

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



*“Should you shield the canyons from the windstorms  
you would never see the true beauty of their carvings.”*

—Elisabeth Kübler-Ross

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

October 7, 2018

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM

GATHERING CHIMES

*Let us be gathered in silence so that we may prepare to worship.*

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

*O God, Thou Art the Father*

David Paxton

INTROIT

Chancel Choir

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come before God as we are in this moment.

**People: We come before God as our true, authentic selves.**

Leader: Come, all who are joyous.

**People: Come, all who are content.**

Leader: Come, all who are struggling.

**People: Come, all who are suffering.**

Leader: Come to worship a God who heals.

**People: Come to worship a God who comforts.**

Leader: Come to worship a God who forgives.

**People: Come to worship a God who rejoices with us.**

**All: Come, let us worship God, who meets us wherever we are!**

\*HYMN

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

No. 263

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

Renewing God, you have created us and you sustain us. We come with gratitude in our hearts for these moments when we can ease the pace of our lives and listen for your voice. Create a spirit within us that truly draws us toward you and toward our sisters and brothers: a deep spirit, perceptive, gentle, and bold. Clear our minds, open our hearts, and touch us with your presence and your power. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray to you using 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.**

\*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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

*Lord, Here Am I*  
Chancel Choir

John Ness Beck

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Job 1:1, 2:1-10

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SERMON

"Skin for Skin"

\*HYMN

*My Life Flows on in Endless Song*

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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

*Voluntary on "Let Us Break Bread Together"*

Franklin Ashdown

\*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)

Receive from us, O God, the best we have to give. All we have comes from you. We return a portion of the gifts you have given us with joy, to accomplish the work we intend to do together in your name. We bring ourselves as well, to be blessed by you, so that while we are apart our words and deeds will continue to be a significant offering to the world. May our lives praise you! Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

ORGAN MEDITATION

*Meditation on "Omni Die"*

Lani Smith

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*We welcome all people to join in receiving this sacrament. Children may participate at the discretion of their parents. The cup contains grape juice. For those who wish to receive gluten, wheat and dairy-free communion bread, it can be found in the bowl on the communion plate.*

CALL TO COMMUNION

Leader: God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to God.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION and CONSECRATING PRAYER

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

*Beginning with those seated at the front of the church, communicants will go down the center aisle, receive communion by intinction, and return to their seats via the outer aisles.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

We give thanks, O God, because in your own free gift of love you have reached out to us. You have refreshed us at your table, touched our deepest needs, and called us to a shared memory and hope. Send us forth with courage and joy in the name of Jesus Christ, that we, too, might become bread and life for one another and the world. Amen.

\*HYMN

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

No. 288

\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

Chancel Choir

\*POSTLUDE

*Holy God, We Praise Thy Name*

Thomas Bliss

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



**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 orientations will be held October 18 and 24.** New members will be formally received on Sunday, November 4. 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 Pre-K through grade 7 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](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

Maureen R. Frescott

Katherine Rogers

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Colleen Cushing

Gene Heighton and Joan Lyons

Marilyn Gibson

Laura Green

Wendy Valeri

Ministers to the World

Acting Senior Pastor

Acting Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon In Charge

Greeters

Church School Coordinator

Nursery Coordinator

\*\*\*\*\*

Handbell Choir Director

**PASTORAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT:** The first small group discussion will be taking place today following the worship service. Please grab a coffee and join us in the parlor at 11:30 a.m. for what promises to be a great conversation. If today isn't convenient, please join us for one of the other sessions listed this month. You can register in the community room during coffee hour.

- ✓ Sundays (after worship 11:30 a.m.) – 10/7, 10/14, 10/21 and 10/28 in the parlor.
- ✓ Men's Group – Tuesday, 10/9, at 8:30 a.m. in the youth room,
- ✓ Woman's Association – Monday, 10/15, at 12:00 p.m. in the vestry
- ✓ Wednesday, 10/17, at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor,
- ✓ Tuesday, 10/23, at 6:30 p.m. in the meeting room/library.

**CONTACT INFO UPDATE:** Please take a few moments to update your contact info with us. We have found that many phone numbers and email addresses have changed, so it can be challenging to communicate with you. A contact update form is on our website, or call or email Andrea in the church office with your current info.

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN:** It was wonderful to feel the excitement during *Our Time, Our Turn* Kick-Off Celebration last week! Hearing that our capital campaign is off to a great start energized our members and built on the enthusiasm of the campaign team.

Phase 2 is here and campaign visits are underway. We hope you will embrace the opportunity to get to know another church member better, and to share your hopes and dreams for the church and this campaign. ***Rest assured, this visit is not about asking you for money...that is entirely up to you to know and decide!*** If you haven't been contacted about a visit and would like to schedule one, please contact Campaign Visitation Team Co-Chairs Kathy Skoglund (673-6581) or Will Redway (672-1766). Thank you to everyone who has welcomed our Campaign Ambassadors so far!

**SHARE FOOD PANTRY** requests for October include canned fruit, flour, sugar, boxed mixes and baking supplies, coffee and tea, juice, granola and fruit. 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!

**CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS:** The church school missions for October are Heifer and SHARE. The October *Spire* has information regarding these projects.

Each year our third-grade children receive a *Spark* Bible for their continued Christian education in our church school. This year they will receive their Bible on Sunday, October 14 during worship. If your child has not yet received a Bible and is beyond third grade, contact Marilyn Gibson as soon as possible.

Today, all children, guided by teachers, are to leave worship after Children's Time and gather in the community room for music with Mrs. Phelps. They will remain in the community room with teachers until the worship service is over.

**HURRICANE RELIEF:** UCC Disaster Ministries is responding to the needs of people affected by the 2018 hurricanes, both within the United States and around the world. Hurricane Florence roared ashore in the Carolinas and communities are experiencing mass flooding. The large scope of devastation is just beginning to be known. Super Typhoon Mangkhut (AKA as Ompong) created devastation in the Philippines, and also wreaked havoc in Hong Kong, China and other parts of Asia. Landslides, wind, and rain have claimed many lives, while others are missing.

The UCC is responding! Your donation helps the UCC respond quickly to immediate disaster and long-term recovery needs. Their actions focus on the most vulnerable by addressing injustice, responding to the whole community, and filling gaps in service. One hundred percent of UCC disaster relief funds are used for direct service to individuals and communities, and rehabilitation programming.

Make a secure donation online at <https://transactions.ucc.org/CampaignForm/UCChrist/Disaster>. Our church is also accepting donations; please make checks payable to *The Congregational Church of Amherst*, with "*Hurricane Relief*" noted on your memo line. Thank you so much for your help!

## ***SHYG Pancake Breakfast***

Join the Senior High Youth Group on Mission Sunday, **October 21**, from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. for a special pancake breakfast before worship. This is our way of saying **THANK YOU** to the



congregation for supporting our mission trip to Florida last June. Our youth and adult advisors spent 7 days in Miami helping individuals and families in need, volunteering in soup kitchens, day care facilities, and community gardens.

During the breakfast, we'll show a photo slide show and share a bit about the trip! Bring your appetites and curiosity for the experiences of our youth! Breakfast is **FREE**, but donations for next summer's trip are always welcome!

### **SOS ITEMS:**

- Halloween candy donations (boxes in front and back entrances of church).
- Halloween night helpers to hand out candy.
- Food and cider provisions for Pastor Kate's Ecclesiastical Council reception. Donations of desserts, cheese/crackers, fresh fruit/vegetable trays, apple cider. Needed at the church by 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 14. Contact Nancy Protzmann at 603-321-7099 or [uvmcats84@gmail.com](mailto:uvmcats84@gmail.com) for more info.
- Fellowship/coffee help. Signups in the community room or contact Roger Hooper at 673-7032 or [rhooper673@aol.com](mailto:rhooper673@aol.com).
- Church school projects and mission: please contact Marilyn Gibson at 673-3231, ext. 20 or [mgibson@ccamherst.org](mailto:mgibson@ccamherst.org) for more information.

# ***Mission Sunday: Serving Neighbors Near and Far***

This year's Mission Sunday will take place on October 21 and our theme is ***Serving Neighbors Near and Far***. We are joining forces to meet both the NEAR and FAR with the following projects:

***NEAR:*** Since 1973, [New Horizons in Manchester, NH](#) has worked to assist low-income persons to address the social issues facing them. Today they are an adult homeless shelter, a soup kitchen, a food pantry, and Angie's Shelter for Women. We are collecting the following items to help their good works.



- White tube socks (their recommended brand is Hanes - they say the last the longest!)
- Travel sized shampoo, conditioner, soaps, shaving cream
- Feminine hygiene products
- Disposable razors
- Hand warmers



***FAR:*** Bring **blankets** to share warmth and comfort with our far neighbors. Hurricane season has once again been devastating to our southern states and not so far away has been the tragic loss of homes in the nearby Merrimack Valley. Our congregation can be part of a nation-wide response. Our blanket donations will reach families fleeing their homes, recovering from disaster and more.

Collection boxes for these items are located in the front and back entrances of the church for these items or you can bring them in on Mission Sunday (October 21) – we will have an activity during church for these!



## October UCC Appeal: Neighbors in Need (NIN)

If scripture commands “love your neighbor as you love yourself” (Matthew 22:39)

***Then who is my neighbor?***

***Neighbors in Need*** is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice. Grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities. For more information visit the [Neighbors in Need UCC Special Offering Page](#) or read [Neighbors in Need Stories](#).



***YES WE ARE!*** The success and sustainability of the United Church of Christ’s national ministries relies on our church’s contribution to basic operating support and mission. Being **5 for 5** means that our church is a leader, providing support to [Our Church’s Wider Mission](#) and the [Special Mission Offerings](#): One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen The Church, Neighbors In Need and The Christmas Fund.

***Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM):*** Sixty cents of every **OCWM** dollar stays right here in the New Hampshire Conference. Forty cents is shared with the National setting of the United Church of Christ for the ministry and mission of our denomination in the United States and around the world.

***Neighbors in Need:*** October (see above)

***Christmas Fund:*** December. Provides direct financial assistance to retired and active United Church of Christ authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas thank-you checks.

***One Great Hour of Sharing:*** March. Supports partners in countries with ministries that fund health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries and both international and domestic disaster response, administered by Wider Church Ministries, Global Sharing of Resources.

***Strengthen the Church:*** May  
Supports church growth, pastoral and lay leadership development, youth and young adult ministries within conferences and administered by Local Church Ministries.

# My Life Flows on in Endless Song

(How Can I Keep from Singing)

*Pt. 46:1-7; 1 Cor. 3:21-23; 2 Cor. 5:17*

*Anon. in Bright Jewels for the Sunday School,  
ed. Robert Lowry, 1869; alt.  
St. 3, Doris Plenn, c. 1957*

1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en -  
 2 What though my joys and com - forts die? My Sav - ior still is  
 3 When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells  
 4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a -

ta - tion, I hear the sweet, though far - off hymn that  
 liv - ing. What though the shad - ows gath - er 'round? A  
 ring - ing; When friends re - joice both far and near, how  
 bove it; And day by day this path - way smooths, since

hails a new cre - a - tion. Through all the tu - mult  
 new song Christ is giv - ing. No storm can shake my  
 can I keep from sing - ing? In pris - on cell and  
 first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes

and the strife, I hear the mu - sic ring - ing; It  
 in - most calm, while to that Rock I'm cling - ing; Since  
 dun - geon vile our thoughts to them are wing - ing; When  
 fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing; All

*In various nineteenth-century hymnals this hymn was attributed to different poets, including Anna Warner. The earliest published source credits Robert Lowry as the composer, although Silas Vail later claimed the music. The third stanza was written by Doris Plenn in the 1950s when her friends were imprisoned during the McCarthy era.*

Tune: ENDLESS SONG 8.7.8.7.D.  
 Attrib. to Robert Lowry in Bright Jewels  
 for the Sunday School, New York, 1869



finds an ech - o in my soul— how can I keep from sing-ing?  
 Love com-mands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?  
 friends by shame are un - de - filed, how can I keep from sing-ing?  
 things are mine since I am Christ's— how can I keep from sing-ing?

### Our Church Calendar October 7—13, 2018

Today	10:00 a.m. Worship 11:10 a.m. Fellowship—Community Room 11:20 a.m. Youth Choir—Vestry 11:30 a.m. Needs Assessment Small Group—Parlor
Monday	10:00 a.m. WA Workshop—Vestry
Tuesday	8:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship—Youth Room 7:00 p.m. Tuesday Team Time
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting—Parlor 6:30 p.m. Needs Assessment—Parlor 7:00 p.m. Finance Team—Meeting Room
Thursday	6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir—Sanctuary 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir—Vestry

*Sunday, October 7, 2018*

## ***Sardine Can Full***

That's right! Today we have the opportunity to observe a full package of events, causes, and ministries:

- ◆ World Communion Sunday
- ◆ Neighbors In Need (NIN) opportunities to minister
- ◆ Indigenous Peoples Day

At first glance, it may seem strange to land these three important observances co-incidentally. Practically, it has to happen sometimes with only 52 Sundays a year to highlight special ministries, be a welcoming community, and pray for victims of... That said, we do find a commonality in the suggested themes.

*God, brilliant Lord, yours is a household name.  
Nursing infants gurgle choruses about you; Toddlers shout the songs  
that drown out the enemy talk, and silence the atheist babble...  
You put us in charge of your handcrafter world. – Psalm 8*

This morning we join hands in spirit and love with 2.3 billion other Christians, one-third of the world's population, to share the elements of communion as Jesus laid them out for His disciples. We leave the table, the bread, the grape juice, to go out and serve others.

NIN is one vehicle at our doorstep to carry us to places where people are in need. Among those places are the Native American reservations in the Dakotas. Congregational churches in the 1700s started ministering to the Indians of Massachusetts and Connecticut, sending missionaries out from Yale to the tribal villages. Two centuries later, the UCC was instrumental in forming the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM) through which a portion of our NIN offering is channeled. More information about CAIM is on line.

Indigenous Peoples Day has been promoted to replace Columbus Day. This movement resulted from a sentiment that Columbus arrived to persecute the natives he met.

After several challenges, a new congregation emerged in Minneapolis/St. Paul, the All Nations UCC. At its first worship service, then UCC President Avery Post noted the event's significance:

*“Thanks be to God for the faith and commitments of the people gathered for the first service of worship of All Nations Indian United Church of Christ. The whole family of the United Church of Christ greets you and prays for your life and mission. We rejoice in your unique gifts in the service of the gospel of peace, justice, and new life.”*

Here we sit this morning, God, at a world-wrapping table, praying to be led in service to your peoples in need: some sitting with us, those hungry for food and the Word, others running from fires and floods, and those others known to you. Tell us God: Who is my Neighbor? “Anyone In Need!”