and say to you, 'Here we are'?
- Who has put wisdom in the inward parts or given understanding to the mind?

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

Penny Lamarre

Offertory

Here I Am, Lord

Dan Schutte

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

God of all, we offer ourselves to you, knowing that all that we bring is blessed by your grace and mercy. And so we bring our gifts as a response to the love that is beyond our wildest imagining, that your presence might be made known through us, by our open hands and our open hearts. Amen.

*Closing Hymn 12

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

*Benediction

Choral Response

Hold Us in Your Grace

Postlude

**adapted from a prayer by Kate Compston. Posted on the Church of Scotland's Starters for Sunday website. http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/

Altar Flowers

With gratitude for the Creator of the Universe Donated anonymously

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

Men's Breakfast November 1st, 15th, and 29th at the Water Street Café

Book Club October 23rd 10:00a.m. in the Library River We Remember by Kent Kruger

It's That Time Again...Christmas Fair - November 16th

We will need "section coordinators" such as Bakery, Jewelry, Plants, Christmas items, Cookie Walk. If you are willing to take on a "section" please let Hollis or Nancy know as soon as possible. If you have any questions what this entail, just give us a call Hollis 512-970-6592 or hollisandgreg@yahoo.com and Nancy 603-534-6259 or ncsmath@comcats.net.

We also want to have a couple of get togethers at the church to work on making or putting together items for the Fair. We are thinking of Wednesday's during the day and possibly one evening session if people are interested attending after work. More on this in the very near future. All these work sessions will be working on things ANYONE can do, no special skills required. We want to enjoy more time together in fellowship as well as some items to sell at the fair. Please consider joining us.