

MAY 26, 2024

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

Sorry Folks, There is No Evacuation Plan



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!

WORDS OF WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC

Forlana

by Gerald Finzi; Julia Wagner, Flute

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Iona Abby Prayer Book*)

The world belongs to God.

The earth and all its people

How good it is, how wonderful,

To live together in unity.

Love and faith come together,

Justice and peace join hands.

If Christ's disciples keep silent,

These stones would shout aloud!

Open our lips, O God,

And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

*HYMN #21

God Reigns O'er All the Earth

UNISON PRAYER OF APPROACH (*Book of Worship*)

We thank you, compassionate God, that you sent your Spirit to encourage those whom Jesus left behind that they might not be alone. Through the comfort of your presence, you empowered them to witness to your love. Today we also seek the encouragement of your presence. Do not leave us alone, O God, but send your Spirit to us that we may worship and serve you with joy; through Jesus our crucified and rise Savior. Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM

This Hope That We Make

by Jason Shelton

A MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, come again. As long ago you inspired, astonished, and confused the people, come to us now to fill our ears with the sound of your breath, fill our eyes with the brilliance of your presence in each other, fill our hearts with your good word. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Acts 2:1-21

REFLECTION

Sorry Folks, There is No Evacuation Plan

*HYMN #272

On Pentecost They Gathered

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.

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

Carol

by Gerald Finzi; Julia Emley, Flute

*SUNG RESPONSE *O My Soul, Bless Your Creator* (verse 1)

**O my soul, bless your Creator; all within me bless God's name;
Bless your Maker, and forget not all God's mercies to proclaim.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN #594

How Beautiful Our Spacious Skies

*BENEDICTION

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Please join us after worship for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall!

Prayers, Joys, and Concerns

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

Today's Participants

Ushers: Stephen & Nick Austin

Bridge Minister: Rev. Dr. Leanne Tigert

Pianist: Abigail Charbeneau

Guest Musician: Julia Emley, flute

Music Director: Sue Berlenbach

Memorial Bells Director: Carlene Ruesenberg

Zoom Technician: Walt Irvine

Flowers are kindly donated by Bonnie Ota in memory of her dad.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May Moment for Mission: For the month of **May**, the Faith in Action Ministry has chosen the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH) for our Moment for Mission. CCEH helps clients who are homeless, or at imminent risk of becoming homeless connect with resources that are available to them while meeting their needs for immediate housing and food. The center provides access to showers, laundry, coffee and light refreshments, general help, resources, and case management. With the assistance of volunteers, case managers help connect clients to housing and shelter programs, Medicaid, SNAP, Disability, and other benefits, and to obtain state ID cards, birth certificates, and other vital information. In addition, the Resource Center hosts a variety of community providers on a weekly basis ranging from Archways Recovery Coalition of NH (which focuses on recovery from substance use disorders), to Easter Seals and Harbor Care for Veteran services, Riverbend Community Mental Health, AmeriHealth Caritas, physicians from Concord Hospital, and Empire Beauty School (for haircuts). Please consider making a donation to this worthwhile cause. To donate to this mission, please click here.

Red River Movie Event: Red River Theater will be presenting *Late Life Depression*, a movie and panel on Mental Health and Aging. The film will be presented by Fellowship Housing Opportunities on **Thursday, May 30** at 5:30pm. To purchase tickets, please visit redrivertheatres.org/film/late-life-depression. Please contact Herb Carpenter with questions.

Merrimack Valley Ringers: Hear the Merrimack Valley Ringers as they embark on a musical journey to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Handbell Musicians of America. The concert will be held here at South Church on **Saturday, June 8** at 7pm. We are thrilled to have been invited to perform the Opening concert at HMA's National Seminar in Hartford, Connecticut in July. Our concert tour this spring is a preview of that concert, which celebrates the rich legacy of handbell composers past and present who have enriched the repertoire for handbell musicians throughout the country and the world.

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.

Parking Spaces for Rent: South Church has four available parking spots for rent! Do you, or someone you know, work downtown and have trouble finding parking? Or do you find yourself parking blocks away from your office? Our spots are available for just \$100 per month and are conveniently located a block up from N. Main St.! Please contact the office if you have questions or for an application.

Garden Update: Be sure to admire the refurbished garden on the east side of the church, dedicated to the memory of Alison Ward Nyhan. The project was paid for by a grant from the Concord Garden Club, the South Church Memorial Fund, and the Buildings and Grounds Committee which developed the plan and oversaw its completion. Many hands made light work in mulching the new garden, as well as the gardens facing Pleasant Street. Thank you to Garden Club members Pam Young, Liz Garlo, Debbie Carley, and Kim Arndt, joined by Gail Desjardins, Eugene Shear, Chris Carley, Bob Murphy, Steve Arndt, and Og Young who pitched in to get the job done.

Message from the Lay Ministry Visitors: When some sort of transition, be it happy or sad, has happened in your life, you may get a call from one of South Church's Lay Ministry Visitors offering to pay you a personal visit. If this happens, please know that the intent of the visit is to offer community, connection, and, perhaps, comfort. The Lay Ministry Visitors, who have been trained in compassionate listening, hope to embody both South Church's caring for you and God's love for you. Even if you don't feel the "need" for a visit, feel free to accept a Lay Ministry Visitor's offer, for this ministry of comfort, caring, and connection is intended as a gift to you.

If you know of someone in the congregation who may want a visit, and/or, if you yourself would like to talk with a Lay Minister, for any reason, please contact:

Toni Callahan (603-568-0559)

Kathy Daniels (603-738-6669)

or Ellen Fries (603-568-5880)

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

HYMN #21 God Reigns O'er All the Earth

God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and valleys low,
The farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beauty show.
God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spreading plains,
in rainbow hues - reds, yellows, blues - of streams and country lanes.

God reigns o'er human life! Through youth and aging years,
in death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.
God reigns o'er human life! Our inspiration still.
Through all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's reigning will.
God reigns o'er time and space! In history's bygone days,
Christ's faithful folk in reverence spoke to bring God earnest praise.
God reigns o'er time and space! O'er galaxy and sun,
Through timeless years the cosmos hears the heavenly music run.

God reigns! Emmanuel! God with us every day,
in all our past and to the last, our comfort and our stay.
God reigns! Emmanuel! Let praise to Christ be sung!
God's presence here makes all things dear. Let joyful bells be rung!

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HYMN #272 On Pentecost They Gathered

On Pentecost they gathered quite early in the day,
a band of Christ's disciples to worship, sing, and pray.
A mighty wind came blowing, filled all the swirling air,
and tongues of fire a-glowing inspired each person there.

The people all around them were startled and amazed
to understand their language, as God in Christ they praised.
What universal message, what great good news was here?
That Christ, once dead, is risen to vanquish all our fear.

God pours the Holy Spirit on all who would believe,
on women, men, and children who would God's grace receive.
That Spirit knows no limit, bestowing life and power.
The church, formed and reforming, responds in every hour.

O Spirit, sent from heaven on that day long ago,
rekindle faith among us in all life's ebb and flow.
O give us hearts to listen and tongues aflame with praise,
so folk of every nation glad songs of joy shall raise.

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HYMN #594 How Beautiful Our Spacious Skies

How beautiful, our spacious skies, our amber waves of grain;
our purple mountains as they rise above the fruitful plain.
America! America! God's gracious gifts abound,
and more and more we're grateful for life's bounty all around.

Indigenous and immigrant, our daughters and our sons;
O may we never rest content till all are truly one.
America! America! God grant that we may be
a sisterhood and brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

How beautiful, sincere lament, the wisdom born of tears,
the courage called for to repent the bloodshed through the years.
America! America! God grant that we may be
a nation blessed with none oppressed, true land of liberty.

How beautiful, two continents, and islands in the sea
that dream of peace, nonviolence, all people living free.
Americas! Americas! God grant that we may be
a hemisphere where people here all live in harmony.

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