

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

THIS LITTLE  
LIGHT  
*of mine*

I'm gonna let it

shine

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

February 17, 2019

Worship for All Ages

10:00 AM

## LIGHT

*As you enter worship this morning, you will be given a "STAR GIFT" – a star with a word meant especially for you. You are invited to reflect on your word – and the invitation God has for you through this particular word – today, and in the months and year ahead.*

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

*Lord Jesus, Light That Never Fails*

Rex Koury

\*CALL TO WORSHIP and PRAYER OF INVOCATION

One: In our own lives

**Many: We are seeking light.**

One: In our work

**Many: We are seeking light.**

One: In our families

**Many: We are seeking light.**

One: In our communities

**Many: We are seeking light.**

One: In our nation

**Many: We are seeking light.**

One: In our world

**Many: We are seeking light.**

One: In our hearts

**Many: We are seeking light.**

**All: Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world.**

**May we have eyes to see you**

**And ears to hear you.**

**Help us to carry your light into our world today!**

**Amen.**

\*HYMN

*All Creatures of Our God and King*

No. 455

verses 1 & 2 only

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:14-16

“You are the light of the world.  
A city built on a hill cannot be hid.  
No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand,  
and it gives light to all in the house.  
In the same way, let your light shine before others,  
so that they may see your good works and give glory to God in heaven.”

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

“Let It Shine”

HYMN

*Lord of Light, Your Name Outshining*

No. 425

verses 1 & 2 only

*You are invited to write your joys and concerns on the prayer cards in the pews, and pass to the minister to be lifted in prayer at this time.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Lord of creation, Lord of salvation,

Many: **Circle us, Lord, with the light of your presence.**

PRAYER RESPONSE—THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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.**

OFFERING INVITATION

*Our monetary offerings will be collected at this time.*

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*Glow*  
Chancel Choir

Eric Whitacre

Softly falls the winter snow, whispers to the sleeping world below:  
“Winter-tide awakes,” morning breaks and sets the earth a-glow.  
In gentle tones of warmest white, proclaim the glory of Aurora’s light.  
Sparrow sings in a clear clean voice, a sweet silver carol for the season born.  
Radiant wings as the skies rejoice, arise and illuminate the morn.

BLESSING OF THE OFFERING (Tune: DIX)

As with gladness men of old, did the guiding star behold.  
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward beaming bright.  
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to Thee.

\*HYMN

*Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

No. 411

\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*BENEDICTION (unison)

**The Spirit of God is upon us  
and has anointed each of us to bring light to the world.**

**We are not too young or too old,  
to bring good news,  
to give a helping hand,  
to shine our light for others,  
through the gifts we have been given.**

**The God in whose image we are made  
will walk with us and guide us today, tomorrow, and every day.  
Amen.**

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

Chancel Choir

\*POSTLUDE

*Little Prelude in C Major*

attrib. J. S. Bach

(\*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 March 14 and March 19.** New members will be formally received on Sunday, March 24. 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

John Swanson

Sue Ruggiero

Jack and Pat Buben

Marilyn Gibson

Laura Green

Bruce Manchester

Wendy Valeri

Ministers to the World

Acting Senior Pastor

Acting Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon In Charge

Greeter

Ushers

Church School Coordinator

Nursery Coordinator

Fellowship Host

Handbell Choir Director

\*\*\*\*\*

**THE PASTORAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT TEAM** wishes to thank all those who were able to attend the PNA results presentation last Sunday, as well as all those who graciously gave of their time and feedback to this study. As a reminder, this study was just the first step in the process of our pastoral leadership transition, to understand the congregation's needs and desires for the foreseeable future. These results have been presented to the Church Council and the transition team to be factored into their recommendations to the congregation.

**TODAY** the Pastoral Transition Team will host a **meeting in the community room** following worship to discuss the next steps in this process. If you were unable to attend last week's PNA presentation, we have copies available on the table in the narthex to help you prepare for this upcoming meeting.

**SHARE FOOD PANTRY** requests for February include canned fruit, flour, sugar, boxed cake mixes, baking supplies, coffee, tea, juice, and granola. 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:** Love is defined as an abstract noun. Or is it? Church school is evidence of its concreteness. Our children are loved through their Christian formation. Today share our love solidity in fellowship. After worship, our children, teachers and families are hosting fellowship. We invite you to share our love for our community while sharing fellowship, greet and chat with us.

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

### *The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:*

February 24: Genesis 45:3-11, 15  
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40  
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50  
Luke 6:27-38

March 3: Exodus 34:29-35  
Psalm 99  
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2  
Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

**WORSHIP RECORDINGS:** We are happy to announce that recordings of our worship services are now available. The link is [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DQTIig2--NXEq\\_F7AZQI8pAFpfhDbWeW](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DQTIig2--NXEq_F7AZQI8pAFpfhDbWeW) and can be found on our website under the Publications tab. A huge THANK YOU to Herb Archer for all his work in making this possible.

**SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE:**

**Community Supper Needs Volunteers:** Our next supper is on Thursday, March 7 in the community room. If you can help prep, setup, greet, serve, cleanup, or provide desserts please contact John Swanson or Nancy Protzmann.

**Election Day Capital Campaign Brochures:** We will have a table at the town election on Tuesday, March 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. We are looking for people to man 2-hour shifts during this time, to answer questions about the Capital Campaign and hand out brochures. Please contact Susan Holden (566-2394) for more information.

**Nursery Volunteers:** Love little ones? We are looking for extra hands in the nursery. If you can help on a Sunday from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. it would be greatly appreciated! Please contact Marilyn Gibson (673-3231 ext 20).

**Fellowship Hosts** are needed to help with coffee during Fellowship Hour. Please sign up in the community room after worship, or contact Roger Hooper (673-7032).

**SUCCESS FOR SALE:** SUCCESS gift cards will be available for purchase or ordering in the community room today after worship. If you shop at Shaw's, CVS, Rite Aid, Lowe's, HomeGoods, Walmart, or dine at Longhorn, Uno's, Domino's or a host of other shops and restaurants, using SUCCESS cards earns funds for the church. It's easy to do!

**BREAKFAST WITH OUR NEW CONFERENCE MINISTER:**

The men's group of our church will be hosting a breakfast with our new NH Conference Minister, the Reverend Gordon Rankin, before worship on Sunday, **March 17**. All are invited, but RSVP's are required—contact Andrea in the church office to reserve your seat. If you can help that morning, please contact Don Lyon at [5panthera9@comcast.net](mailto:5panthera9@comcast.net).

**Our Church Calendar**

**February 17—23, 2019**

- Today
  - 8:50 a.m. Bible Study— Meeting Room/Library
  - 10:00 a.m. Worship
  - 11:10 a.m. Fellowship— Community Room
  - 11:15 a.m. Youth Choir—Vestry
  - 11:30 a.m. Pastoral Transition Team Forum—Community Room
  - 6:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Group— Youth Room
- Monday
  - 10:00 a.m. WA Workshop—Vestry
- Tuesday
  - 8:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship— Youth Room
- Wednesday
  - 10:00 a.m. Hope: A Pessimist's Guide—Parlor
  - 6:00 p.m. World Service Team— Parlor
- Thursday
  - 6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir— Sanctuary
  - 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir—Vestry

<b>Financial Summary</b>			
(as of January 31, 2019)			
	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$276,548	\$253,866	\$(22,682)
Expenses	\$266,826	\$265,355	\$ 1,472
Net Income	\$ 9,722	\$( 11,488)	\$(21,210)

*Numbers have been rounded to the nearest whole dollar; as such, some columns may not appear to total correctly.*

*Sunday, February 17, 2019*

## ***Not For The Birds***

Two days ago the temperature was below zero. Today it is 55 degrees. The snow is melting and forming puddles. In one melt water basin, five juncos were showering themselves and each other. For as much fun as the birds appeared to be having, 55° is nevertheless cool for us humankind and becomes colder after sundown in a tent by the river as the temperature returns to the sub-freezing range. Birds need to face it and are equipped to do so. Homeless humankind are not.

The NH Coalition to End Homelessness (NHCEH) annually compiles a report on the subject, ***The State of Homelessness In New Hampshire***, which is available online.

The most recent data helps frame the subject. A key factor in facing homelessness is the lack of affordable housing in New Hampshire which leaves thousands of adults and children without a home, forcing them to reside in their cars, in tents, in emergency shelters or in overcrowded and sometimes unsafe living situations.

Overall, the state saw a ten percent increase in homelessness from 2016 to 2018. The data records 1,450 homeless, of whom 50% were in Hillsborough County. While homelessness is perceived to be an issue primarily associated with single adults, particularly single men, families compiled a substantial portion of the population in 2018.

The report continues: School-aged youth experiencing homelessness are a uniquely vulnerable population. In NH there are currently no emergency shelters specifically designated for youth 18 and under. Child and Family Services provides crisis intervention as it can. In Hillsborough County in 2017, over 1,400 homeless students were tabulated.

Affordable housing development often is opposed by local residents, whatever its need and value in a community. In Hillsborough County the median renter's income in 2018 was \$42,342 and the monthly median gross rental for a 2-bedroom unit was \$16,416. Tough!

***“Due to the overwhelming need for shelter for families with children, we have a long waitlist of families, many of whom are reporting sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation. There are new families calling every day looking for shelter and we do not have the capacity to meet the need.”*** – Coordinated Entry Specialist, Manchester Region

Is there something a Christian congregation can do?

BBB