

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



*“You can sit with us. You can play your music. You can listen to mine.  
We can dance together. We can share our food. We can keep an eye on each other's kids.  
We can teach each other new languages. We can respect traditions. We can build new ones.  
You can tell me when things are hard. You can tell me when beautiful things happen.  
We can listen to stories. We can disagree. We can agree. We can come to understandings.  
You can wear what you want. You can pray as you feel compelled to.  
You can love who you want. You can sit with us.”*

—Elizabeth Tambascio

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

September 15, 2019

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

*Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above*

Robert Powell

INTROIT

Chancel Choir

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Listen! God is welcoming us all to this time of worship.

**People: Young and old, rich and poor, faithful and doubtful, all are welcomed.**

Leader: This is a place where all belong.

**People: No matter who we are, or where we are on our journey, all are welcomed.**

Leader: We are all created in the image of God.

**People: We recognize that image in one another, all are welcomed.**

**All: Together, let us worship God!**

\*HYMN

*Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers*

inside back pages

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

Inclusive God, we welcome each individual as your child. We celebrate your love for people of all races and ethnic backgrounds, all mental and physical abilities, all socioeconomic backgrounds, all orientations, all gender identities and gender expressions, and all of the other diverse attributes woven into the fabric of humankind. With your grace, O God, we invite all to share in the life and leadership, ministry and fellowship, worship and sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of our church. Be with us in our work and our worship, as we pray the words that Jesus taught us: **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—BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

*Deep River*  
Chancel Choir

arr. Victor C. Johnson

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 15:1-10

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

SERMON

"Lost and Found"

\*HYMN

*Just As I Am, Without One Plea*

No. 370

*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

*A Charge to Keep I Have*

Lowell Mason/  
Robert Powell

\*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)

For the hospitality of your good earth, for the people you have given us to love, for the tasks you have called us to do, we give thanks, gracious God. Our offerings are a measure of our faith and evidence of our gratitude. We dedicate ourselves with our gifts, that your light might shine in the places where we live and work and far beyond our personal reach. Amen.

\*HYMN

*Amazing Grace!*

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\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

Chancel Choir

\*POSTLUDE

*Chant Héroïque*

George Blake

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

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

September 22:	Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 Psalm 79:1-9
OR	Amos 8:4-7 Psalm 113 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13
September 29:	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
OR	Amos 6:1a, 4-7 Psalm 146 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31



**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 17 and November 13.** New members will be formally received on Sunday, November 17. 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 R. Kennedy

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Kate Thompson

Wilene Knight and Alicia Wight

Kathy Johnson, Linda Lannin, Bruce and Susan Manchester

Dave Phelps

Marilyn Gibson

Heather Stone

Leona Hendrickson

Sue Werst

Larissa Riley

Dave Hagerstrom

Diaconate Members

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

Pre-K/K Church School Teacher

Grades 1-2 Church School Teacher

Grades 3-4 Church School Teacher

Grades 5-7 Church School Teacher

Fellowship Hosts

\*\*\*\*\*

Bell Choir Director

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are given by Kathy Lyon in thankful recognition of this congregation's prayers and caring this past year during her illness and treatment.

**A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROGRESS REPORT** for the congregation will take place in the community room following this morning's worship service. The Capital Campaign team will update the congregation on all the project progress made over the summer, as well as campaign plans going forward. Child care will be available.

**SUCCESS FOR SALE:** A variety of gift cards will be available for immediate purchase after church on September 22 in the community room. They are great gifts, but can also be used by you on a regular basis in stores you frequently shop. If you don't see your favorite store, there are many more we can order for you. Cash or check are accepted for purchases or orders. Stop by and see how you can participate in our SUCCESS, and help the church while you shop.

**CHURCH SCHOOL:** Our church school thanks all who donated **school supplies** for our September mission project. SHARE has sent us a thank you note, which we posted on the bulletin board in the community room.

Thank you to all who participated in **Rally Sunday**. Your presence and support made for an exceptionally welcoming experience.

**Registration is required** for all church school children, no matter how often your child attends. You can register online through our secure website: <https://www.ccamherst.org/>; follow the Church School Information link.

All children in **grade 3 will receive their own Bible** during worship on October 6. Marilyn Gibson will be in contact with parents of children in the third grade. If your child is older and has not yet received a Bible, please let Marilyn know at [mgibson@ccamherst.org](mailto:mgibson@ccamherst.org).

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP** has its first official meeting of the new school year this Sunday, **September 15** at 6:00 p.m. Join us Sunday night for PIZZA, check in and games to kick off our fall schedule. All teens grades 9-12 are welcome to attend youth group, whether they go to this church, or any church, or not at all. So don't hesitate to bring a friend!

**PRAYERFUL PLAYGROUP IS BACK:** Our next meeting will be Friday, **September 20**, 9:00—10:30 a.m. at the home of Gretchen Davis, 27 Greenbriar Lane, Amherst. Please email [pastorkate@ccamherst.org](mailto:pastorkate@ccamherst.org) if you have any questions or need directions. All are welcome to join this bi-weekly group of young parents seeking to form deeper relationships in faith—whether you go to this church, or any church, or not at all! In the UCC we say, “No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”

**TRICYCLE NEEDED:** A local teacher is in need of a large tricycle for a special needs student to use during their Physical Ed class. If you have one, or know of one not being used, please contact Sue Werst at 759-5344 or [sue.w.0323@gmail.com](mailto:sue.w.0323@gmail.com).

<b>Financial Summary</b>			
(as of August 31, 2019)			
	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$115,000	\$120,429	\$ 5,429
Expenses	\$101,622	\$94,014	\$ 7,608
Net Income	\$13,378	\$26,415	\$13,036

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

*We hope you are finding this information helpful. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to anyone on the Finance Team: Gail Agans (chair), Paul Spiess, Doug Topliffe, Todd Whitney and Tim Wiegand (Treasurer).*

**DIACONATE:** *None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful.* – Mother Teresa

Will you consider joining a loving group of church members doing small things on our part to make our church a wonderful place to be? Let us talk to you about the role of a Deacon to see if it might be a fit for you and an opportunity to serve others. We are looking to fill 6 Deacon openings! See us at Fellowship today, or reach out anytime. Thank you!

**SHARE FOOD PANTRY** requests for September include canned ham, canned meats, side dishes (seasoned pasta mix, Hamburger Helper, etc.), ravioli and Beef-a-Roni. 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!

### **Our Church Calendar** **September 15—21, 2019**

Today	10:00 a.m. Worship 11:10 a.m. Fellowship— Community Room 11:30 a.m. Congregational 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. The Story of God—Parlor 4:00 p.m. Communications Team— Parlor
Thursday	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir—Sanctuary 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
Friday	9:00 a.m. Prayerful Playgroup— Gretchen Davis’ home



**NEW Adult Ed Series  
Begins Wednesday, September 18  
10:00-11:30 a.m. in the Parlor**

Who is God for Christians? For Muslims? For Jews? Do Hindus and Buddhists have a conception of God? What do our many world religions have to say about heaven and hell, sin, and the existence of evil? How do we explain miracles, visions, and other divine encounters? Where is God found in our world's most sacred places and texts? We'll explore these and other questions in Season Two and Three of THE STORY OF GOD - the popular series produced by the National Geographic Channel (we watched Season One a few years ago and it inspired many wonderful and thoughtful conversations!) Hosted by the actor Morgan Freeman, we'll travel around the world and learn about the differences and similarities in our world's religions and how they each tell the story of God for their believers.

The format for each 90-minute session includes a 45-minute video presentation and a discussion facilitated by Pastor Maureen. This series has 9 episodes, which we'll watch from September to February, meeting every first and third Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome!

The Story of God - Series Schedule

September 18 – "The Chosen One"

October 2 – "Heaven and Hell"

October 16 – "Proof of God"

November 6 – "Search for The Devil"

November 20 – "Gods Among Us"

December 4 – "Visions of God"

December 18 – "Deadly Sins"

January 15 – "Divine Secrets"

February 5 - "Holy Laws"



Woman's Association's  
**Good Stuff Fall Rummage Sale**

**RUMMAGE WANTED NOW!!!**



**Friday, October 4, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
and Saturday, October 5, 9:00 a.m. – noon**

**We are ready for all the great rummage you have collected over the summer.**

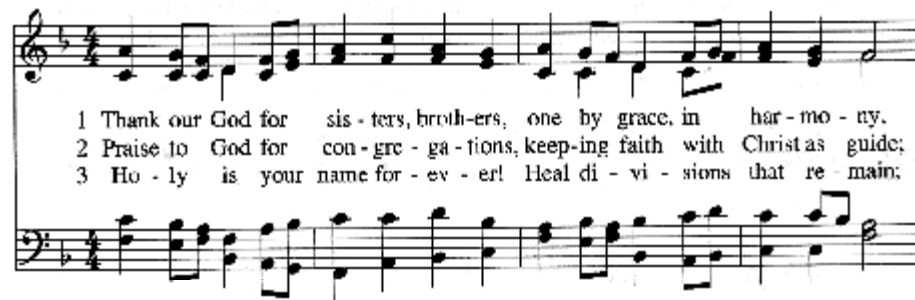
**We need clothing:** men's, women's, children's & baby – especially winter clothes, Other popular items include **jewelry, antiques** & vintage items, **collectables**, toys, games and puzzles,  
Also linens, table cloths, mats, towels, clean bedding, curtains, small household items, home decorations, dishes, glassware, kitchen utensils, small kitchen appliances, small hand tools and holiday decorations.

Please leave clean, sorted and labeled household items in WA workroom in the vestry, and clothing, bedding and linens on the stage in the community room.

Tell your friends and neighbors about this wonderful way to recycle unwanted  
**GOOD STUFF.**

*Please NO large sports equipment, electronics, computers, TVs, car seats, large furniture or appliances.*

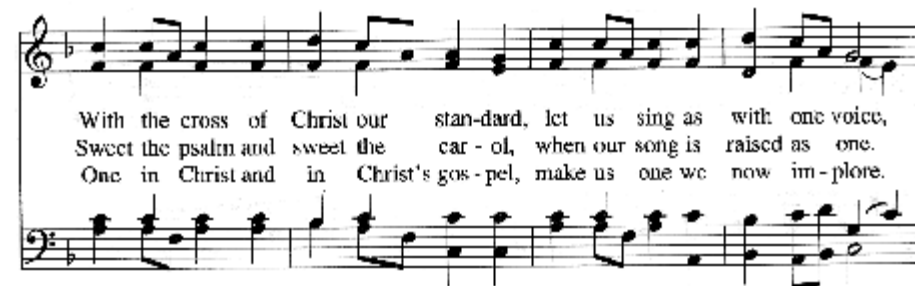
## Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers

*Roger Powell, 1948; alt.*


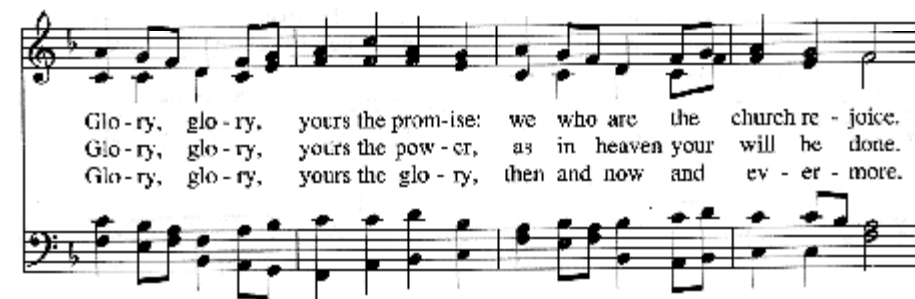
1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny.  
 2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;  
 3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.  
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.  
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,  
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.  
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - jice.  
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.  
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

*This hymn was written for a Union Thanksgiving service in 1948 by the Rev. Roger Powell of Camillus, New York. It served as a rallying song for the first meeting of the National Council of Churches in 1952.*

Tune: PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.  
 Melody from *The Christian Lyric*, 1831

# Amazing Grace!

546

1. A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound that  
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
 4. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace hath brought me  
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved.  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

WORDS: John Newton, 1779; st. 4 anonymous  
 MUSIC: *Virginia Harmony*, 1831; harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

NEW BRITAIN  
 CM

*Sunday, September 15, 2019*

## ***Home U***

Home University, the first university.

Hala Fadel received her MBA from MIT in 2001. Since then she has become one of the most influential figures in the Arab region's growing innovation economy. Mrs. Fadel is now a member of the MIT Corporation and a founding partner of Leap Ventures in Beirut and Dubai.

The Fadels are the parents of three children. Entrepreneurship and education are two foci of Mrs. Fadel's philanthropy and professional life. Her passion for education is rooted in family. All parents, she believes, are a "university before the actual university," whose curriculum includes instilling values, nurturing learning, and "creating curious people." For people in every region, Hala Fadel is guided by a belief in education's power to inspire and transform.

Here we are – parents, faculty, and deans of our many home universities. Together, we also offer extension courses here for all who want to "enroll" beyond their home classrooms: church school, youth fellowships, adult ed, and of course, these Sunday worship times.

As a congregation, we too teach and preach – instilling values, nurturing learning and creating curious people.

***Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor,  
attended to with diligence.*** – Abigail Adams, First Lady

BBB