

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LACONIA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OCTOBER 6, 2024 9:00 A.M.

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING AND JUST PEACE CHURCH



REV. ELIZA TWEEDY, PASTOR AND TEACHER
K. ROBERT BENGSTON, ORGANIST

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship**

Asa Buchakjian-Tweed

We gather as God's community, weary and waiting for the Lord;

Even those who cry out and wither like grass will find their strength renewed.

We gather as God's disciples, following the One who invites us into new life;

Knowing that the promise of the Christ is more powerful than the fear of leaving our nets behind.

We gather as God's beloved, in whom God is well pleased;

Different people, different lives, different histories, knit together. We are the body of Christ.

*Hymn of Praise

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

Insert

Prayer of Confession**

Lyllah Anstey

Moment for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Special Music

How Marvelous is the Name of the Lord

Order of Installation

Greeting

Presentation

Exhortation

Covenant

Members of the Congregational Church of Laconia, United Church of Christ, will you please rise, in body or in spirit, to affirm your covenant with your pastor and teacher?

Congregation: We, the members of the Congregational Church of Laconia, United Church of Christ, receive the Reverend Eliza Tweedy as our pastor and teacher, promising to labor with her in the ministry of the gospel and to give her due honor and support. We gather with her and with the United Church of Christ as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

Members of the Merrimack Association, will you please rise, in body or in spirit, and affirm your covenant with the Congregational Church of Laconia, United Church of Christ, and its pastor and teacher?

Association: We, the members of the Merrimack Association of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ, gather with you, the people and the pastor and teacher of the Congregational Church of Laconia, United Church of Christ, as a sign of our covenant and in celebration of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

Prayer

Declaration

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Merrimack Association of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ, I declare you duly installed as pastor and teacher of the Congregational Church of Laconia, United Church of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Sung Response

Scripture: Isaiah 40:6-8, 28-31

Elias Buchakjian-Tweedy

Scripture: Mark 1:1-18

Ellen Valovanie

Sermon

Restoring Hope

Rev. Marrison Kettel

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer

May the God of Eternity be with you.

And also with you.

Lift your hearts to the Lord of all Creation.

We offer our lives to the Lord of Life.

Let us sing praise to the One who journeys with us.

We come before God in joy and hope.

You created skies and seas, fields and wilderness, beasts of the earth, eagles that soar above, and fish that swim below. And us. You created us in your image and invited us to join your celebration of creation. Yet, we chose to go our own way. We forged our own paths, crooked and winding, into alleys of sin and death. You sent messengers to prepare the way, Your Way, but we did not notice, focused on our own fleeting goals. And so you sent your Son, your Beloved, to show us the way back to you. With the weak and the strong, those who seek to follow You in every way, we lift our voices to you in thanksgiving and praise:

Holy, holy, holy are You,

God of those who know the route by heart,

and those who are still finding the way.

All of creation is a map back to you.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who calls us to follow him.

Hosanna in the highest!

You called us out of the wilderness to follow along straight paths, through lush valleys blooming with life. In you, we are found; through you, we make our way. And so we join our voices with all Creation to proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ died, taking on the sin of all.

Christ rose from death, giving life to all.

Christ will come again, bringing good news for all.

As we join with Jesus and all Your Beloved children at this Table, Your Table, where angels wait upon us, baptize us with your Holy Spirit. Through the power of that Spirit, may your Kin-dom come near in the gifts of bread and wine and each other. In the breaking of bread and the sharing of the cup, may we become Your Body broken in love and mended by love for the sake of the world you love. And now, gathered around your Table of grace, we join our voices in the prayer that Jesus taught us, praying....

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.

Words of Institution/Blessing of the Elements

Sharing of the Elements

All of the elements are gluten-free and non-alcoholic. To receive, please come forward one row at a time up the center aisle. Take a piece of bread, dip it into the chalice, and partake; then return to your seats via the side aisles.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Charge to Pastor and Congregation

Rev. Timoth Sylvia

Call to Offering

Rev. Gordon Rankin

Special Music

One Voice
Jaylene Bengston, Lorraine Barrows, Eliza Tweedy

Wailin' Jennys

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

What a privilege it is, Lord, to be a part of your vast Creation. What an honor to participate in your work in the world, even if our contributions are finite and temporary. Our lives may be fleeting, but your word stands forever. Today, we

commune with the everlasting God and we offer what we have. May our offerings today be blessed by you, Lord. May they give strength to the faint, comfort to those who wait on You. May our gifts run ahead of us, spreading news of your everlasting strength, beauty and glory. Amen.

Hymn Come, O Fount of Every Blessing Insert

Benediction

Postlude

Participating in the service:

Rev. Mairaine Kettell, Old South First Congregational Church, Farmington, ME

Rev. Timothy Sylvia, First Congregational Church, Randolph, MA

Rev. Gordon Rankin, Conference Minister, New Hampshire Conference

Rev. Paula Gile, Moderator, Merrimack Association

Lorraine Barrows, Search Committee Member

Jaylene Bengtson, Search Committee Member

Lyllah Anstey

Ellen Valovani

Asa Buchakjian-Tweedy

Elias Buchakjian-Tweedy

Caleb McCarty

Odin Sargent

Prayers written by

Rev. Julie Hoplamazian, St. Michael's Church, New York, NY

Rev. Kathryn Bell, St. Louis County Jail, Duluth, MN

Rev. Rachel Helgeson, Broome County Council of Churches, Binghamton, NY

Rev. Christie Ashton, Hope Presbyterian Church, Huntsville, AL

Rev. Abby Mohaupt, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL

Rev. Angela Freeman, Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church, Bay Village, OH

Rev. Karin Wright, Suffield United Church of Christ, Suffield, OH