

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



*“When we have exhausted our store of endurance,  
When our strength has failed ere the day is half done,  
When we reach the end of our horded resources,  
Our Father’s full giving is only begun.”*

—Dr. Howard Thurman

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

October 27, 2019

Creative Worship

10:00 a.m.

*“Wandering”*

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

*Let Us Wander*

Henry Purcell/  
Alfred Moffatt

INTROIT

Chancel Choir

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Oh come, let us sing to the Lord!

Many: **Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

One: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;

Many: **Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!**

One: Lord, you are the guide who walks with each of us as we wander in the wilderness.

Many: **In your hands are the depths of the earth and the height of the mountains.**

One: You formed the sea and the dry land, all of creation is in your protection.

Many: **With trust we pray to you for all of our needs, and ask for your forgiveness for all of our faults.**

All: **We are the people of your pasture, and we kneel before you as our maker. Let us listen for your voice, and sing to you a song of praise.**

\*HYMN

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

No. 281

CHILDREN'S TIME

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

MESSAGE

"Thirst"

\*HYMN

*Give to the Winds Thy Fears*

No. 286

*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

PRAYER RESPONSE—THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

**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.**

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

*The Road Not Taken*  
Chancel Choir

Randall Thompson

BLESSING OF THE OFFERING (in unison)

**Gracious God, as we journey through the wilderness, may the love that we have for Your creation inspire our generosity. As we wander on the road of life, may service to You guide our path. And may this offering be a testament to the truth and grace we are learning as we go. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.**

\*HYMN

*God Our Author and Creator*

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\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*BENEDICTION

One: May the dust of the wilderness hold our footprints softly,

**Many: Reminding us from where we have come.**

One: May the journey in the wilderness unfold honestly,

**Many: So we can recognize our changing along the way.**

One: May we know the wilderness has been expecting us,

**Many: And find between the stones a promise of growth.**

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

Chancel Choir

\*POSTLUDE

*On Our Way Rejoicing*

Frances Havergal/  
Lani Smith

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

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

November 3: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4  
Psalm 119:137-144

OR  
Isaiah 1:10-18  
Psalm 32:1-7

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12  
Luke 19:1-10

November 10: Haggai 1:15b-2:9  
Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Psalm 98

OR  
Job 19:23-27a  
Psalm 17:1-9

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17  
Luke 20:27-38

# God Our Author and Creator

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Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1985

Gen. 1:1-2:3; Acts 17:22-31; Rom. 12:2; John 3:16-17

*Unison*

1 God our Au - thor and Cre - a - tor, in whose life we find our own,  
 2 Like those first a - pos-tles, Sav-ior, give us strength to love and serve:  
 3 Keep us faith-ful, Ho-ly Spir-it, help us bear the mes-sage true,

make our dai-ly wit-ness great-er, by our lives make your love known.  
 when our faint-ing spir-its wa-ver, fire our hearts and steel our nerve,  
 that at last all lands may hear it: "God is love; Christ died for you."

Help us show how love em-brac-es those whom fear and greed down-trod;  
 Teach us wis-dom and com-pas-sion: bid our rest-less thoughts be still;  
 Join our lives in might-y cho-rus till we come from ev-ery place,

in all yearn-ing hearts and fac-es let us see a child of God.  
 by your guid-ance help us fash-ion lives con-formed un-to your will.  
 with all those who went be-fore us, to the full-ness of God's grace.

*In 1985, a hymn competition was held to commemorate the centennial of the Women's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention. This winning was by Carl P. Daw, Jr., fulfilled the guideline that the hymn address mission in the context of daily life.*

Tune: JEFFERSON 3.7.8.7.D.  
 Southern Harmony, 1835  
 Harm. John Ferguson, 1973



**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 orientation will be held on 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  
 Katherine R. Kennedy  
 Sara L. Phelps  
 Michael Havay  
 John Swanson  
 Dave and Joan Poltack  
 Paul and Sue Spiess  
 Kathy Skoglund  
 Marilyn Gibson  
 Heather Stone  
 Leona Hendrickson and Nadine Obermiller  
 Sue Werst  
 Larissa Riley  
 Dave Hagerstrom

Ministers to the World  
 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

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Maureen R. Frescott  
 Wendy Valeri

Senior Pastor  
 Bell Choir Director

**LEVI SUNDAY is November 3.** Join us after worship our annual fall clean up. Many hands make light work!

**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. Donation envelopes can be found in the pews or you can donate online through our website and include *Neighbors in Need* on the special offering memo line.

**SHARE FOOD PANTRY** requests for October include canned fruit, flour, sugar, boxed cake mixes and 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!

**HALLOWEEN CANDY NEEDED:** We will again be handing out candy to trick-or-treaters on Halloween. Donation boxes are located in the narthex and the office. **Volunteers** are also needed to hand out candy that night. Please contact Bruce Manchester if you can help at [Bruceman23@comcast.net](mailto:Bruceman23@comcast.net).

**HOLIDAY FAIR RAFFLE BASKET ITEMS** are needed for Wine, Chocolate Lovers, and Made in NH baskets. Anyone who would like to help out by donating a 750ml bottle of special occasion wine, quality chocolate, or a made in NH item, can leave their donation in either the church office or at the Monday Morning Workshop by October 28. The baskets will be assembled on Tuesday, October 29 at 7:00 p.m. in the vestry. All are welcome to attend and help out. Contact Alicia Wight at [awight.a.wight@gmail.com](mailto:awight.a.wight@gmail.com) or Adrienne Topliffe at [abtopliffe@comcast.net](mailto:abtopliffe@comcast.net) with any questions about raffle basket donations.

*Sunday, October 27, 2019*

## ***Two Themes – One Message***

### **1. UCC Higher Education**

There are 48 educational institutions related to the United Church of Christ, including academies, colleges, universities, and seminaries. They span the United States. Each is independent, self-governing, and fully accredited.

Each institution expresses partnership with the church—closely-related schools participate as full members of the UCC Council for Higher Education; others are historically-related which means they recognize a past relationship with the church but are not full members of the Council.

These institutions provide opportunities to explore moral values, the importance of social responsibility, an ethic of service, and the ability to think critically. Many have campus ministries that are ecumenical and interfaith. Each embodies the UCC ethos where God is Still Speaking.

### **2. Humbly Keeping the Law**

A suggested reading for today comes from the book of Sirach, one of the books placed in the Apocrypha. Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) was written about 180 BC in Jerusalem. It is about ethics in public life:

*The one who keeps the law makes many offerings; one who heeds the commandments makes an offering of well-being. The one who returns a kindness offers choice flour, and one who gives alms sacrifices a thank offering. To keep from wickedness is pleasing to the Lord.*

Other writers add:

*"True humility does not know that it is humble. If it did, it would be proud from the contemplation of so fine a virtue."* Martin Luther

*"If you judge people, you have no time to love them."* Mother Teresa

*"Pride slays thanksgiving....A prideful man is seldom a grateful man, for he never thinks he gets as much as he deserves."* Henry Ward Beecher

**God does still speak to us – today and everyday!**