

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



***Grounded in God's love  
Serving neighbors near and far  
Welcoming to all.***

—Mission Statement of The Congregational Church of Amherst,  
United Church of Christ

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

June 10, 2018

Children's Sunday  
Third Sunday after Pentecost

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

*Children of the Heavenly Father*

Swedish melody/  
Don Hustad

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: Sing to God a new song!

**People: Sing a joyful song of praise!**

Leader: Let us sing with thankful hearts.

**People: And let us offer God our very lives.**

Leader: Our hearts are glad because we trust the Holy One.

**People: Sing to God a new song!**

\*HYMN

*Called as Partners in Christ's Service*  
verses 1 & 2 only

No. 343

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray the words Jesus taught us:

**People: Our Father, who art in heaven,**

Leader: Hey God, who lives in heaven,

**People: Hallowed be Thy name.**

Leader: Your name is holy.

**People: Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

Leader: Help Earth to be as peaceful and pure as heaven is.

**People: Give us this day our daily bread,**

Leader: Please meet all our needs every day so we may live in happiness,

**People:** **And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.**  
Leader: Forgive us for our sins that we have done as we should forgive those who hurt us.  
**People:** **And lead us not into temptation,**  
Leader: Help us not to do things we shouldn't,  
**People:** **But deliver us from evil.**  
Leader: Make us honest, loyal, friendly and just.  
**People:** **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.**  
Leader: The universe, its control and all praise are yours for all eternity.  
**People:** **Amen.**  
Leader: So be it.

\*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

Ariella Rose Fortier

Scriptural Sentences

Questions of Commitment

Response of Members and Friends (in unison)

We receive Ariella as a new person in Christ. We offer our understanding and support as she continues to explore life. We enfold her in our love, seeking together to grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and all people. We join with her 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

PRESENTATION BY THE CHURCH SCHOOL—Celebration of Mission

SONG

*I Am God's Child*

I am God's child, hear the song that I bring.  
I am God's child, hear the song that I sing.  
My voice I raise to sing my song of praise, I am a child of God.

CHILDREN'S TIME

"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed... nothing will be impossible for you."  
Matthew 17:20

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

*River of Judea*  
Chancel Choir

CHURCH SCHOOL RECOGNITIONS

Vicky Leknes

\*HYMN

*They'll Know We Are Christians*

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

*Jesus Loves Me*

Charles Callahan

\*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)

Amazing God, it is so good that you love us. Because of you, all our days are full of wonder and blessings. All of life is a joyful adventure, whether we are younger, older, or in between. We will never stop praising you, and we will never stop being generous with our time, our talent and our treasure. Receive our offering and help us to use it wisely for your purposes. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

\*HYMN

*Go, My Children*

Tune: AR HYD Y NOS #544

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you: you are my own.  
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing. You are my own.

Go, my children, fed and nourished. Closer to me.  
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit's power filled you. Here my tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace.  
I the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace.  
I the Lord will be your help, your comfort and your inspiration.  
Go, my children, I will keep you and give you peace.

\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

Chancel Choir

\*POSTLUDE

*You Shall Go Out With Joy*

Douglas E. Wagner

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

*Portions of today's liturgy are adapted from Celebrations for Today, by Stephen W. Burgess and James D. Righter.*



**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 Wednesday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Here’s how to reach us: by telephone 673-3231, or by email [andrea@ccamherst.org](mailto: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](http://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

John Swanson

Church School Children

Mark Baddeley

Marilyn Gibson

Laura Green

Wendy Valeri

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon In Charge

Greeters, Ushers

Liturgist

Church School Coordinator

Nursery Coordinator

Handbell Choir Director

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**JOIN US IN CELEBRATION!** Children's Sunday is the time to celebrate our church school. We celebrate the teachers, the volunteers and the children who have shared Bible stories. The stories take hold in their daily lives and through their mission projects. It is the parents, grandparents and guardians who allow us to bring Jesus' lessons to their children each week who are to be thanked. Join us today as we celebrate those who have made this church school year a success.

Our song, *I Am God's Child*, is a message for our church school members, and for each of us to hold in our hearts as we go out into the community.

The Lord's Prayer is being read by four church school youngsters, Maya Gascoyne, Abby Green, Allie Norwesh and Sophie Stone. It is an interpretation created by a former seventh grade church school class. We also have several youngsters who are assisting deacons today.

Church school looks forward to welcoming you back on September 9 for Rally Sunday.

**WE REJOICE TODAY** in the baptism of Ariella Rose Fortier, daughter of Rebecca and Samuel Fortier. Ariella's godparent is David Warren.

**PLEASE JOIN US** in the community room today after worship for an ice cream social to celebrate the ending of this year's church school program. The Fellowship Committee is hosting the ice cream celebration when you can create your own sundae. While you are there check out the bulletin board where our appreciation message is posted to our pastors and our mission projects are displayed. Finally, there are old and current church school pictures on a side table that you are encouraged to look through and invited to take.

**RETIREMENT GIFT COLLECTION:** Pastor Dick's last day leading worship will be July 15. If you would like to contribute to a congregational gift for his retirement, you may do so before July 10. Checks should be made out to the church, with "Retirement Gift" on the memo line, or you can go online to our website and follow the online giving link. Thank you so much!

*Sunday, June 10, 2018*

*I believe the children are our future  
Teach them well and let them lead the way  
Show them all the beauty they possess inside  
Give them a sense of pride to make it easier  
Let the children's laughter remind us how we used to be*  
“The Greatest Love of All”—Whitney Houston

With a moving rendition of Whitney Houston’s classic song during Souhegan High School’s 2018 graduation, Christos Nassiopoulos reminded the gathered crowd of the important impact children have on our future. Today at the Congregational Church of Amherst, UCC we gather to celebrate our children and rejoice in the knowledge that we have leaders, teachers, volunteers and parents who believe in this message.

In church school, all year long caring teachers have exposed our children to the teachings of Jesus through interactive lessons. Bible stories have taught them about God’s grace and love.

This year’s church theme, “Grounded in God’s Love: Your opportunity to serve!” has been a yearlong rally cry for the children to embrace the concept of helping others. The church school children have participated in many mission projects that include the Mill Mission Luncheon, collecting condiments for SHARE, gathering cleaning materials for hurricane relief efforts, donating to the senior high, and joining in a “mini” CROP Walk for Church World Service. How proud they are to have helped their neighbors near and far.

As the church school year ends, let us all take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the many people who truly “Teach them well...Show them all the beauty they possess inside...Give them a sense of pride.” With God’s greatest love of all, our children and our future shine brightly!

**Proverbs 22:6—Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it.**