

The Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Amherst, New Hampshire



*“Home is a sacred location, a place of aspiration and dreams,
of learning and habit, of relationships and heart. Home is a
place where God somehow meets us, a place where we belong.
‘Where do you live?’ is therefore ultimately a sacred question.”*

—adapted from Diana Butler Bass

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Amherst, New Hampshire

May 21, 2017

Heritage Sunday—275th Anniversary

10:00 AM

*Let us be gathered in silence so that we and those who enter with us
may pause, pray and prepare to worship God.*

PRELUDE

Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim arr. Raymond H. Haan
(original hymn setting—music William Croft 1708,
words Charles Wesley 1744)

GREETING AND WELCOME

Members and visitors are asked to sign the Friendship Register and to use a nametag.

NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

INTROIT

Chancel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This is the day which the Lord has made!

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader: There are many who have walked the path toward God before us, showing us the way with their lives.

People: We come to give thanks for them, whether or not we know their names.

Leader: As they were called, so too are we called to live as Jesus did, responding to God's invitation to be the Body of Christ.

People: We come to ask for guidance and courage, to be witnesses in faith. "Here am I! Send me."

Leader: We are, each of us, like those who have gone before us, a complex mixture of saint and sinner. God accepts us that way and fills us with the Spirit, who forgives, transforms, and empowers us.

People: We come to glorify the Holy One.

ALL: Together, let us worship God!

*HYMN

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

No. 430

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

Holy and gracious God, like a loving parent you nurture and encourage and challenge us to grow in grace. Because of our "goodly heritage" and by your living spirit in our midst, we are enabled to mature in our faith and commitment to you. Forgive our failures and show us once again our possibilities. Prepare us to be servants of your Son Jesus and bold witnesses of your love in the world. Help us to take our place in the communion of saints which you have called us to be. Hear us now as we pray the words that Jesus taught us, **Our Father, 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.**

*GLORIA PATRI (Tune #579)

Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and Holy Spirit, One;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen.

WELCOME BACK—WELCOME FORWARD

*HYMN

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

(Tune: BEECHER, No. 343)

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

CHILDREN'S TIME

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of God be with you. AND ALSO WITH YOU.

ANTHEM

Hallelujah Chorus

G. F. Handel

Chancel Choir and Friends

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 16:1-2, 5-6, 11

Page 471

Ephesians 1:15-20

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SERMON

"Welcome Home"

*HYMN

Our God, We Gather in Your Name

inside back of hymnal

(written by The Rev. L. Paul Trudinger, Senior Minister,
The Congregational Church of Amherst 1959—1963)

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

Chancel Choir

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Along with our offering collected this morning, we dedicate the generous contributions of those who give monthly or electronically. All of our offerings support the work and witness of Jesus Christ here in this place and in the wider world. Each is given to the glory of God in faithful appreciation for many received blessings. Thanks be to God!

OFFERTORY MUSIC

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

arr. Marilyn Thompson

(hymn—words Charles Wesley 1739, music Carl Gläser 1839)

*DOXOLOGY (Tune: *From All That Dwell Below the Skies*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Holy One, whose generous heart abounds with gifts, receive this offering as sign of our intention to live surrounded by your mercy, inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy of your presence, hospitable to one another, and generous toward your world, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*HYMN

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

No. 210

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Chancel Choir

*POSTLUDE

Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above

arr. Thomas Bliss

(hymn—music Foundery Collection 1742,
words Charles Wesley 1743)

(*Indicates that those who are able may stand.)

Portions of today's liturgy are adapted from Touch Holiness, edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi.



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AMHERST
A Welcoming, Open and Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ



**“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here.”**

We, the members of the Congregational Church of Amherst, New Hampshire, United Church of Christ, believe God’s Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ call us to love all our neighbors as we would want to be loved. We are called to be as one body, seeking to walk together in the full life and ministry of our church.

We welcome each individual as a child of God. As covenant members of Christ’s church, we celebrate God’s love for people of all races and ethnic backgrounds, all mental and physical abilities, all socioeconomic backgrounds, all sexual orientations, all gender identities and gender expressions, and all of the other diverse attributes woven into the fabric of humankind.

With God’s grace, we invite all to share in the life and leadership, ministry and fellowship, worship and sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of our church.

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us this morning. Our membership is open to all those who choose to walk with us in our witness. Please speak with any of our deacons or pastors should you have any questions regarding our church or our membership.

Worship Notes:

- **Nursery Care** is provided for children ages two and under at the beginning of worship.
- **Church School** is available for children in preschool through grade 6 immediately following Children’s Time.
- **Joys and Concerns** may be written on the cards found in the pew racks. Cards will be collected by one of the pastors during the middle hymn and shared during the Prayers of the People.
- **Nametags** – Please remember to wear your nametag each Sunday, so that we may all greet our neighbors. If you do not have a permanent nametag, temporary nametags may be found inside the friendship registers. If you are in need of a new, permanent nametag, please see one of the deacons.
- **Fellowship** – Please join us in the community room following worship to welcome visitors and friends.
- **Emergencies** – In the event of an emergency, please remain seated until instructions have been given. An emergency plan is in place for the children in the nursery and in the church school.

The church office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Here’s how to reach us: by telephone 673-3231, or by email andrea@ccamherst.org. If we are unavailable by phone, please feel free to leave a message using the personal directory, and we will get back to you as soon as we can. Visit our church’s website at www.ccamherst.org, and follow us on Facebook at Facebook.com/ccamherst.

Grounded in God’s Love—Serving Neighbors Near and Far—Welcoming to All

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church

Richard G. Leavitt

Charlotte Bell

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Sally Hooper

Marilyn Gibson

Laura Green

Maureen R. Frescott

Wendy Valeri

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Member in Discernment

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon In Charge

Church School Coordinator

Nursery Coordinator

Associate Pastor

Handbell Choir Director

COMMUNITY SUPPER Volunteers Needed:

The next FREE community supper at our church will be on **Thursday, June 1** from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. We are planning a delicious menu, and your help is needed with food prep, set up and clean up, serving and dessert making. **This is a great opportunity to serve your community.** If you can help, please contact Bob Miskelly at 554-8789 or robertmiskelly@comcast.net, or Bob Gibson at 672-7244 or gibson@myfairpoint.net.

THANK YOU to everyone who has helped make these suppers at our church and at SHARE successful!

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for May include canned ham, side dishes (seasoned pasta mixes, Hamburger Helper, etc.), Ravioli and Beef-a-roni. Donations can be left in the SHARE cupboard in the narthex or in the container by the community room entrance. Many thanks for your continuing support!

FLIGHTS OF SPRING & FANCY: All WA members and friends are invited to attend our celebration of spring with a potluck brunch on Tuesday, May 23 at 10:00 a.m. in the beautifully transformed vestry.

The brief annual meeting will include a report of our accomplishments this year, and the installation of officers. The WA will also be presenting their fanciful interpretation of the haute couture hidden in rummage!

Please contact Claire Choiniere at 554-1987 to sign up and prevent a duplication of dishes.

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:

May 28: Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

June 4: Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
John 20:19-23



Welcome to Heritage Sunday!

Welcome to **Heritage Sunday**, the finale in our year-long celebration of the 275th Anniversary of the signing of our founding covenant on September 22, 1741.

As we gather today for worship, we give thanks for that great cloud of witnesses of which we are a part. The people of God past, present and future are a true inspiration. So, let's pray with the fervor of many generations; sing to raise the rafters; and together praise our living God who is still speaking.

All are cordially invited to gather in the community room following the service today for a special **Heritage Sunday Reception**. Greet old friends, former members and new members while enjoying delicious refreshments and our special 275th Anniversary cake. A display of historical mementos, photos and documents will feature Daniel Wilkins' Bible and theology book, and our facsimile of the original 1741 covenant that he wrote for the founding of "the Church in Amherst."

We are pleased to welcome James Garvin, former NH Historical Society architectural historian, who will present the **Second Hour Program** focusing on early New Hampshire meetinghouses, in the sanctuary immediately after the reception. All are welcome whether you registered or not.

Mr. Garvin will explain how such a huge structure came to be built in the Souhegan West wilderness, how the virgin oak and pine trees were felled and hewn, and how the heavy frames were raised and the roof trusses lifted above the rafters with primitive equipment. We will end the program with a trek up to the attic to view our unique queens-post truss design – for those comfortable with narrow stairs and heights.

Steven Fifield, of Fifield Building Restoration & Relocation in Canterbury, who restored our meetinghouse and the town steeple in 1999-2000, will be on hand to explain the extensive and amazing work his firm did to restore and stabilize the building and to rebuild the steeple.

We hope all enjoy this unique opportunity to celebrate our church heritage and participate what in itself is a historical moment in the long life of the Congregational Church of Amherst.

Sunday, May 21, 2017

144 ENVELOPES: Our Senior High Youth Group's "144 Envelopes" Fun-Raiser continues to help support the mission trip to Kentucky in June! How does it work? Look for the SHYG bulletin board display in the community room. On it you'll find info about our upcoming Mission Trip along with 144 envelopes decorated by our teens. Each envelope will be numbered from 1 to 144. Choose an envelope and make a donation to our youth in the amount equal to the number on the envelope. It's that simple. If you choose envelope #1, you donate \$1. If you choose envelope #144, you donate \$144. We are grateful for every dollar given!

We have 50 fabulous teens in our Senior High Youth Group, which is something to be very proud of. Stop by, grab an envelope, and help our youth make a difference in the world!

HOW TO WIN SOME \$\$\$ and support your church at the same time! Purchase a \$20 Rotary Club raffle ticket and you have a chance to win one of ten prizes valued from \$500—\$5,000. Your ticket has a coupon for \$20 at any of Giorgio's locations when you spend \$50 or more on dinner (alcohol not included), valid until 8/31/17, along with coupons for Shattuck Paving and a full-service oil change! How does this benefit our church? \$10 of every \$20 ticket sold goes to the Congregational Church of Amherst, UCC. PLUS—if you purchase a ticket for the church (write their name on the ticket), it could be the grand prize winner!! The drawing date is Friday, July 28, 2017.

This is a fundraising effort of the Milford Rotary Club in conjunction with 100 Holes of Golf in One Day.

Our Church Calendar
May 21—27, 2017

Today	10:00 a.m. Worship 11:10 a.m. Fellowship—Community Room 11:30 a.m. Second Hour—Sanctuary 11:30 a.m. Small Group Ministry—Parlor 6:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Group—Youth Room
Tuesday	8:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship—Youth Room 10:00 a.m. WA Annual Meeting and Luncheon—Vestry 1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Knitters—Parlor
Wednesday	5:00 p.m. Confirmation 1-on-1 Meetings—Parlor
Thursday	6:00 p.m. Confirmation Dinner and Rehearsal—Community Room 6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir—Sanctuary 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir—Vestry