

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LACONIA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FEBRUARY 2 2024 9:30 A M

January 26, 2025 9:30

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING AND JUST PEACE CHURCH



REV. ELIZA TWEEDY, PASTOR
K. ROBERT BENGTON, ORGANIST

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Louise Bastille

Introit For the Beauty of the Earth

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship**

Come, people of God, let us worship God, our Creator.

God is our rock, our refuge, our strength.

Hope in God, who has created you.

Open yourself to the one who knows you well.

God accepts us, and calls us by name.

God's Word of love is ours to proclaim.

Our God gives us tasks to do and strength to do them.

Come, people of God, let us worship God, our Creator.

We are here to worship the God who empowers us.

Hymn

Gather Us In

see insert

Prayer of the Day

God of love, in whose name we have been consecrated for discipleship and service, encounter us in this hour, that we may grow in knowledge and actions. Disturb our certainties so we will be open to new insights. Upset our priorities to make room for faith, hope, and love. Expand our horizons to encompass ideas we have not entertained before. Open our hearts to people we have failed to welcome into our midst. Perfect among us that childlike trust that allows change to transform us into the presence of your love. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

—from Gathered by Love, Lavon Bayler

Anthem

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

arr. John Coates

Hebrew Scripture Psalm 71:1-6

In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.

In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me.

Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.

For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth.

From my birth I have leaned upon you, my protector since my mother's womb.

My praise is continually of you.

Gospel Reading Luke 4: 20-30

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words

that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Sermon LuAnn Mussari, Catherine Tokarz, Patrick Wood, *The Rabbi's Gift*, M.Scott Peck

Prayers of the People

Communion Hymn #330

Let Us Break Bread Together

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.

Blessing of Bread and Cup

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Communion will be offered by Intinction today. All of the elements are gluten-free and non-alcoholic. To receive please come forward one row at the time up the center aisle. Take a piece of bread, dip it in the chalice and partake; then return to your seats via the side aisles. Communion will be brought to those who would rather stay seated to receive the sacrament.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Eternal God, You have called your people from east and west and north and south to feast at your table. We thank you for Christ's presence in this sacred meal. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.

Call to Offering

Offertory

In Heavenly Love Abiding

Howard Helvey

Doxology

To God, all glorious heavenly light, to Christ, revealed in earthly night, To God the Spirit now we rise Our hopeful songs of thankful praise. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn**

In This Very Room

see insert

*** Commission and Benediction** *—from Gathered by Love, Lavon Bayler*

Go forth with faith to move mountains.

Reach out with love that transforms the world.

Love is patient and kind, not jealous or boastful.

Love rejoices in all that is right, not in wrong.

Let the Scripture be fulfilled by your faithfulness.

Let the Word take flesh in all you do.

Love bears, believes, hopes, and endures.

We participate in the love of God that never ends.

God promises to be our rock and our refuge.

God is ever with us to deliver us.

God's Word will be in our mouths.

God's love will warm our spirits.

Amen. Amen.

Benediction

***Benediction Response**

Go Now In Peace

Postlude

****Adapted from *Gathered by Love*, Lavon Bayler**

Altar Flowers

Given by Brad and LuAnn in memory of their mothers and mothers yet to be

Book Club – February 26 10:00a.m. in the Library *The God of the Woods by Liz Moore*

Women's Breakfast February 19th, 9:30am at the Flip Side

please RSVP to bettobergstrom@gmail.com

Men's Breakfast February 7th & 21st at the Water Street Cafe

Donate here for the mission and ministry of the church!

