

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



*“The powers and principalities would hold less sway over our lives if we refused to collaborate with them. But refusal is risky, so we deny our own truth, take up lives of “self-impersonation,” and betray our identities.”*

—Parker Palmer

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

April 14, 2019

Palm/Passion Sunday

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

*Les Rameaux (The Palms)*

Jean-Baptiste Fauré/  
W. J. Westbrook

INTROIT

Chancel Choir

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The end of our journey is near.

**People: We see the towers of Jerusalem; we hear the shouts of the crowd.**

Leader: We still have a distance to travel.

**People: But the parade has begun. Let's rejoice and shout "Hosanna!"**

Leader: Keep your eyes fixed on the road.

**People: We march into Jerusalem with joy!**

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**All: Hosanna in the highest! AMEN.**

\*HYMN

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

No. 88

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

With great joy we welcome you, Lord Jesus! The journey has been long and we have longed to enter the Holy City. Today we shout, Hosanna! For you come into our hearts and our lives, humbly, patiently, encouraging us to learn and grow, to embark on journeys of hope and healing. Open our hearts today to hear your words, as we sing praise to you. Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the Lord's name. Fill us with the spirit of worship as we pray: **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.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 19:28-40

After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

\*HYMN

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

No. 89

*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.*

JOYS AND CONCERNS 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

*Lead Me to Calvary*

William J. Kirkpatrick/  
Ovid Young

\*DOXOLOGY (Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH, No. 592)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Lord, today we honor You with our faithful gifts and offerings, laying them before You as the crowds who waved palms and offered their coats to walk on centuries ago. Thank you for walking with us as we try to walk in the path of Christ, and for meeting our needs on the journey. Trusting you, we can share what we have with others. We do this joyfully, together, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTHEM *Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs* G. F. Handel  
from *Messiah*  
Chancel Choir

THE PASSION NARRATIVE ACCORDING TO LUKE AND JOHN Senior High Youth Group

\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE *Jesus, Love of My Soul* Joseph Parry/  
Lyndell Leatherman

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

### Our Church Calendar April 14—20, 2019

Today	10:00 a.m. Worship 11:10 a.m. Fellowship—Community Room 11:15 a.m. Youth Choir—Vestry 11:15 a.m. Cookie Walk—Vestry
Monday	10:00 a.m. WA Workshop—Vestry 10:30 a.m. WA Board—Vestry 7:00 p.m. Pastoral Transition Team—Meeting Room
Tuesday	8:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship—Youth Room 7:30 p.m. Diaconate—Sanctuary
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. <i>Hope: A Pessimist's Guide</i> —Parlor 7:00 p.m. Fundraising Team—Parlor
Thursday	7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service
Friday	9:00 a.m. Prayerful Playgroup—Nursery 3:00 p.m. Ecumenical Good Friday Service—Milford



**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 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  
 Judi Simpson  
 Marilyn Gibson  
 Laura Green  
 Avis Moller

Ministers to the World  
 Acting Senior Pastor  
 Acting Associate Pastor  
 Director of Music  
 Organist/Accompanist  
 Deacon In Charge  
 Church School Coordinator  
 Nursery Coordinator  
 Fellowship Host

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Wendy Valeri

Handbell Choir Director

**FRIENDSHIP BASKETS:** This morning our deacons will be passing our Friendship Baskets. This collection will support community outreach through Easter food baskets provided to local families in need. Thank you very much for your generosity!

**SHYG COOKIE WALK TODAY:** Join us in the vestry after worship for our annual Palm Sunday Senior High Youth Group cookie extravaganza! For a donation of \$5, you may hand pick your own assortment of delicious cookies – baked by our teens and by local bakeries like Moulton's and Black Forest. Help support the mission work of our youth and our church, and be sure to check out our "144 Envelopes - Wall of Mission" as you pick up your cookies!

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

**LAST CHANCE TO ORDER EASTER LILIES:** Donate a plant in memory of a loved one or in celebration of Easter. Your name and those you wish to remember will be printed in the bulletin. After the Easter services you may keep your plant or donate it to someone in need of some cheer. Final orders will be taken on in the community room after worship today. Contact Anne Krantz at 673-9684 for more information.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** The 2019 Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, May 5 following the worship service.

### Financial Summary

(as of March 31, 2019)

	YTD <u>Budget</u>	YTD <u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$335,192	\$328,821	\$(6,371)
Expenses	\$330,169	\$331,314	\$ 1,145
Net Income	\$ 5,023	\$( 2,492)	\$(7,516)

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

**144 ENVELOPES:** Today our Senior High Youth Group will roll out its WALL OF MISSION board. You can help support the mission work of our youth by choosing one of the 144 envelopes on the board (numbered 1-144) and donating the dollar amount equivalent to the number on the envelope. Everyone who chooses an envelope will receive a mission trip newsletter and a special invitation to a pancake breakfast next fall! Your donations will help fund SHYG's mission trip to New Orleans, where we will be building homes and helping restore the coast. The WALL OF MISSION board will stay up during the months of April and May or until all the envelopes are taken! Get yours today!

**WOMEN'S PRISON MINISTRY:** On **April 29** the Reverend Beth Richeson, chaplain at the NH Women's Prison (new facility in Concord) will spend some time at the Woman's Association Monday workshop sharing the work of her ministry there. WA members have supported that ministry in the past with donations for crafting, gardening and gifts of handmade valentines. This year we are collecting composition notebooks, colored pencils (no pens or markers) and adult coloring books, along with fabric and yarn (no blue or black); your donations would be welcomed also. If you are interested, please join us in the vestry just before 11:00 that morning for a casual conversation with Pastor Beth. You could even bring a sandwich and stay for lunch. Questions - Carol Lyon, 672-0100.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INFO SESSION:** Join Dave Poltack and Dave Phelps in the community room after worship on **April 28** to learn more about our upcoming Habitat for Humanity outreach opportunities.

**PEW BIBLES:** The Diaconate is preparing to replace the current pew Bibles with ones that are the New Revised Standard Edition (the version we read from on Sunday mornings.) You can donate a Bible for \$10 in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a blessed event. Forms are available in this week's bulletin and on the table in the narthex, or contact Andrea in the church office.

**CHURCH SCHOOL:** Palm Sunday is today's church school lesson for grades Prek-4. Our teachers today are Ms. Lee and Nadine Obermiller, Rebekah Bolin and Gretchen Davis. Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday is the *Spark* curriculum. Today it is focused on Palm Sunday (Luke 19). Palm Sunday retells the story of people who gathered in joyous expectation of a King, as palms, representing honor, paved the path for His arrival. He enters the city on a donkey, a humble way to enter Jerusalem. Cheers of Hosanna, save now, greeted the King. The Palm Sunday lesson sets the background for Holy Week and Easter. Today, when leaving class, each child will receive an Easter booklet, finding good in what was terrible.

Thank you, James, Nicholas, Sophie and Mya for your contributions to our March mission project. Your donations of staple food items to help neighbors near and far were greatly appreciated as they were sent to the SHARE Food Pantry in Milford.

The church school May mission project incorporates our theme, *God Made The World; We Must Take Care Of It*. The two raised garden beds in the back of the church will be renewed with flowers. Bruce Manchester, our resident master gardener, is advising us, with assistance from Marti Warren. Children will assist in the preparation of the flower beds with further opportunities to take care of them. More information is forthcoming.

*Sunday, April 14, 2019*

## ***Marble Cake***

One cake, two batters, two flavors, each tastes good. Together, the swirls of one embrace the folds of the other. If separated, crumbs.

One day, two themes, marbled together – possibly. Easter and Earth Day, and if you want to go for three, Lenin’s birthday.

I thought about trying to merge the two themes and downloaded articles coupling the two messages. What a hodge-podge: Christ rose to save all creation, men and women and birds, bugs, and brooks; Christ rose to only save people from sin; paganism infiltrating the Easter celebration; and the sensibilities of observing Lenin’s B-Day with E-day. Really.

All this is too profound for me to try and make one cake of. I’ll just walk along with the Little Donkey as Mary Oliver captures the little animal’s thoughts. Then I’ll step back and watch the processions: Christ to meet Pilate, the slow climb up Golgotha, nature to meet climate changes, migrants of the hour to meet what comes.

At this point (to give early notice) I better lay down my pencil and make room for more schooled cooks to bake the cake(s): marbled or in two separate pans.

And that’s how I’m thinking today.

BBB

### ***The Poet Thinks about the Donkey***

by Mary Oliver

On the outskirts of Jerusalem  
the donkey waited.  
Not especially brave, or filled with understanding,  
He stood and waited.

How horses, turned out into the meadow,  
leap with delight!  
How doves, released from their cages,  
clatter away, splashed with sunlight.

But the donkey, tied to a tree, as usual, waited.  
Then he let himself be led away.  
Then he let the stranger mount.

Never had he seen such crowds!  
And I wonder if he at all imagined what was to happen.  
Still, he was what he had always been: small, dark, obedient.

I hope, finally, he felt brave.  
I hope, finally, he loved the man who rode so lightly upon him,  
as he lifted one dusty hoof and stepped, as he had to, forward.