

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



*“Resurrection starts with the cry of grief,
an empty place, a familiar voice.
God transforms death in us and we come to know joy.”*

—Katherine Hawker

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

April 15, 2018

Third Sunday of Easter

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

Appalachian Sunrise
Handbell Choir

Scott Pfitzinger, ASCAP

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: Friends, Christ draws close to us.

People: Let us praise God with joy!

Leader: His presence is not announced so much by searing light or angelic song, as it is by the gradual recognition of something holy enmeshed in our daily lives.

People: Let us praise God with joy!

Leader: His presence is simple as salt, common as bread, as unexpected as a treasure buried in a field.

People: Let us praise God with joy!

Leader: Such is the presence of Christ with us in each ordinary day.

People: Let us praise God with joy!

*HYMN

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

No. 115

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

God of grace, you have come to us in Jesus Christ so we might have a new life—here on earth with each other and in the life to come. You long for us to surrender to your grace and completely change our lives—so we might know new strength in you, so we might love beyond frustrations, so we might help and serve others as witnesses to your power and grace. Be a living presence all our

days, in this world and the next, for we pray in the name of the Risen Christ, as he taught us, saying: **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.

LITANY FOR TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD

Leader: Let us pray for the whole world, for which Jesus lived and died and rose again. In your mercy—

People: Risen Savior, hear our prayer.

Leader: Let us pray for growing unity between all races and every faith. In your mercy—

People: Risen Savior, hear our prayer.

Leader: Let us pray that this Easter may be a time of reconciliation for all who are estranged or at enmity with each other. In your mercy—

People: Risen Savior, hear our prayer.

Leader: Let us pray for those who live in fear and doubt, that they may be comforted. In your mercy—

People: Risen Savior, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray that by our words and in our lives we may reflect your living presence in the world. In your mercy—

People: Risen Savior, hear our prayer.

CHILDREN'S TIME

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

Prayer for Peace
Chancel Choir

Benjamin Harlan

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS

1 Corinthians 15:12-14, 20
Luke 24:13-35

Page 1001
Page 920

SERMON

"Just a Moment"

*HYMN

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

inside back pages

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

The Day of Resurrection

Henry T. Smart/
Dan R. Edwards

*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)

O God, we thank you that Christ has entrusted us with the task of feeding your people. Make us faithful and courageous in our ministry of love and may we use these gifts to your glory. Amen.

*HYMN

Now the Green Blade Rises

inside back pages

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Chancel Choir

*POSTLUDE

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Arthur S. Sullivan/
Edward Broughton

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

Portions of today's liturgy are adapted from All the Seasons of Mercy, by Diane Karay, from Touch Holiness, edited by Ruth Duck and Maren Tirabassi, and from Gifts of Many Cultures, edited by Maren Tirabassi and Kathy Wonson Eddy.



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. **The next new member orientation will be held April 17.** New members will be formally received on Sunday, April 29. 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

Wendy Valeri

Gail Wiegand

Holly Tonnesen, Jean Tonnesen

Chris, Gretchen and Emma Pyles

Art Leknes

Marilyn Gibson

Laura Green

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Handbell Choir Director

Deacon In Charge

Greeters

Ushers

Liturgist

Church School Coordinator

Nursery Coordinator

COPIES OF THE PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

to be voted on at the May 6 annual meeting are available on the table in the narthex and in the church office. Please take one.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN Feasibility Study

results will be presented this morning after the worship service by Peter Heinrichs and Susan Lewis of Full Harvest Fundraising. Feedback from congregation members and community interviews, as well as their recommendations for going forward with a capital campaign will be presented. There will be an opportunity for the congregation to ask questions on their findings and recommendation, as well as what's next. The meeting will be held in the community room, child care will be provided. Hope to see everyone there.

THE HILLSBOROUGH ASSOCIATION of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ is holding their annual meeting today in the sanctuary. Registration and refreshments begin at 2:00 p.m., and the meeting begins at 3:00. All are welcome to attend.

COMMUNION LESSON: Today in the Bean Room, Pastor Maureen will be presenting a communion lesson to children of the church school. The lesson will allow them to express what they already know, as well as the who, what, where, when, and how of this sacrament. All are welcome to the table, and more will come to the table.

CHURCH SCHOOL: Congratulations go out to James Riley, Oriannah Dart and Mariellah Dart for their contribution to the SHARE Food Pantry. SHARE will be the beneficiary of bottles of mustard and ketchup donated each Sunday in April by the church school children. We were told that these items are often overlooked when it comes to food donations.

A MINUTE TO WIN IT! Win a prize when you recite The Lord's Prayer. Each church school child is encouraged to recite the prayer, you can stop, and start to recite it in its entirety within a minute. If you try and want to try again on another day, go for it, practice makes perfect.

ARE YOU READY TO JOIN? Anyone interested in becoming, or just thinking about becoming a member of the Congregational Church of Amherst UCC, is cordially invited to attend the orientation session scheduled for Tuesday, **April 17** at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor. Find out more about our church and membership. For more information or to sign up for this orientation session, please contact Andrea in the church office at andrea@ccamherst.org or 673-3231. Also, feel free to talk to either pastor or any deacon (green name tag folks). We look forward to hearing from you.

144 ENVELOPES: Our Senior High Youth Group continues its "144 Envelopes" Fun-Raiser to help support the mission trip to Miami 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 40 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!

SHOP & EARN WITH SUCCESS: Do you shop or eat out? If so, the SUCCESS program is for you! Stop by the Community Room after church and find out more. We have \$25 cards for sale for Amazon, Chili's, CVS, Dunkin Donuts, Lowe's, Marshall's, Outback, Panera, Shaw's, Starbucks, and Walmart, and \$10 cards for Dunkin Donuts and Bath & Body Works. We can also take orders for many other places. Shop or dine as you usually do, and help the church at the same time!



Kentucky Derby Social

Saturday, May 5, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Join us for our second annual Kentucky Derby Social, sponsored by the Fellowship Committee and hosted by Bruce and Susan Manchester at their home, 23 Nathan Lord Road in Amherst. We are asking folks to help contribute: if your last name begins A-N, please bring an appetizer; O-Z please bring a dessert. Beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided, and all are welcome including children. There may even be a chance to make a friendly wager on the race. Please RSVP to Bruce Manchester at bruce23@comcast.net or 673-8148.

EVERONE COULD WIN!! "How?" you might ask – it's simple! Purchase a \$20 raffle ticket in the community room any Sunday after church and you could win one of ten prizes valued from \$500 to \$5,000. As an added bonus, each ticket comes with a \$20 coupon valid at Giorgio's, a coupon for \$10 off a full-service oil change at Valvoline in Milford, \$100 coupon from Shattuck Paving, and a 15% discount at The Copy Shop (restrictions apply to all coupons, see ticket for details). An even bigger bonus: write the name of our church, instead of writing your name as the purchaser of the ticket and the church might, just might win the grand prize!! This is a fundraising effort of the Milford Rotary Club in conjunction with 100 Holes of Golf in One Day.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for April include bar soap, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner, feminine hygiene products, diapers and wipes. 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!



Faith Promise Thank You!

We would like to thank the following people for expressing their commitment to the church through their pledge during our annual Stewardship campaign. As of Friday, April 13, we have received 118 pledges for a total of \$286,230. Your pledge is greatly appreciated and helps our church reach its goals for 2018-2019:

Gail and David Agans

Mark and Fran Baddeley

Alison Batey

Gwen Berry

Larry and Corinne Brundage

Tom and Laurie Chamberlain

Claire Choiniere

Patricia Cordell

Colleen and Scott Cushing

Tyler and Gretchen Davis

Cynthia Dokmo

Matthew and Laura Endres

Bob and Marilyn Gibson

Gene Heighton

Scott and Sally Hewett

Jana Howe and Mary Howe

Anne and Ted Krantz

Keith and Gail Lammers

Dick and Debbie Leavitt

Don and Carol Lyon

Heather MacDonald and William Dallas

Jim and Sue McIntosh

Jim and Maureen Minner

Avis Moller

Judy Peterson

Don Potter

Patrick and Kim Ahearn

Margi Bagley

Bruce and Sharon Beckley

Sally Bowkett

Jack and Pat Buben

Dave and Mary Champagne

Scott and Sandy Comstock

Wayne Crosswell and Audrey Woodbury

Ken D'Ambrosio and Terri Behm

Russ and Sandy Demarest

Judi Dunbar

Maureen Frescott

Linda and Gary Grenier

Leona Hendrickson

Roger and Sally Hooper

Ed Ikerd

Rosmarie Krosch

Tedd and Carol Landon

Art and Vicky Leknes

Joan Lyons

Nancy Merrill

Bob and Brenda Miskelly

Mary Moore

David and Sara Phelps

Nancy and Dan Protzmann

Herb and Emily Archer

Carol Barth

Ken and Charlotte Bell

Mark and Cynthia Boynton

Carole Byatt

David and Crystal Chen

Bob and Sydney Conti

Obadiah and Meredith Dart

Davin and Kristin Desborough

Greg and Jennifer Eccleston

Edith Gambee

David and Kim Hagerstrom

John and Linda Herrin

Nye and Angela Hornor

Kathy Johnson

Peter and Irene Labombarde

Linda and John Lannin

Elizabeth and Paul Levesque

Bruce and Susan Manchester

Amy McGuigan

Sasha and Scott Mindel

Carolyn and Howell Mitchell

Ed and Nadine Obermiller

David and Joan Poltack

Chris and Gretchen Pyles

<i>George and Kirsten Quinn</i>	<i>Matt and Christine Redd</i>	<i>Will and Mary Ellen Redway</i>
<i>Craig and Kathe Richardson</i>	<i>Anne Riehl</i>	<i>Travis and Larissa Riley</i>
<i>Sharon and Tom Rohlfs</i>	<i>Sue Ruggiero</i>	<i>Vic and Carolin Sanchez</i>
<i>Judi and Roy Simpson</i>	<i>Skip and Kathy Skoglund</i>	<i>Sue Spiess</i>
<i>Carol St. Jean</i>	<i>Dick and Kay Steeves</i>	<i>Sean and Ann Stevenson</i>
<i>Jean Stockfleth</i>	<i>Hamilton and Liz MacMillan Stewart</i>	
<i>Oliver and Marianne Stone</i>	<i>Dick and Sue Stout</i>	<i>David and Karen Stowe</i>
<i>Audrey and Marshall Strickland</i>	<i>John and Anita Swanson</i>	<i>Dave Sweeney</i>
<i>Bill Swift</i>	<i>Kate and Keith Thompson</i>	<i>Susan Bagnara Thornton</i>
<i>Holly Tonnesen</i>	<i>Jean Tonnesen</i>	<i>Doug and Adrienne Topliffe</i>
<i>Vern and Chris Trudo</i>	<i>Dot Ullrich</i>	<i>Wendy Valeri</i>
<i>Theresa van Ham</i>	<i>Sally and Michael Varanka</i>	<i>Charlie and Rolinda Vars</i>
<i>Janet Von Handorf</i>	<i>Marti Warren</i>	<i>Tom and Sue Werst</i>
<i>Todd and Jennifer Whitney</i>	<i>Tim and Gail Wiegand</i>	<i>Bob and Barbara Williams</i>
<i>Jodi Woroski and Gwenael Busnel</i>		

Natalie Sleeth, 1985

Unison

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

Natalie Sleeth composed her "Hymn of Promise" first as a choral anthem and then adapted it to this version for congregational singing. It was dedicated to her husband, Ronald Sleeth, who died shortly after she completed it.

Tune: PROMISE 8.7.8.7.D.
 Natalie Sleeth, 1985

Now the Green Blade Rises

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John M. C. Crum, 1928; alt.

Matt. 27:57–28:7; Luke 23:50–24:12

1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain;
 2 In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,
 3 Christ came forth at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

Wheat that in dark earth for man - y days has lain;
 Think - ing that their Love would nev - er wake a - gain,
 Je - sus, who for three days in the grave had lain,
 Christ's warm touch can call us back to life a - gain,

Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:
 Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:
 Quick from the dead the ris - en One is seen:
 Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

Refrain
 Love is come a - gain like wheat that ris - es green.

John M. C. Crum, an English priest who was canon of Canterbury for fifteen years, wrote these words for this ancient French Christmas carol tune when it was included in the Oxford Book of Carols (1928).

Tune: NOËL NOUVELET 11.10.10.11.
 French noel, 15th century
 Harm. Martin F. Shaw, 1928

Sunday, April 15, 2018

Not To Be Forgotten I

Two terrible events in history are brought to mind in April: The Holocaust of the Jews and the Armenian Genocide of Christians.

Yom Ha Shoah – Holocaust Remembrance Day - April 12, is a memorial day commemorating the tragedy of the Holocaust that occurred during the Second World War. It commemorates the genocide that resulted in the death of an estimated 6 million Jewish people, 200,000 Romani people, 250,000 mentally and physically disabled people, and 9,000 homosexual men by the Nazi regime and its collaborators. The following prayer by Rabbi David Katz is offered in the remembering spirit of both atrocities:

Ribbono shel Olam – Master of the Universe:

On this most solemn of occasions, we open our hearts, minds, and souls to you.

As we remember the six million, the eleven million, the indifference, and the evil;

As we honor the heroes, the martyrs, the survivors, and the victims; We ask you to soothe our souls, to amplify our memories, to strengthen our resolve, and to hear our prayers.

We ask for your presence in our midst; for healing, light, and love to soothe and ease our pain, as we commemorate the horrors that were committed not long ago. Please, oh Holy One, be gentle with our souls.

We ask that you help us to forever remember the stories we hear. As tales of the atrocities are shared, as we re-encounter the unthinkable, we ask that these memories be strengthened and never fade, in the hope that those who remember the mistakes of the past will not repeat them. Please, oh Holy One, amplify our ability to remember.

We ask that you strengthen our will, that you help us to ensure that the world does not again see such monstrosities. We say, "never again" and we dedicate ourselves to this principle, to the idea that justice does not allow persecution, that genocide shall not be repeated, and that vigilance is the responsibility of freedom, at all costs. Please, oh Holy One, make manifest our resolve that these horrors remain but memories.

We ask that you answer our prayers. We pray that the call of evil falls on deaf ears, that those who fight for freedom and justice always prevail, that those who need protection do not become victims. We pray that the lessons we learn from this darkest hour allow all humankind to better itself, and to truly and nobly embody the idea that we are each made in Your image. We pray for the souls of the millions and millions of victims of this brutality; we pray that we honor their lives and their memories by observing this day, and by doing everything in our power and beyond to make sure that no such shadow again darkens our world.

Above all, we pray for shalom—for wholeness and peace—to be in our midst, now and forever. Please, oh Holy One, answer our prayers and bring us a world devoid of hatred, filled instead with peace. ***Ken yehi ratzon*** – may this be God's will. And may we all say together, Amen.