

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



“Grace is but glory begun, and glory is but grace perfected.”

—Jonathan Edwards, 18th century

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

February 11, 2018

Transfiguration/
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

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

Praise the Lord of Lords

Mark L. Williams

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: The glory of God transfigures the everyday!

People: The light of God transfigures familiar faces!

Leader: At the heights of our worship, may God's presence shine through the commonplace.

People: At the depths of our pain and struggle, may God's presence bring us courage and peace.

**ALL: May God's light, shining in the face of Christ, illumine all our days!
Let us worship God!**

*HYMN

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!
verses 1, 2 & 4 only

No. 476

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

Mighty God, stay with us always, as we worship and as we share the risk and challenge of living our faith. By your powerful Spirit, turn our fear to courage and our confusion to confidence. Your glory shines in the face of Christ. Shine in our hearts and lives as well. Glorious God, may your name be praised, as we pray the words your son 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.

SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

Keira Lee Schmidt,
Abigail Rose Smith

Scriptural Sentences

Questions of Commitment

Response of Members and Friends (in unison)

We receive Keira and Abigail as new persons in Christ. We offer our understanding and support as they continue to explore life. We enfold them in our love, seeking together to grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and all people. We join with their parents in telling the Gospel in our midst, so that we may all live for Christ, showing forth God's love for all people. Amen.

Pouring of the Water

The Act of Baptism

Prayer of Blessing

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise
(Tune: STUTTGART)

Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign,
With this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.

Child of love, our love's expression, love's creation, loved indeed!
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits, into joy and laughter lead.

Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are, from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you: live as one who bears Christ's name.

Sending Forth

CHILDREN'S TIME

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

Still, Still with Thee
Chancel Choir

John Ness Beck

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Page 1005

Mark 9:2-9

Page 876

SERMON

"Awe-Some, Awe-Some More!"

*HYMN

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

insert

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

We Live By Faith

Lani Smith

*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 a 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

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

No. 263

verses 1, 2 & 4 only

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Chancel Choir

*POSTLUDE

March in D

G. F. Handel/
Thomas Chesterton

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

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



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 4 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
Maureen R. Frescott
Sara L. Phelps
Michael Havay
Sally Bowkett
Alison Batey
Gene Heighton, Joan Lyons
Jana Howe
Marilyn Gibson
Laura Green

Wendy Valeri

Ministers to the World
Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Director of Music
Organist/Accompanist
Deacon In Charge
Greeter
Ushers
Liturgist
Church School Coordinator
Nursery Coordinator

Handbell Choir Director

WE REJOICE TODAY in the baptisms of Keira Lee Schmidt and Abigail Rose Smith. Keira is the daughter of Kelly and Casey Schmidt. Abigail is the daughter of Ashley and Christopher Smith, and her godparents are Alexandra Smith and Matthew Smith.

THE BLANKETS+ OFFERING is one of five ways we put our resources to work in ministering to the world-wide community to meet the fuller needs of recovering and impoverished villages. With our Blankets+ offerings, we join 36 other Christian denominations and communions working through Church World Service to eradicate hunger and poverty with disaster relief and refugee assistance around the world. Your donation to Blankets+ will help provide blankets, tents, food and post-disaster emergency supplies, tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant fields, wells for families living in drought-prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops and gardens, and literacy training and microcredit for women to feed their families. Donation envelopes can be found in the pews.

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will take place **TODAY** following the worship service. During this meeting, a progress report on the organizational restructure will be given. A preliminary budget will be presented to the congregation, and we will vote to elect Tim Wiegand as Treasurer and Maureen Minner as Assistant Treasurer. All members are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

ANNUAL REPORTS from all officers and ministry coordinators are due in to the church office by March 15.

The logo for the Ash Wednesday service, featuring the word "ASH" in a large, stylized, hand-drawn font. Below it, the word "WEDNESDAY" is written in a smaller, clean, sans-serif font, underlined.

February 14
Service at 7:30 p.m.

WA VALENTINES PROGRAM AND POTLUCK LUNCHEON: All are invited to join us for our always festive and fun Valentine's potluck luncheon on Monday, **February 12** in the vestry starting at **10:30 a.m.** Our program will be presented by Pastor Maureen, who will talk about her trip to Spain where she followed in the footsteps of St. Teresa of Avila - the 16th century Catholic nun and mystic who sought to reform the life of women in religious orders by encouraging them to think and pray for themselves as they served God in the world. Pastor Maureen will share photos and stories from the historic Spanish cities, cathedrals, and monasteries she visited, and tell the story of the very independent and outspoken St. Teresa.

If you would like a suggestion about what is needed for the potluck, contact Kay Steeves at 249-5792 or steeves26@comcast.net.

CHURCH SCHOOL: When moving through the halls, through the sanctuary, or during fellowship, ask a teacher why they are smiling. There will be several reasons, some of which are familiar. The least of which is taking a break from worship service; however, the best yet is seeing the smiles on the children's faces. Yes, the children do smile (not just the teachers), for we make learning fun. Take part in our church school program and smile.

CHURCH FUNDRAISER AT LABELLE WINERY: Visit LaBelle Winery after Sunday worship now through April 30, and if you make a purchase in The Bistro or in The Gift Shop, **10% of your total purchase will be donated to the church.** This is an excellent way to support your local winery and support the church! Please inform your server at LaBelle Winery that you are a parishioner of The Congregational Church of Amherst and the 10% donation, calculated from your total bill, will be applied correctly as a donation to the church. If you have any questions, contact Amy LaBelle at amy@labellewinerynh.com.



Lenten Soup and Study Series
Wednesdays,
February 21, 28, March 7, 14
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Join us in the parlor on four Wednesday evenings during Lent for delicious soup and engaging discussion based on the wonderful book *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Together we'll explore what it means to see and embrace the sacred in our everyday life, through simple practices such as walking, working, and prayer. Even folding laundry and grocery shopping can be meaningful if we take the time to notice the sights, smells, sounds, and opportunities for connection around us. **We'll gather at 6:30 p.m. for a light supper of soup and bread** and the discussion will run from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. Pastor Dick and Pastor Maureen will alternate as facilitators of the sessions. The book is available for purchase for \$10 in the church office. Even if you haven't read the book, all are welcome to participate in the meal and discussion!

BEWARE OF FALLING SNOW AND ICE: It is that time of year again when we remind everyone that snow and ice may fall from our roof at any time. Please use caution when in our driveway, and do not walk too close to the building.

Sunday, February 11, 2018

A Week Of Observances

A full week – Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine’s Day. Or, is it the other way around? President’s Day next Monday concludes a week of observances.

Ash Wednesday: Around the world, Christians unite on Ash Wednesday by focusing on the rejection of sin, the renewal of faith to Jesus Christ and the renewal of life with God. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the season of Lent where, in Matthew 6:1-34, Jesus talks to all people on how to act when giving alms, when praying and when fasting. The people are to be humble, to show penance, to do these actions for the love of God, not for individual notoriety. The remembrance during this season is to search in each individual’s soul, to turn away from self-centeredness, and to become renewed in the relationship each has with the Lord. The beginning of the Lenten season, Ash Wednesday, is the beginning of a fresh start with the Lord through spiritual and religious meditations.

Valentine’s Day: Nothing further need be said, hopefully.

President’s Day: Abraham Lincoln sought to hold the country together in the face of a civil war and with a goal to see slaves realize freedom and equality. Today, in a week of observances, we pray that the world remains intact without war and to see justice for all, especially those enslaved by hunger and without homes.

Abraham Lincoln spoke to the nation in 1865 referring to both the North and South combatants:

Both read the same Bible and pray to the same God, and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God’s assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men’s faces. The Almighty has His own purposes. “Woe unto the world because of offenses; for it must needs be that offenses come, but woe to that man by whom offenses cometh...The judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether...to do all which may achieve and cherish and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.”

—Second Inaugural Address 1865

And that’s what Abe Lincoln said. Not bad words to think on today.

BBB