

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:

·“Today also my complaint is bitter; his hand is heavy despite my groaning.

·Oh, 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.

<sup>5</sup> I would learn what he would answer me and understand what he would say to me.

<sup>6</sup> Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power? No, but he would give heed to me.

<sup>7</sup> 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:

<sup>2</sup> "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

<sup>3</sup> Gird up your loins like a man; I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

<sup>4</sup> "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.

<sup>5</sup> Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?

<sup>6</sup> On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone

<sup>7</sup> when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings<sup>u</sup> shouted for joy?

<sup>8</sup> "Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, so that a flood of waters may cover you?

<sup>9</sup> Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go and say to you, 'Here we are'?

<sup>10</sup> 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](mailto:bettobergstrom@gmail.com)  
Men's Breakfast November 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 29th at the Water Street Café

Book Club October 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:hollisandgreg@yahoo.com) and Nancy 603-534-6259 or [ncsmath@comcats.net](mailto: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.