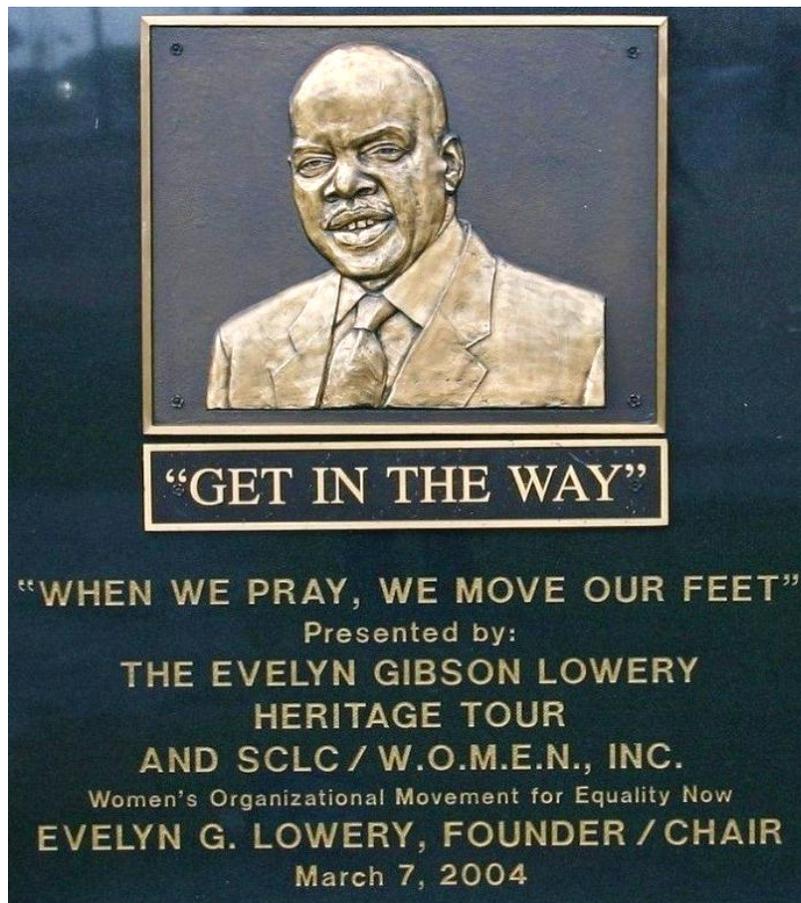


AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION  
AN EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME TO ALL!



**January 16, 2022**

**Pastor:** Rev. Jed Rardin

**Interim Minister:** Rev. Sean Dunker-Bendigo

**Guest Preacher:** Maurice Tiner

**Pianist:** Abigail Charbeneau

**Music Director:** Sue Berlenbach

**Memorial Bells Choir Director:** Carlene Ruesenberg

**Director of Christian Education:** Alison Nyhan

27 Pleasant Street \* Concord, NH \* 224-2521 \* [www.southchurchconcord.org](http://www.southchurchconcord.org)

*Welcome to South Church! 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

### AN INVITATION FROM THE VISION & TRANSITION TEAM

CENTERING MUSIC                      *My Lord, What a Mornin'*    arr. Calvin Taylor

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather as a community of faith, living examples of extravagant love and radical hope.

**We connect with our community, with each other, and with God.**

We gather to create opportunities for spiritual growth.

**We build a community of diverse relationships.**

We serve our neighbors.

**And we work for a just world. Let us worship the One who inspires us.**

\*HYMN #136                                      *Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child*

### UNISON PRAYER OF APPROACH

**O Holy One, creator of beauty and redeemer of disasters, of abiding love even in the most inhospitable of situations, of continuity and spontaneity: we have no idea where exactly you are leading us, only that you are in our midst and that things are happening! There is new energy in us. Old dreams are being dusted off, and new dreams are being conceived. Give us more trust, more courage, more clarity, and a new readiness to go where you may be sending us. As you give yourself to us, so we give ourselves to you!**

### A MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

## **TO HEAR GOD'S WORD...**

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE                                      Genesis 37: 5-11

AN INVITATION                                      The Need for Dreamers    Maurice Tiner

\*HYMN    *Hidden Promises*    Peter Imse

## 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...

### A MOMENT FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

Joanne Varga

### 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 church office.



### OFFERTORY

*Swing Low, Sweet Chariot /  
I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

arr. Mary McDonald

### SUNG RESPONSE

**Great is your faithfulness, O God, Creator, with you no shadow of turning we see. You do not change, your compassions they fail not; all of your goodness forever will be. Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed your hand has provided, Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!**

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## TO SERVE THE WORLD

\*HYMN #538

*Standing at the Future's Threshold*

### \*BENEDICTION

**Jesus did not leave us without hope but sent the Holy Spirit to nurture faith and love in this world. Live this vision in all that you do: respond to rancor with kindness, be patient where there is pain, and let your dreams become reality. Amen**

### PASSING THE PEACE

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

**\*Please stand in body or spirit**

### **Prayers, Joy and Concerns**

Joys for the Tableau performance and wonderful performers; all those who worked on the George Floyd Quilt exhibit; the young families of South Church; and loved ones.

Prayers for Edna Elle; Betsy Gates; those who are incarcerated; those living with mental illness; those who suffered abuse during the Pandemic lockdown; those forced into isolation; the Pingree family; teachers facing the constant struggles and changes of this pandemic; our planet,; and for swift healing of newborn babies in the NICU.

*In Memoriam Susan Peeler*

### **Today's Participants**

**Lay Reader:** Thom Bloomquist

**Ushers:** Dianna Powers and Mae Murdoch

Flowers this week are kindly donated by Bill & Mae Murdoch:  
In honor of their parents and siblings.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Church Office Hours:** The church office is closed on **Monday** in observance of MLK Jr. day. The office will be open **Tuesday** from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and **Wednesday, Thursday & Friday** from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please call ahead to ensure there is someone available to greet you.

**Senior High Youth:** The youth will meet **today** at 7 p.m.

**Moment for Mission:** During **January**, the Faith in Action ministry has chosen to support the Merrimack Valley Day Care Center, which has provided accessible and affordable childcare to the Concord community for more than 50 years. This month we will be collecting much needed items including tissues, diapers, paper towels, baby wipes, adult masks, gas or grocery cards for struggling parents, and new or gently used trucks, baby dolls, My Little Ponies, and towels. A donation box is located in the side entrance of the church.

**Vision and Transition Update:** The Vision and Transition Committee has compiled the results of various surveys and small group conversations about who we are and who we want to be as a community of faith. The report is available today at the back of the Sanctuary, in the side entrance of the church, and on our website.

**E-Lation Newsletter:** If you are having trouble receiving the e-Lation newsletter and you have a @gmail.com address, please be sure to check your Promotion and Social tabs, as well as your spam folder. Please contact the office if you still are not receiving the e-Lation.

**Meal Train:** South Church is blessed to have the Waldron family as members of our church family. Derek is following a calling to ministry and is working towards a position as a Marine Chaplain and will be leaving January 19 for boot camp. Derek is the primary cook in the home and he and Sarah will be grateful to have assistance for the family while he is away. If you are not able to cook but would still like to assist, please consider a gift card to a local restaurant. The Worship and Spiritual Life committee is sponsoring this Meal Train and thanks you for your assistance and support: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/0734m5>

**Giving Ministry:** Many of our members are paying their pledges and making gifts to the church from their investment accounts, for which we are very grateful. This is particularly common with our Senior members who donate directly from their Retirement Accounts. However we often find that the investment account check arrives without identifying who is making the payment, so that we are unable to acknowledge the gift or credit it toward your pledge. Please arrange for the proper identification of all gifts and payments made through investment accounts. Thank you so much for your generous stewardship!

**Jerry Rardin Memorial Service Now Available Online:** A video recording of Jerry Rardin's memorial service last Saturday is now available on demand and online. The video will be shown again at the scheduled Philadelphia service on **January 22** at 2 PM, followed by an informal reception. If you would like to participate in that reception, simply go to [www.fumcog.org](http://www.fumcog.org) and follow the necessary prompt. The Rardins are very grateful for all the support South Church members have extended to them!

**HYMN #136**      ***Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child***

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child.  
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild;  
new life, new hope the Child will bring.  
Listen to the angels sing,  
“Glory, glory, glory,” let the heavens ring!

***Hidden Promises***                      **by Peter Imse**

In the bulb, there is a flower, in the seed an apple tree,  
In cocoons, a hidden promise, butterflies will soon be free,  
In our Church we have a purpose, and it's changing constantly,  
Unrevealed until its season, only God alone can see.

We will love extravagantly, and we'll hope quite radically,  
Building bridges and connections, linking God's communities,  
In our Church, we have a Mission, and it's changing constantly,  
Unrevealed until we reason, how we truly want to be.

We will spark divine reflection, and embrace diversity,  
Will we love and serve our neighbors, assure all have equity,  
In our Church, we have a Vision, and its changing constantly,  
Unrevealed until we reason, who we truly want to be.

We will welcome all God's children, we will serve our friends in need,  
Old and Young will work together, managing our properties,  
We will live into our Values, changing plans to suit the needs,  
As revealed in every season, so that all the world can see.

**HYMN #538**      *Standing at the Future's Threshold*

Standing at the future's threshold, grateful for God's guiding hand,  
Asking no protected strong-hold, called to be a pilgrim band,  
Seeking ever for new vision of the gospel for our day,  
We move forward in God's mission with our faith to show the way.

Midst the teeming cities millions, witness to God's boundless love,  
Reaching for each system's lost ones, seeking justice with each move;  
Grant us courage, strength, and patience to contend with vicious power,  
Lead us forward in the faith that gives us hope in testing's hour.

Open hearted in exchanges with the faithful not our own,  
Trusting God's way with these strangers not to leave the truth unknown.  
Joining them in shared endeavor where we have Christ's clear command,  
We have faith that calls us ever toward this good earth's promised land.

Building justice as the bulwark of the peace that God would give,  
Making sacrifice the hallmark of the life we're called to live:  
Grant us, God, to bear our witness to this peace in Christ, and move  
Forward with our faith's own access to the life of hope and love.

Jesus Christ, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,  
We would ask no special favor, with the lowliest seek our place,  
Know the in-as-much of serving, have your cross as our command:  
Lead us in this faith unswerving forward as your pilgrim band.