



**SOUTH  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH**

UNITED  
CHURCH  
OF  
CHRIST

Radical Hope.

Extravagant Love.

**FEBRUARY 05**

**10AM**

*Welcome to South Congregational Church, United Church of Christ! Whoever you are, whatever your faith tradition, whatever creed you profess, whatever your age, ability, race, sexual orientation, or gender expression, you are welcome here!*

PRELUDE

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

arr. B. Sowash

WORDS OF WELCOME

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Sarah E. Weaver © 2011*)

We gather for worship today to celebrate our gifts.

**We are celebrating the gifts we give to this church, the pledges we are making for the upcoming year.**

We gather for worship today to celebrate our community.

**We are celebrating the love and support that we give to one another; the constant quest that we are on to be united by God's grace.**

We gather for worship today to celebrate our future.

**We are celebrating a future full of outreach, a future full of service, a future full of worship and a future full of growth. We are celebrating a future with hope.**

We gather for worship today to celebrate our visions.

**We are celebrating the visions of those who have come before us, the visions that brought us to where we are today, and the visions that we see today for the future.**

Let us gather in celebration!

**Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN #337

*Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

UNISON PRAYER OF APPROACH (*The Episcopal Diocese of Washington*)

**Eternal God, we pray that we will make stewardship a way of Life. We acknowledge you as the source of all we have and all we are. Help us to place you, our loving Creator, first in our lives by becoming more prayerful, more focused on loving and caring for our families and our neighbors in need, and by becoming less preoccupied with material things. Help us to hear your call to be good stewards, caretakers, and managers of all your gifts by sharing them for your purposes. Help us make your priorities our priorities and to put our faith into action. Help us plan to "give back" the talents, treasures and time with which we have been blessed. Help us plan to serve our church, our community, and our world with your gifts. May we serve you and pray with a joyful spirit of mind and heart. Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

*Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

by Mark Andrews

COMMUNION *God Does Not Abandon Us*

The Holy One be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God, in whose image we are made.

**To the Creator of all, we give thanks and praise.**

Divine Protector, Defender of Life, your love for this world is everlasting. As oceans burn and species go extinct, our children are made vulnerable at school and our neighbors are denied at our borders, there is so much reason to despair. But you, O God, refuse to abandon us to destruction. Christ takes on flesh. In the midst of struggle, you are glimpses of hope, encounters of freedom, tastes of what satisfies when so much leaves empty. In these incarnate moments, we sense the closeness of your Kindom.

**Holy, Holy, Holy One. God of justice and love. Heaven and earth are full of your wonder. Hosanna, among us.**

You, O God, reorder the world into right-relationship. You lift high those made low. You humble the arrogant. You hear the earth groaning under capitalism and consumption and your fire burns in the hearts of your prophets. With this hope and assurance, we turn to the witness of Jesus whose teachings reveal the way to liberation. We seek his wisdom. We practice his courage. We remember his radical commitment to love.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus shared a meal with his companions. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said: "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After the meal, he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it saying:

"This cup that is poured out is the new covenant." In remembrance of the love that saves us, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ was birthed among us. Christ was executed among us.**

**Christ rises again among us.**

May the Spirit come and settle upon these gifts. Making this bread and this cup be for us a Holy Encounter. Reminding us that Christ is with us. That Resurrection is a promise granted to us. That the Kindom is always closer than we can imagine.

May we be nourished, that we might nourish others.

#### INVITATION

Beloved One, if we grow weary in love, may this meal live on as a reminder of what sustains us. In seeking the flourishing you intend for us, our neighbors, and this planet, keep our hearts tender, our spirits alive, and our senses attuned to the beauty that surrounds. With gratitude for your abiding presence, we pray. Amen.

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**God of wonder, in you are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our eyes that we may see the wonders of your Word reflecting all around us, and give us your grace that we may freely hear and choose the way of your wisdom; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 58:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20

#### SERMON

Rev. Jared A. Rardin

#### \*HYMN #558

*O How Glorious, Full of Wonder*

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father-Mother in Heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

#### PLEDGING TESTIMONIAL

#### AN INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP

Virtual offering plate: [bit.do/southchurch](https://bit.do/southchurch): other options include using the "Donate" button on the website, or mailing/dropping off a check to the office.



#### OFFERTORY

*Beach Spring*

arr. Carter/Hayes

#### \*SUNG RESPONSE

**Oh how wondrous, O how glorious is your name in every land, God, whose purpose shines before us toward the goal that you have planned! Yours the will our hearts are seeking, conscious of our human need. Spirit in our spirit speaking, make us yours O God, indeed.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN #123 (SP&P) *Draw the Circle Wide*

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Holy Manna* arr. Don Hustad

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*

*Please join us following worship for Coffee Hour!*

**Prayers, Joys, and Concerns**

Prayers for Edna Elle; Betsy Gates; Chris Scott; Kelly Kenison Falkner; Cheryl Simmers; Kayla Pingree's brother Matthew; Judy Todd (no phone calls please); Doug Kilgore; and Myrna Prevost.

**Today's Participants**

**Lay Reader:** Warren Emley

**Ushers:** Cy Sherman & Joe York

**Pastor:** Rev. Jed Rardin

**Pianist:** Abigail Charbeneau

**Music Director:** Sue Berlenbach

**Memorial Bells Choir Director:** Carlene Ruesenberg

**Director of Christian Education:** Alison Nyhan

Flowers are kindly donated by Jennifer Reynolds for her late father, Harold, whose humor, patience, and kindness are greatly missed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Moment for Mission:** The **February** Moment for Mission is the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH) *SouperFest* event. 2023 is the 14th annual event and there are some exciting changes. First, the event will be INDOORS! It is being held at the Bank of NH Stage. Second, in addition to a wide selection of soups from local restaurants, there will be live music by the band Rozwell. Your donations will be used to support South Church's sponsorship of this event. The Pillars of Support initiative seeks the help of the Concord's diverse professions and industries to stand with CCEH in the belief that everyone deserves a safe, decent, stable, and affordable place to live. We can only end homelessness when the entire community is engaged in delivering solutions. *SouperFest* is **Saturday, March 4** from 12 to 2pm. The cost is \$5.00 per soup and it is first come, first serve: no preorders. Vegetarian and vegan options will be available.

**A Joyful Success!** Thanks to the kindness and generosity of our congregation, we have met our goal of \$4,000 for new Assisted Listening Devices! As of Friday, we have received **\$4,018** total! Combined with the matching gift from our generous anonymous donors, we have raised **\$8,000!** Thank you to everyone who donated!

**Childcare:** The Faith Formation Ministry would like to offer childcare during the 10 a.m. worship service for our young families and their children (from infants to three years old). We need your help! We are looking for volunteers to help supervise the children on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in volunteering one or two Sundays, please do so online at [volunteersignup.org/R9WCC](https://volunteersignup.org/R9WCC) or contact Alison. Thank you!

**Warm Welcome:** Becky Field has been working to bring her friend Mahboba's two brothers out of Afghanistan for their safety and education. After a long and difficult process, they are here in Concord and studying at SNHU. Please join us **Saturday, February 11** from 3 to 5pm in Fellowship Hall for a reception to meet them and welcome them to our community. We will have light refreshments and Afghan music. A GoFundMe has also been set up to help the brothers. The young men fled their country with only the clothes on their back for a scholarship at SNHU. For more information or a link to the GoFundMe, contact Becky Field or Kayla.

**Photo Exhibit:** Becky Field has a new and unusual photo exhibit on the physical and emotional toll of detaining and tracking an asylum seeker. Poetry and artwork expressing "Antony's" difficult journey accompany her large photos printed on canvas. The exhibit is at Cheshire Mills Complex, 69 Main St, Harrisville, NH, until **February 17** on weekdays 8am-5pm.

**Family Promise:** We will be hosting families the week of **February 19-26** here at South Church. We will need assistance from you to make this happen and be a meaningful experience for the families in our care. Opportunities include preparing dinner, serving dinner or breakfast, and visiting with the families, as well as staying overnight. For more information, please check our website.

**Prepare to Serve:** Prepared to Serve 2023 will return to an in-person gathering at Pembroke Academy on **Saturday, February 25** from 8am to 4pm. This year's theme is *Connecting & Reconnecting* from the scripture passage in Romans 1:11-12 (CEV): *"I want to see you and share with you the same blessings that God's Spirit has given me. Then you will grow stronger in your faith. What I am saying is that we can encourage each other by the faith that is ours."* The workshops offered will provide training and sharing on the topics most asked about in this time of emergence. To see learn about individual workshops or register, visit their website at [shorturl.at/dmxyB](https://shorturl.at/dmxyB).

**Breaking Bread:** Join us again on **Saturday, February 25** at 5:30pm for another Breaking Bread event, hosted by The Faith Formation Ministry. If you are interested in participating, please sign-up online or in Fellowship Hall. Please contact Bruce Bairstow or Zib Corell with questions.

**Ash Wednesday:** The season of Lent is almost here. This year we will have three opportunities to receive the mark of the ashes this **Ash Wednesday, February 22**. *Morning Prayer* will be held in person in the chapel at 7:30am. *Ashes To Go* will be offered from 8 to 9am, and 11am to 1pm. An *intergenerational sanctuary worship service* will be held in person and on Zoom at 7pm.

**UCC NE Women's Celebration:** Join us **March 17-19** for a weekend filled with reconnecting with friends, making new ones, and forming connections with other women of faith at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Manchester. To learn more or register, please visit [www.uccwc.org](https://www.uccwc.org). Contact Cy Sherman ([cysherman@comcast.net](mailto:cysherman@comcast.net)) if you would like to carpool.

**Office Hours:** The office will be closed on **Monday, February 20** in observance of President's Day.

HYMN# 337 *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

Draw us in the Spirit's tether,  
for when humbly in your name,  
Two or three are met together,  
You are in the midst of them;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Touch we now your garment's hem.

As disciples used to gather  
in the name of Christ to sup,  
then with thanks to God the Giver,  
break the bread and bless the cup,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
So now bind our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living  
make as sacraments of you,  
That by caring, helping, giving,  
we may be disciples true.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
We may serve with faith a-new.

HYMN #558 *O How Glorious, Full of Wonder*

O how glorious, full of wonder is your name o'er all the earth,  
God, who wrought creation's splendor, bringing suns and stars to birth!  
Rapt in reverence we adore you, marveling at your mystic ways.  
Humbly now we bow before you, lifting up our hearts in praise.

When we see your lights of heaven, moon and stars, your power displayed,  
Who are we that you should love us, creatures that your hand has made?  
Born of earth, yet full of yearning, mixture strange of good and ill,  
From your ways so often turning, yet your love does seek us still.

You have set us in communion with the wonders of your hand,  
Made us fly with eagle pinion, pilgrims over sea and land.  
Soaring spire and ruined city, these our hopes and failures show.  
Teach us more of human pity, that we in your image grow.

O how wondrous, O how glorious is your name in every land,  
God, whose purpose shines before us toward the goal that you have planned!  
Yours the will our hearts are seeking, conscious of our human need.  
Spirit in our spirit speaking, make us yours, O God, indeed.

HYMN #123 (SP&P) *Draw the Circle Wide*

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.  
God the still point of the circle,  
round whom all creation turns;  
nothing lost, but held forever  
in God's gracious arms.

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.  
Let our hearts touch far horizons,  
so encompass great and small;  
let our loving know no borders,  
faithful to God's call.

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.  
Let the dreams we dream be larger,  
than we've ever dreamed before;  
let the dream of Christ be in us,  
open every door.

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

# VALENTINE'S BAKE SALE



**FEBRUARY 12, 2023  
AFTER THE 10AM  
WORSHIP SERVICE**

Our youth will be holding a bake sale that will benefit our Youth Ministries and their mission trip to New Orleans.