

A photograph of a forest path with sunlight filtering through the trees. The path is covered in fallen leaves and leads into the distance. The trees are tall and thin, with sunlight creating a warm, golden glow. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

APRIL 21, 2024

South Congregational Church, UCC
27 Pleasant St. Concord, NH 03301
603-224-2521 | www.southchurchconcord.org

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!

WE GATHER...

WORDS OF WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC

For the Beauty of the Earth

arr. Pepper Choplin

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus commanded: Love one another.

We come to worship the God who is love that we may learn to love one another.

Jesus said: No longer do I call you servants; now I call you my friends.

We come to worship the God whose friends we are through Christ.

Let us sing praise to God and live in love and friendship toward the human family; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HYMN #28

For the Beauty of the Earth

UNISON PRAYER OF APPROACH

Holy God, the earth is full of your glory, and so we worship you. Our hearts are on fire with the awareness that Christ is with us, and so we thank you. Our fears have been calmed in the bright light of the Resurrection Day, and so we praise you. Do not leave us, we pray. Let us abide for ever in the assurance of your love; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Blue Boat Home

arr. Jason Shelton

A MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Following the message, children are invited downstairs for Sunday School.

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD...

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God, source of all light, by your Word you give light to the soul. Pour out on us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that our hearts and minds may be opened. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-20; John 10:11-18

REFLECTION

The Forest & The Trees, and The View

*HYMN #247

My Shepherd is the Living God

TO PRAY TOGETHER...

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

TO RENEW OUR COMMITMENT...

AN INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

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



OFFERTORY

How Can I Keep from Singing

arr. Clif Hardin

*SUNG RESPONSE

God whose giving knows no ending from your rich and endless store, nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door; Gifted by you, we turn to you offering up ourselves in praise. Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

TO SERVE THE WORLD.

*HYMN # 558

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

*BENEDICTION

PASSING THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Please join us for coffee and conversation in Fellowship Hall after service!

Prayers, Joys, and Concerns

Prayers for the people of Haiti, Gaza, Israel, Lebanon, Ukraine, and Russia.

Prayers for Judy Todd, and the family of Jacqueline Freese.

Prayers for our youth and leaders on the Mission Trip to Ottawa!

Today's Participants

Ushers: Ann Walls and Norma Angwin

Lay Reader: Becky Field

Collections: Adria Cilley and Tom Fahey

Nursery Volunteer: Ashley Babladelis

Bridge Minister: Rev. Dr. Leanne Tigert

Pianist: Abigail Charbeneau

Music Director: Sue Berlenbach

Memorial Bells Director: Carlene Ruesenberg

Zoom Technician: Walt Irvine

Flowers are kindly donated by Mike and Eileen Gfroerer to celebrate their families.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Contact Info for Rev. Leanne Tigert: Rev. Leanne Tigert is our Bridge Minister during this time of transition. Many of you already know Leanne and may have her contact info saved. Please note that if you need to get a hold of Rev. Leanne for any pastoral concerns or business, she has a new phone number : **603-496-7184**. Please use this number for any South Church or pastor related communications. If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact the office at 603-224-2521. Thank you!

9AM Worship to Continue: After conversation among various committees, church leadership has decided to continue with one service at 9am until the end of the summer. Many people have commented about how much they have appreciated being together as a full community for worship during this time of transition. In addition, it has been helpful for ushers, lay readers, church school volunteers, and staff. The consistency of keeping one time rather than back and forth as we approach summer may be particularly helpful for visitors and new attendees. Once Pastor Tanya arrives, she will work with the Worship and Spiritual Life committee and council to address the worship needs of the congregation at that time.

April Moment for Mission: The **April** Moment for Mission is the UCC One Great Hour of Sharing. This year's theme is "Share the Light". When we participate in One Great Hour of Sharing: We offer hope to people forced to flee their homes in search of safety and new promise. We support life-giving recovery efforts when disasters devastate communities and lives. Our communities and world need these blessings so very much right now. Our role as faithful light-bearers carries a witness of love and hope and persevering possibility that counteracts the cynicism, hatred, and hopelessness that are all too prevalent in this moment. The Faith in Action Committee hopes you'll consider giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering this year with a spirit of joyful generosity. Thank you for 'bringing out the God-colors in the world' by generously sharing your OGHS gifts. This is why we are here: to be shining witnesses of uncommon love and enduring hope and to be generous with our lives.

Office Volunteers: Kayla will be out of office from **Monday, May 6** until **Wednesday, May 14**. We are looking for volunteers to answer phones and generally "man" the office for a few hours during this week. Duties would include answering phones, greeting visitors, and potentially lite office work such as folding bulletins. Volunteers would not be needed for a full 8 hour day; we would be grateful for any amount of time you are available. For more information, please see our website or contact Kayla in the office. Thank you!

Nursery: In order to be able to adequately staff the Nursery program, it will be available on the **1st and 3rd Sunday** of each month **through June**. The space will be available for families to use during the other Sundays of the month. If you are interested in volunteering in the Nursery please sign up on our church website.

Family Promise: Family Promise of Greater Concord is looking for volunteers to help staff the Day Center on the weekends! Day Center is staffed weekdays by Family Promise employees, but on weekends it is only open if volunteers are available to staff it. The Day Center operates out of Wesley United Methodist Church. To learn more about available shifts or to sign up to volunteer, please visit our website!

Check WMUR For South Church Closures! South Church will now be listed on the WMUR website in case of inclement weather closures! Check out the WMUR website at www.wmur.com to see if South Church is opened or closed on snowy days, including weekends! Contact the office with questions.

Office Hours: The office will be open from 8am-4pm Monday through Friday.

HYMN #28 For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies.
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light.
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude,
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

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HYMN #247 My Shepherd is the Living God

My shepherd is the living God, I therefore nothing need;
In pastures fair, near pleasant streams you settle me to feed.
You bring my wandering spirit back when I forsake your ways,
And lead me for your mercy's sake in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death, your presence is my stay;
A word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows, your oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;
O may your house be my abode, and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest, while others come and go-
No more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.

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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.

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