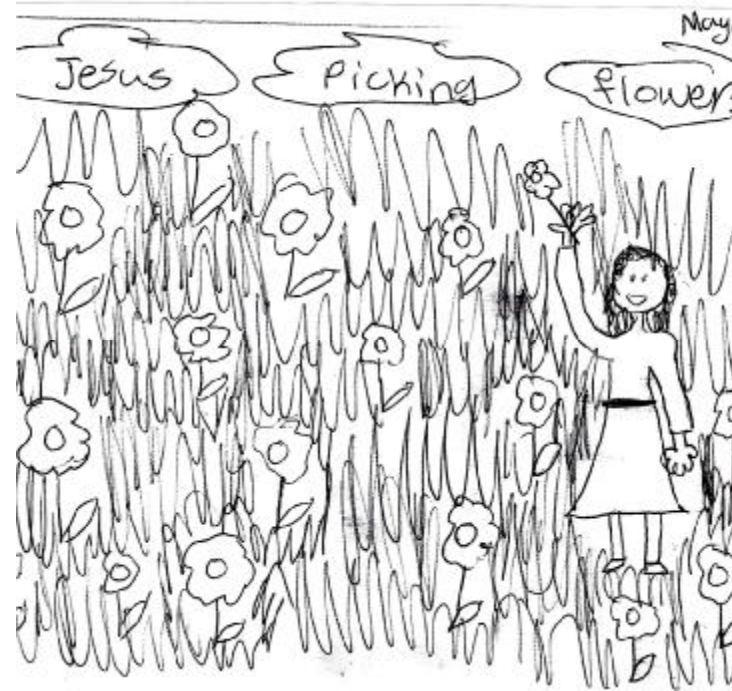


The Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Amherst, New Hampshire



***“Exuberant Spirit of God, flame, wind, speech;
Burn, breathe, speak in us;
Fill your world with justice and with joy.”***

—Jan Berry

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

May 20, 2018

Pentecost Sunday

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

Canon
Handbell Choir

arr. Hal Hopson

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: Do not give easy or unthinking response to this day's call to worship. For today we ask God's Spirit to fill us, that we may prophesy, and dream dreams, and see visions. The call to worship today is a summons to be touched by holy fire and inspired by the very breath of God.

People: Even now the flames may dance above our heads,

Leader: Igniting our passion for justice and peace so that we blaze into new commitment.

People: Even now the wind fills our hearts and our souls,

Leader: Animating us, leaving us no peace as individuals until God's compassion and mercy fill the earth.

People: Prophets, visionaries, dreamers! Let us all worship with courage, with commitment, and with celebration.

*HYMN

On Pentecost They Gathered
verses 1, 3 & 4 only

No. 128

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

Show yourself to us, gracious God, and guide us by your Spirit of truth, that we may hear and keep your commandment to love one another as you love us. Do not hide your face from us, but reveal yourself through the scriptures in fresh and vital ways. And may we not shrink from the mighty winds or tongues of fire that inspire us and invest us with power to speak and act in your name. We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us these words: **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.**

LITANY FOR PENTECOST

Leader: *(pouring water)*

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
The earth was without form and void,
and darkness was upon the face of the deep;
and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters. (Genesis 1: 1-2)

**People: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, upon many waters.** (Psalm 29: 3)

Leader: *(with wind chimes)*

The wind blows where it chooses,
and you hear the sound of it,
but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.
So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. (John 3: 8)

**People: The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in God's temple all cry, "Glory!"** (Psalm 29:9)

Leader: *(carrying soil)*

When you send forth your Spirit all living things are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. (Psalm 104:30)

**People: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world and those who live in it.** (Psalm 24:1)

Leader: *(with candle)*

I baptize you with water;
but one more powerful than I is coming who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and
with fire. (from Luke 3:16)

**People: The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.
The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.** (Psalm 29: 7-8)

Leader: May the Lord give strength to the people!

People: May the Lord bless the people with peace! (Psalm 29:11)

Leader: Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life:

At the beginning of time you moved over the face of the waters;
you breathe into every living being the breath of life.

People: Come, Creator Spirit, and renew the whole creation.

*GLORIA FOR PENTECOST (Tune #579)

Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and Holy Spirit, One;
From the time of our beginnings, beyond death's claim upon us;
Life, Light, and Love, never end. Amen.

SHARING OF BIBLE VERSES

CHILDREN'S TIME

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

Children leave with their teachers for their mini-CROP Walk.

ANTHEM

Every Time I Feel the Spirit
Chancel Choir
Tom Werst, baritone solo

William Dawson

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 2:1-18, 21

Page 948

HOMILY

"Tell Me About the Wind"

*HYMN

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

No. 314

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

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove
Chancel Choir

Joe Cox/Jody Lindh

*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, may these gifts carry forward the ministry you intend here in our church, in our community, and wherever people are gathered or scattered on the face of the earth. May our open hands share your gifts and our open hearts reach out in love and peace. Show us how to use this offering to accomplish your purposes, through the spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HYMN

Spirit

No. 319

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Chancel Choir

*POSTLUDE

*Komm, Gott Schöpfer, heiliger Geist
(Come, Creator God, Holy Ghost)*

Johann Gottfried Walther

(*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, and from Refreshing Rains of the Living Word, by Lavon Bayler. The litany for Pentecost is by John Paarlberg, pastor of First Church in Albany, NY.

Our Church Calendar May 20—26, 2018

| | |
|----------|---|
| Today | 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:10 a.m. Fellowship—Community Room 11:30 a.m. Capital Campaign Forum—Community Room 1:00 p.m. CROP Walk—St. Patrick's Church, Milford |
| Tuesday | 8:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship—Youth Room 10:30 a.m. WA Annual Meeting & Potluck Luncheon—Vestry 1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Knitters—Parlor |
| Thursday | 10:30 a.m. Memorial Service for Helen Rowe 6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir—Sanctuary 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir—Vestry |



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

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Wendy Valeri

Judi Simpson

John and Linda Herrin

Russ and Sandy Demarest, Will and Mary Ellen Redway

Charlotte Bell

Marilyn Gibson

Laura Green

Carol Landon, Avis Moller

Maureen R. Frescott

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Handbell Choir Director

Deacon In Charge

Greeters

Ushers

Liturgist

Church School Coordinator

Nursery Coordinator

Fellowship Hosts

Associate Pastor

CHURCH SCHOOL: Thank you to the many supporters of the church school mini-CROP Walk. We received \$195 during the annual meeting.

We have several third-grade children reading their Bible passages during worship today. When you see the children, congratulate them and ask how their readings related to their everyday life. Their teacher and parents read and discussed the passages with them. Receiving their Bible encourages each to embrace the stories which will nourish their faith.

THE WA ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK SALAD LUNCHEON will take place on Tuesday, May 22 at 10:30 a.m. in the vestry. All WA members and friends are invited to attend this celebration of spring and our accomplishments this past year. The brief meeting portion of the morning will include Adrienne's Annual Report and Installation of Officers, followed by a potluck of delicious salads and desserts.

Please contact Claire Choiniere at Claire.choiniere@yahoo.com or 554-1987 to sign up and prevent a duplication of dishes.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FORUM: Today after worship all are invited to come and review the potential Capital Campaign priorities. With both the board's guidance and the feasibility study's results we have compiled a list for your review. Though the lists are fairly straightforward, we encourage you to come and voice your support, concerns or suggestions as we decide whether to move forward with the campaign. Thank you for your voice and participation in this important discussion.

THE CROP WALK takes place today. Registration begins at 1:00 p.m. and the walk steps off at 2:00, beginning at St. Patrick's Church in Milford.

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION: Please plan to join in a celebration of Pastor Dick's retirement at Labelle Winery on Tuesday, **June 12** from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. A cocktail reception will begin at 5:30, followed by dinner and a time for remembrances at 6:30. Tickets are \$40 per person, and a vegetarian meal is an option. Seating is limited, so please reserve your place by contacting Andrea in the church office, or by going to our website www.ccamherst.org before June 1. This promises to be a special night. Don't miss it!

Sunday, May 20, 2018

The Other Choir



New Neighbor: ***How is the music in your church?***

Member: It's great! We have a wonderful choir and musicians.

NN: ***That's good to hear. But what about the congregation? Do they sing?***

M: ...Hum...Most do, usually.

The Other Choir ≡ the Congregation.

We were all given vocal chords. We converse. Those same chords can sing. Sing in concert with all the other worshipers in the pews. God gave instructions about singing, "Do it." Biblical writers captured that command:

Come, let's shout praises to God,

Raise the roof for the Rock who saved us!

Let's march into his presence singing praises,

Lifting the rafters with our hymns. - Psalm 95:1-4

Paul told the members of the church in Ephesus to be "speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit." – Ephesians 5:19-20.

Congregational singing is one of the great and most beautiful tools we have been given to declare God's excellences, strengthening the Church and sharing the glory with the world. Christians are a singing people. But often, many of us are really a mouthing-along-with-the-words kind of people.

We are designed to sing. We are a singing people because it is how God created us. It's what we do. And when we do, we're simply joining in with what the rest of creation is doing. We are all singers. We may not all be very good singers. But we are all created to be singers nonetheless.

Some members of The Other Choir may think, "I can't sing." The truth is that God designed us all to sing and gave us everything to sing, as well as God wants us to. God's far less concerned with tunefulness than integrity. Christian singing begins with the heart, not on the lips. The congregation of a church is the ultimate choir and it is without auditions – everyone can be in it and should be in it.

Some material extracted from *Sing!* by Keith and Kristyn Getty.