



**AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION
AN EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME TO ALL!**



September 25, 2022

Pastor: Rev. Jed Rardin
Interim Minister: Rev. Sean Dunker-Bendigo
Pianist: Abigail Charbeneau
Music Director: Sue Berlenbach
Memorial Bells Choir Director: Carlene Ruesenberg
Director of Christian Education: Alison Nyhan

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...

CENTERING MUSIC

All Things Bright and Beautiful

arr. Mark Hayes

WORDS OF WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Gathered here, we pause to acknowledge our place in creation and our responsibility to it.

We lift up grateful hearts to the Source of Life this day for the infinite variety of creatures which make our own existence so much richer.

As human beings, stewards of the earth, we extend our blessings to our brothers and sisters of fur and claw, wing and fin, scale and hoof, paws and feathers.

We promise to live with them in harmony as best we can, to be respectful of the fact that we share the planet together, and to refrain from exploiting them to selfish or abusive ends.

We join our spirits in praise and thanks for those animals who live among us as guides and helpers, rescuers of the lost and hurt, and companions to the suffering.

We thank them silently in our hearts, knowing that love is the language we share with them.

***HYMN #28**

For the Beauty of the Earth

UNISON PRAYER OF APPROACH

From the Duke Chapel Blessing

O sweet maker of all, we ask your blessing on every creature gathered here today, the large and the small. May they live peacefully in praise of you. Bless us all to love your creation, and revere its sacredness. We ask this blessing in the name of the one who was, is, and always will be, our Creator, to whom every creature belongs.

CHOIR ANTHEM

A MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN AND BIBLE PRESENTATION

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD...

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Creator of unity, Body of peace, Spirit of community, bind us together around your Word and send us out to do your justice, show your mercy, and embody your redeeming love. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Job 12:7-10; Proverbs 12:10

SERMON

Our Spiritual Guides

Rev. Sean Dunker-Bendigo

A BLESSING OF ANIMALS

***HYMN #33**

God Created Heaven and Earth

TO PRAY TOGETHER...

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father and Mother, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

TO RENEW OUR COMMITMENT...

AN INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP

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

You've Got a Friend in Me

by Randy Newman; Leanne Tigert, Guitar

*SUNG RESPONSE

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty, early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed trinity!**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

TO SERVE THE WORLD

*HYMN #32

God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale

PASSING THE PEACE

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

POSTLUDE

**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; Myrna Prevost; Lili Sage and Sam Sexton; and Thomas O'Donovan.

Prayers for our fourth graders.

Today's Participants

Lay Reader: Carolyn Kerr

Ushers: Lorens and Shasta Jorgensen

Acolyte: Lilia Jorgensen

Flowers are kindly donated this week by David and Jo Ann Jordan in celebration of their 48th wedding anniversary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moment for Mission: For the month of **September**, the Faith in Action Ministry has chosen the UCC Strengthen the Church as our Moment for Mission. Strengthen the Church (STC) reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. The funds collected in this offering will go towards leadership development, building new churches, funding activities for youth ministry and creating innovative programs in existing congregations. Because Strengthen the Church is part of the UCC's wider mission, conferences and the national setting equally share the donations from this offering. Your generosity will provide the support needed to continue building the UCC through education, programs and having places to worship. Thank you for your continued support to the Faith in Action Ministry!

Coffee Hour: If you are interested in supplying snacks for after-worship Coffee Hour, there is a sign up sheet hanging in Fellowship Hall.

Financial Review: The Giving Ministry will give a brief financial review of the church budget **today, September 25** after worship services. For more information, please contact Lorens Jorgensen.

Outdoor Adventure: Join other South Church members on **today, September 25** at 2 p.m. for some outdoor exercise and adventure at *McLane Audubon Center* at 84 Silk Farm Road in Concord. There is a paved trail for bikes, a few paths at the Audubon Center and at St. Paul's School. For more information, please contact Lorens Jorgensen.

Temple Childcare: South Church and Temple Beth Jacob have had a reciprocal agreement to assist one another with childcare during high holy days for many years. Once again, after a two-year hiatus, South Church volunteers are being asked to provide childcare at the Temple during Rosh Hashanah **tomorrow, September 26** and Yom Kippur on **Wednesday, October 5**. If you are interested in helping, please sign-up today!

Summer Movie Suggestion: *Just Mercy* follows a young lawyer, Bryan Stevenson and his history-making battle for justice. After graduating from Harvard, Bryan had his pick of lucrative jobs. Instead, he heads to Alabama to defend those wrongly condemned or who were not afforded proper representation, with the support of local advocate Eva Ansley. Discussion will be held after both the 8a.m. and 10a.m. services on **Sunday, October 2**.

Youth Groups: Junior High Youth Group (6th-8th graders) will be meeting once a month from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Youth Space. Upcoming meetings are **Thursday, October 13** and **Thursday, November 10**. Senior High Youth Group (9th-12th grade) meets on Sundays 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Youth Space. Upcoming meeting are **Sunday, September 25** and **Sunday, October 2** (when the group will be apple picking at Carter Hill from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.). There will be no meeting on October 9. If you have any questions regarding our youth programs, please contact Alison.

Office Hours: The office is now open 8am-4pm Monday-Friday. Please call before stopping by to ensure there is someone here to greet you.

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 no 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 #33 God Created Heaven and Earth

God created heaven and earth,
all things perfect brought to birth;
God's great power made dark and light,
earth revolving day and night.

Let us praise God's mercy great,
all our needs that love await;
God, who fashions all that lives,
to each one a blessing gives.

God is one, will ever be:
idols are mere vanity;
Hand-made gods of wood and clay
cannot help us when we pray.

But God's grace beyond compare
saves us all from death's despair;
So earth's creatures small and great
give thanks for that blessed state.

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HYMN #32 *God of the Sparrow God of the Whale*

God of the sparrow God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise

God of the earthquake God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry God of the sick
God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbor God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

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